



Dear Parents and Carers

This feels like a busy week at Kimberley. There is a lot going on and I thought it would be helpful to update you on some of the things that we are talking about in school this week.

Ukraine. During tutor time this week, tutors will talk to students about what is happening in The Ukraine. Whilst teachers do not claim to be experts we think that is important that our students have an understanding of what is happening and an opportunity to discuss any concerns or worries that they may have. We also know that many students are asking what we can do to help and so I have asked our Sixth Form Charity Committee to look at what we can do as a school to support the people in Ukraine. All students this week will have the opportunity to watch and then discuss a video presentation from Mr Knapczyk. Parents and Carers can watch this video on the [Student Notices page of the school website](#).

Attendance. In the past two years, we have, quite rightly, talked to students about the importance of staying at home and missing school when they were required to self-isolate. Unsurprisingly this has meant that some students and families have got out of the good habits and routines that led to good attendance at school during the pandemic. Average attendance across the school now sits at 90%, before the pandemic this was 95.5%. In practice, this means that on average students are missing an additional 40 lessons (8 days) in this year than they would have done prior to the pandemic.

This week I have been talking to students in assemblies about the importance of attendance. Now that the legal requirement to self-isolate has been removed this is an opportunity for everyone connected with the school to think about what they can do to return attendance (individually and collectively) to pre-pandemic levels. Everyone has done the right thing in the last two years. However, given the disruption they have experienced, it is more important than ever that students attend school regularly. We have also published two pages on our website which I hope parents will find useful to read.

- [Good Attendance Matters. Information for Parents](#)
- [Good Attendance Matters. Information for Students](#)

When I talk to students about attendance, one of the most common things I hear from them is the view that it doesn't matter if they miss school because they can follow the remote curriculum. It is important that school and parents challenge this point of view. Nothing is more effective than when students are in school working with teachers. The remote curriculum is only there as a "second best" option for students who were forced by government regulation to isolate themselves and to miss school. It was only ever second best and students will fall behind if they miss school.

Returning attendance to pre-pandemic levels is a national priority and anything that you can do to reinforce this message with your children is greatly appreciated. I do hope the information we have put on the website helps you with these conversations.

World Book Day. Please don't forget that we publish our daily notices to students on the [school website](#). If you look at today's notices you will see that there is information for students on World Book Day, a trip to Greece and the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Mid-Day Supervisors. We are currently recruiting for Mid-Day Supervisors. If you are looking for an opportunity to work in our great school and support the work that we are doing then you can find the [full details of the posts here](#).

As ever, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. George'.

Andrew George
Head Teacher