



Friday, 19 April 2024

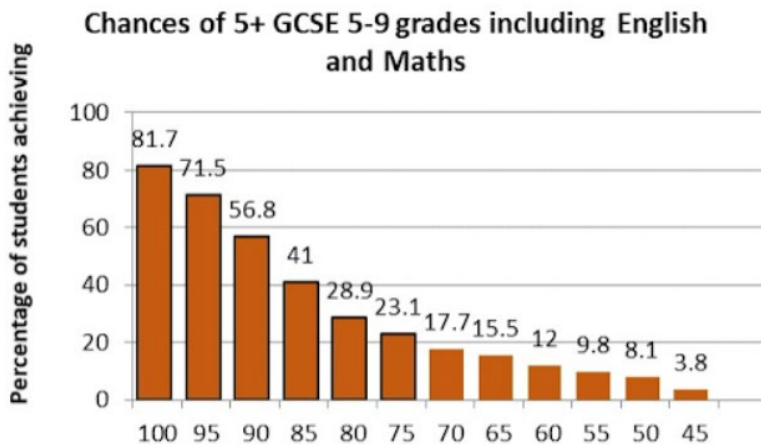
Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all had a great Easter break with your children and had time to rest and recharge. It was lovely last week to welcome our Year 8 students back to school full of smiles and stories of Easter adventures. We have had a really positive start to our long summer term that will take us all the way through to the holidays in July.

I was particularly pleased to see some amazing achievements from our data gathering at the end of the spring term. The vast majority of our students are working at or beyond their target grades which is outstanding. We also had record levels of rewards and few consequences across the whole year group, which pleases me greatly. Well done to all our successes whether they are big or small!

Following on from the theatre production we had at the end of the spring term, in PSHE tutor time this term, we have started to look a bit more closely at the theme of county lines and all that this entails including effects of knife crime and child sexual exploitation. These are themes which require real maturity to hear about and discuss. I am fully confident that they will really develop an understanding of all the dangers that can face our youngsters today and I am sure they will approach this area of our curriculum with their usual diligence and respect.

It was extremely pleasing last week to see that Year 8 students had the highest overall attendance figures in our school and I am very proud of them. High rates of attendance are, of course, paramount if our students are to achieve well at GCSE level. Researched evidence shows that a pupil's progress and attainment is affected if their attendance falls below 90% and statistics show that if pupils miss just 17 days (34 sessions) of school, their GCSE attainment is likely to drop by an entire grade:



(Source: Department for Education Study 2022)

As you can see, an attendance figure of 90% may not sound very low, but it reduces a child's chance of achieving 5 or more 9-5 grades at GCSE from 81% to around 57%.

A child who averages 80% attendance during their secondary school career effectively misses one whole year of education and significantly reduces their chances of securing good outcomes at the end of Year 11.

**Paris 2024** - A final reminder that our meeting for all parents and students who are going to Paris in June will be taking place next Monday – Monday 22 April at 5.00pm in our school theatre. I shall make a full presentation of all aspects of the visit and there will be time for Q&As at the end. If you would like to drop off passports and EHIC/GHIC cards at this time that would be great. The final balance for the trip needs to be completed through Parentpay by 3 May 2024.

I have been in touch with our tour company this week and they are very much looking forward to welcoming our students and showing us all the sights of Paris and Disneyland! I look forward to seeing you all in school on Monday 22 April at 5.00pm.

Safeline are hosting an internet safety workshop here at North Leamington School for parents/carers on Thursday 21 May from 5-6.30pm. The workshop will focus on the prevalence of online abuse/grooming and keeping safe online and will also explore different apps, privacy setting and where to seek support. If you would like to attend please email [jlignier@northleamington.co.uk](mailto:jlignier@northleamington.co.uk) to confirm

Finally, thank you to all of you who have been in touch over the last week. I really believe that if there are any small worries or queries, it is best to communicate these early and stay in touch, so if there is anything you or your children have in mind, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at school.

With my best regards,

Alan Boyes  
Year 8 Lead