



5 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to explain how we are supporting regular attendance at Kingstone High School this year and why this matters for our students' learning, wellbeing and future opportunities.

We have had an excellent start to the academic year. Thank you for your support in ensuring students attend consistently, arrive on time and are ready to learn. We want to build on this positive start together.

Why attendance matters

Regular attendance helps students make progress, build friendships, develop confidence and feel part of our school community.

Our own GCSE results highlight a striking link between attendance and achievement. **Last year, only 4% of Kingstone students whose attendance was below 80% achieved a Grade 4 or above in both English and Maths. This rose to 73% for students whose attendance was 95% or above.**

Although many factors influence results, these figures demonstrate the importance of being in school regularly. This matters in every year group, as the learning and habits developed earlier provide the foundations for GCSE success.

SOL Attendance Tracking

This year, our SOL attendance tracking system allows us to monitor attendance week by week and identify changes earlier. Where attendance begins to fall, tutors, our Attendance Officer and pastoral staff can speak with students and families to understand why and identify any support needed. Our purpose is to know our students well, notice changes and act before difficulties become more established.

Our Graduated Response to Attendance

We have also introduced a clear Graduated Response to Attendance, with support increasing where concerns continue. This may begin with a tutor conversation following a student's return, followed by a telephone call from our Attendance Officer, Mrs Hall. Further stages may include letters home, meetings with the Head of Year or Pastoral Lead and an Attendance Support Plan agreed with the family.

At the heart of our follow-up calls is a simple reason: we care. We want to know how your child is, whether anything is making attendance difficult and what we can do to help. A conversation can

reveal concerns that an absence message alone may not explain. Research supports positive, personalised communication with families as an approach to improving attendance. Regular attendance also supports wellbeing through routines, friendships and access to trusted adults.

We recognise that students may be genuinely too unwell to attend or face complex circumstances, including additional needs or health difficulties. We will consider these individually. We also have a responsibility to follow up absence, so a call may still be appropriate when an explanation has already been provided, particularly where absence is repeated or prolonged.

Working Together

We understand that attendance conversations can sometimes be difficult. We will listen and work constructively with you and ask that the same courtesy and respect are shown to staff. Mrs Hall, our attendance officer and our teaching and pastoral colleagues are following agreed procedures because they care about your child. Questions and concerns are always welcome, but conversations should remain polite and constructive. Rude or abusive language towards staff is not acceptable.

Thank you for responding to attendance communications and working with us to support your child.

Our message to students remains simple: **Be in school. Be on time. Be part of it.**

By continuing to work together, we can give every student the best opportunity to thrive and fulfil our shared commitment to **Achieving Success Together**.

Mr D. Cook

Assistant Headteacher
Kingstone High School