

November 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

Obligatory notification of changes to the law around Attendance at school

You will be aware that the law requires all parents to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Research has shown that children often do not catch up on work missed, which can have serious consequences for their learning and progress. The Government is very clear that all schools must aim to have the highest attendance possible for all of their students in order for them to achieve their maximum potential.

The Local Authority has introduced a system where any student who has an attendance of 85% or less with at least 15% unauthorised absence over a 6 week period or 5 days of consecutive unauthorised absence will meet the criteria for legal intervention which could be in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice. Starting from the 11th November any student in Marshland High School who meets either criteria, will be referred to the Local Authority for action to be considered. If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued it is a fine of £60 per parent per child which must be paid in one payment in 21 days. If unpaid a further invoice for £60 per parent per child is issued. Both individual invoices would then have to be paid making a total payment of £120 in 28 days. Failure to pay the total amount within the timescale will result in legal action being taken.

Please also note that from the 1st September 2013, the law forbids the school from authorising any holiday in term time and that a parent who takes a child out of school for 5 consecutive days or more will face a Fixed Penalty Notice as outlined above.

Our aim is to ensure that our students receive the most from their education and I hope we can count on your support in this matter. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact child's Head of House.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Dormor
Headteacher