

Long Stratton High School

Manor Road, Long Stratton, Norwich NR15 2XR
T: 01508 530418 E: office@lshs.org.uk F: 01508 531708

www.lshs.org.uk

Headteacher

Dr Roger Harris BSc (Hons), MA, PhD, NPQH
E: head@lshs.org.uk



Achievement For All

19th April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance and Commitment to Learning

Congratulations to all our pupils who have achieved excellent attendance so far this academic year (97% or above), especially those who have been in every day. Every lesson counts! This is particularly noteworthy, as illness this autumn and winter across schools in the whole country seems to have been higher than usual.

It is also worth reinforcing that we value attendance very highly because of the enormous negative impact absence has. Every missed lesson is a missed learning opportunity. Even worse is the cumulative effect of frequent absence because it has such a drastic adverse effect on learning, progress and ultimately on GCSE grades. We encourage full attendance and recognise its importance by rewarding each full week's attendance with a credit, but the ultimate reward is pupils fulfilling their potential and maximising their choices in life after school. Department for Education research shows that missing school for even one day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades.

Attendance at school is recognised as vitally important, which is why the National Government, Local Authorities and schools all take non-attendance very seriously. Any pupil at Long Stratton High School who meets the Local Authority criteria will be referred to the Local Authority for legal action to be considered. This is usually a fine of £60 per parent per child. The criteria is 10 consecutive sessions (which equals 5 school days) of unauthorised absence where some or all of the absence may be attributed to an unauthorised holiday in term-time or 15% unauthorised absence over a period of 6 school weeks for reasons other than unauthorised term time holiday (which equates to 9 sessions or 4.5 day).

On a few occasions this year, cases have been referred to the Local Authority for legal action to be considered but because of changes in the process fines have not been applied. We are, however, working closely with the Authority to ensure this does not happen in the future to ensure a consistent outcome in each case.

I hope we can count on your continuing support in maximising your child's attendance, aiming for 100%, to ensure their best chance of achieving success.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Gallant', written in a cursive style.

Mrs C Gallant
Assistant Headteacher