



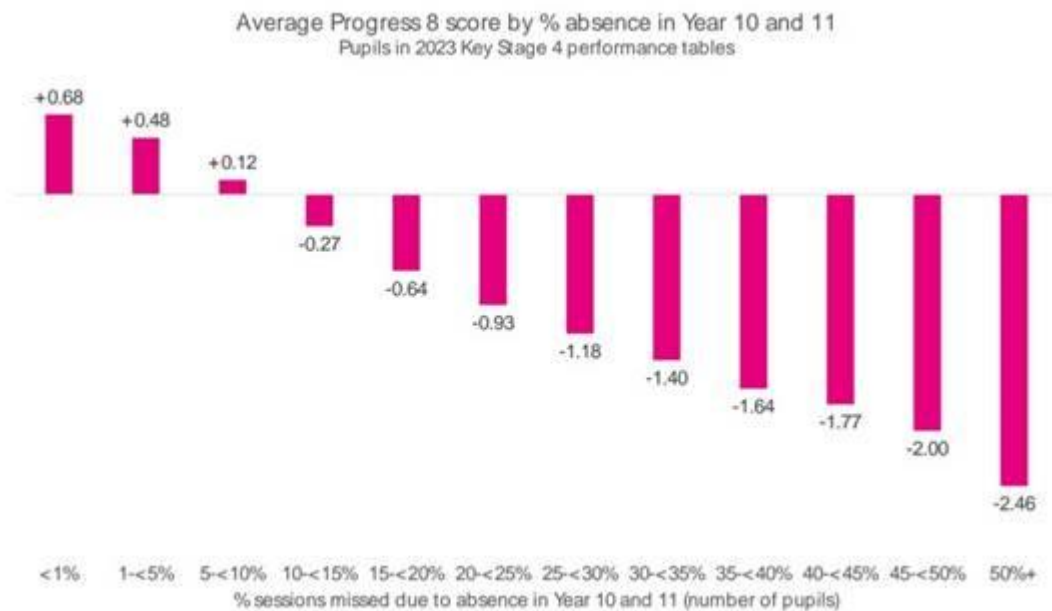
13 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

With 6 weeks almost complete I hope all have settled well back into the routines of school life. It has been great to see how our newest members of the community, those in Year 7 & 12, have been welcomed and are already starting to add value here at NLS. Parents and Carers of students in Year 7 & 12 are invited to our Meet the Tutor evening Monday 16 October - this is a great opportunity to meet key staff involved in the care of your child and receive key information that will best support your child's journey here at school.

Each day I remind students of the importance of making the most of their time at NLS, our Year 11 students have already started preparations for mock examinations which kick off on the 23 October following their successful Year 10 GCSE RE examinations in the summer. Likewise, many students are already taking part in a rich variety of extracurricular activities, taking on leadership roles, working exceptionally well in the library and homework club and many receiving rewards for everyday exemplary practice in lesson. It's these small milestones and achievements along the five or seven year journey that help students achieve their wonderful outcomes come the end.

I am sure many of you will have seen the increasing coverage nationally of the concerns that still exist around student attendance. Whilst our school outcomes last year have put us in the top 15% of all schools for GCSE attainment and progress, those students with weaker attendance here at NLS follow the same national trends and have weaker performance than peers. National data released by the Department for Education last week highlights the challenges students face with weaker attendance. As a school we will continue to support all families with children with lower attendance than peers. Our goal for all students is to be above 96% - please do keep an eye on child's progress through your G4Schools account. The graphic below works from a point 0 which is the expected progress of each student from their individual starting point at the end of Primary School.



As the weather changes and more children arrive to school by car please remember that our car park and local roads become busier at school drop off and pick up times. The school gates are open from 8am, students are welcome to use the library, canteen or any social spaces with peers whilst waiting for lesson. Students who arrive in plenty of time for the start of lesson 1, 8:45am, are often well prepared, less stressed and ready to learn.

I wish you a great weekend, we will close the term with our parent bulletin in two weeks.

Yours faithfully



Mike Lowdell  
Head Teacher