



Letter from the Head 13/9/24

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Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to report that the first week back has been busy, has flown by, and been a great success! It has been lovely to see all of our students returning to school looking incredibly smart and seamlessly getting straight back into the groove of school life. From the off, our students have been working really hard in their lessons, and the positive atmosphere across the school has been palpable.

Year 11 have been particularly impressive on their return, already an incredible turnout to Champions Hour and their excellent work ethic impressing staff already. High attendance and a strong work ethic is pivotal to their success, and if sustained across the whole year will result in them making exceptional progress. Based on their start, I am confident these students are going to go on to great things next summer.

I would also like to highlight our youngest students, Year 7. Having already spent time at the school during 'Summer school' which has clearly helped them settle in, they have taken to secondary school life in great fashion, and made an excellent first impression!

In addition to new students, we have also had a number of new staff joining us and they have also made a great start.

Isabel Taylor - Head of Art

Finlay Lawson-Sanchez - Teacher of PE

Tejal Shah - Teacher of Science

We also have a number of existing colleagues taking up new posts this term;

Rosie Tregear - Head of Physical Education

John Gook - Head of English (maternity cover)

To further develop our House system, we have appointed four Heads of House; **Mr Marshall - Joseph**, **Ms Agne - Albert**, **Mr Carolan - Chaffey**, **Miss Stanley-Smith - Croft**. We are very excited to see their contribution to the House competition this year.

Since our return, I had the opportunity to speak to all students during Year group assemblies. One of my key messages was focused on the importance of attendance. Attendance is one of our top priorities this year. As I explained to the students, regular attendance not only supports academic success but also promotes personal well-being. Students who attend school regularly feel happier, more connected, and develop stronger relationships with their peers and staff. These connections are essential for all young people as they grow and navigate their secondary school years.

In addition to promoting well-being, attendance is crucial for academic achievement. We have analysed the performance of our students' GCSE results against attendance and the findings were clear.

Attendance	Progress Average	Attainment Average
Above 95%	0.65	57
90-94%	0.47	51.8
85-89%	0.43	47.7
Below 85%	0.11	44.7



Park House School

Work hard. Be kind. Take responsibility.

Whilst the whole year group did superbly well and achieved fantastic results...the best of all state schools in West Berkshire! The data showed a strong correlation between regular attendance and students achieving their full potential - students whose attendance was 95%+ made 0.65 of a grade better than expected progress. Across their 10 subjects, this averages at 6.5 grades. Simply put, being in school consistently is one of the keys to success.

Our target for all students is 95% or higher. This is not just an arbitrary figure; 95% is a key benchmark that predicts both happiness and success in school. We understand that, on occasions, some of our students may face life-changing events such as a serious medical condition or a bereavement. In these exceptional cases, our sole focus will be on supporting the child and their family. However, for the majority of students, achieving 95% attendance or higher is a realistic and attainable goal.

It has been particularly pleasing to see the launch of our extra curricular programme this week which has been compiled from all corners of the curriculum, to ensure students have a wide range of opportunities to enjoy, and the uptake this week has been excellent. I am really grateful to the number of staff who give up their time to provide such a range of opportunities. Please check the clubs page on the website ([here](#)) and encourage your children to get involved and make the most of this provision.

Finally, can I remind you all that it is our open evening on Wednesday 18th from 6pm. I look forward to welcoming any of you that are bringing your Year 5 or 6 children along to see the school.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, please join me in cheering on the 'Red Roses' against New Zealand on Saturday!

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher