



Attend and you will achieve!

Well Done to all our students and parents!

Don Valley Academy knows that all our students and families have made a huge effort with our attendance. The 95% minimum target is particularly important for all students

Research suggests that students who attend school at this level and above have 73% chance of achieving five or more good passes at GCSE whatever their ability level.

It is vital that we continue to ensure that our Don Valley Learners attend school regularly. This shows commitment to learning which will have a positive effect on their examinations and their futures.
Every lesson does indeed count.

What is good attendance?

Attendance percentages are not like examination results: an attendance percentage needs to be in the high nineties before it can be considered good.

Consider the following examples:-

An attendance record of 90% might seem good but is equal to 1 day missed per fortnight. If this continues from Years 7 to 11, a total of six month's education will be lost.

An attendance record of 80% might seem acceptable but is equal to 1 day missed per week. If this continues from Years 7 to 11, a total of one year's education will be lost.

Each year, a number of students in every year group achieve 100% attendance records, showing that this is an achievable target. In addition, a number of students have achieved this level of attendance in successive years.

Did you know ? Over a Year....

Rewards



The Attendance Department are continuing to run a range of reward schemes to encourage students to maintain and improve their attendance.

Every child who receives 100% in a half term will receive a certificate and a FREE MATCH TICKET from Doncaster Rovers

Inter Form Challenge

Every half term the form group with the highest attendance in the Year group will have the opportunity to take part in a **NON UNIFORM DAY**

Certificates

Certificates will be given to students for 100% attendance each half term along with a ticket from Doncaster Rovers.

20 minutes late = 13 days lost

10 minutes late = 6.5 days lost

15 minutes late = 10 days lost

5 minutes late = 3 days lost



Punctuality at the Academy

Students are expected to arrive at the academy by **8.25am**

Please ensure your child is punctual to 'Get Set' time to register with their tutor.

If you drop your son/daughter off outside the academy then please do so before this time.

What can parents do to support their child to achieve good attendance levels?

Parents play a very important role in ensuring the good attendance records of their children. Below is a list of suggested strategies:-

- A. Encourage full attendance
- B. Stress the importance of full attendance to your child
- C. Do not allow your child to have time off for minor complaints or illnesses: if they are well enough to be up and about they are generally well enough to attend the academy
- D. Monitor your child's attendance. They are given their attendance on a weekly basis which should be written in their planner.
- E. Try to book any medical or dental appointments out of academy hours or make them towards the end of the day.
- F. Ensure your child is punctual for the academy, students should be in the academy at 8.25am
- G. Inform the academy on the first day of absence - we do have an answer machine service from 3.50pm until 7.30am. Academy staff are available from 7.30am onwards to record absences.
- H. If your child is taking medication whilst at school, please ask your child to take it to reception with a note to give to our first aider who will administer it whilst at school.

Attendance and the Law



You are legally responsible for:

- Ensuring your child receives full time education.
- Ensuring that your child attends the academy regularly.

Holidays

The Government have implemented new legislation effective from 1st September 2013, which means that no requests for holidays can be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. If a parent wishes to take a student out for a holiday during term time, we ask for a Holiday form to be completed with any evidence to support the request. This request will be considered under exceptional circumstances and parents notified of our decision.

Breakfast at Don Valley

Lots of children claim they skip breakfast because of lack of time, or because they simply don't feel like it. However, breakfast is definitely worth fitting in. No doubt you have heard the saying that 'breakfast is the most important meal of the day'. Although all our meals matter, there are a number of reasons that breakfast is really important. When you wake up, your body hasn't had any food for several hours. Breakfast provides the energy we need to face the day, as well as some essential vitamins and minerals.

At Don Valley we have Breakfast Club which is open between **8.00am until 8.20 am** in the lower school hall.

Your child can be in a safe warm environment at the start of the day where they can meet with their friends have some breakfast, relax and listen to music before school starts!

Year 10 & Year 11 Lunches

The Canteen offers a lunch ordering service. Order your lunch and prepay and collect from the dining room with 'NO' waiting!

Truancy Patrol

Since September we have carried out a number of truancy patrols from Don Valley Academy, in association with the Police and Local Authority Officers. Any student that is absent without notification by parents may receive a home visit from the Patrol. Students need to ensure that they have a genuine reason for not being at the academy - otherwise the officers can bring the child into the academy

To prevent a visit being made by the Police or Local Authority Officers, parents or carers need to contact school by 9.00am on 01302 781528. We do have an answer machine from 3.50 p.m. to 7.30am if you wish to leave a message. Please note all calls from parents are logged onto our computer system.