



16 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As the first half term draws to a close, I write to provide you with some updates.

Attendance

Attendance is an absolute priority at Hall Park Academy. This is because we know that the more that students are present in school, the better their achievement both in terms of academic outcomes and co-curricular experiences. Current whole school attendance stands at 94.53% which is higher than the national average but still below our school target of 96%.

Traditionally, student attendance starts to fall during the next half term. Maintaining attendance at the highest level possible is vital to ensure that everyone achieves their best. To support good attendance, I ask that you please send your child to school every day. NHS guidance states that it is fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold. If students are ill during the school day, they should tell a member of staff who will act accordingly.

There are a range of ways that we reward good attendance: students with 100% attendance may wear non-uniform on the first Friday back after the half term break, students with 98% or higher attendance for the full first term will be invited to take part in an attendance reward event on the penultimate day of term, and all students achieving 100% attendance for the year will be invited on the annual free Alton Towers trip. Your child's attendance can be viewed in Class Charts. If you are yet to use Class Charts, please contact the IT team at itsupport@hallparkacademy.org.uk. If you are concerned about your child's attendance and would like to discuss support that is available, please contact our attendance team on hpa-attendanceofficersstaff@hallparkacademy.org.uk.

STAR

This term we have launched a new initiative with students designed to promote good learning behaviours in lessons. Called STAR, the initiative requires students to:

- Sit up straight, as this benefits student concentration
- Track the speaker, so that students are fully engaged with whoever is speaking
- Ask and answer questions in full sentences
- Respect everyone and their contributions

So far this is going very well and increasing student engagement in lessons. I would be grateful if you would support the initiative by discussing this with your child.

Uniform

As the weather is getting colder, I would like to draw your attention to our [Uniform Policy](#), which can be found on the school website. Please note that students must have a blazer in school every day, which are to be worn at all times. Hoodies and sports coats are not permitted in school. If these are seen being worn, they will be confiscated.

Dining spending limits

Some parents and students have asked about the spending limits that restrict the amount that students can spend on food each day. This limit can be adjusted in ParentPay. Please contact the school using the [contact form](#) if you require help doing this.

Co-curricular

We are proud of the co-curricular offer at Hall Park Academy. There are over 40 clubs on offer that run at lunchtimes and after school. Participation in co-curricular activities counts towards completing Pledges and we are asking students to attend 10 or more sessions throughout the year. To see the exciting clubs on offer, please see our [Curriculum Plus booklet](#) on the school website.

Curriculum

Information about our curriculum and curriculum overviews, showing which topics students will be learning next half term, can be found in the [Curriculum section](#) of the school website.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful half term break.

Yours faithfully



David Crossley
Headteacher