



Dear Parents/Carers,

Next week is our Open Evening on Thursday 25th September, 6-8pm. Students from across all years have been invited to act as ambassadors and help guide visitors around the academy and each subject area. It really helps prospective students to get a better feel for the academy when they see our current students involved and being able to hear from them directly why they're 'Proud to be Primet'. If your child is involved, please ensure there are arrangements for them getting home safely after the event finishes. For those of you who have children in the current Year 6 and year 5 we look forward to seeing you and your child as you come to see Primet ahead of submitting secondary school applications. If you are attending, please make sure you have signed up on our Eventbrite page which is linked on the homepage of our website.

This week's highlight is how amazing the Year 11's were during their mock interviews this morning. We were joined by a wide range of employers and post-16 providers, with each Year 11 student being invited to interview with one of them. Students approached this maturely and with confidence, talked fluently about their achievements and attributes, and expressed their interests and future aspirations enthusiastically. The feedback from the visiting employers has been amazing, and they were really impressed with what they've seen today. Year 11 should be very proud of themselves - we're certainly very proud of them. They now need to use this experience as they apply and interview for their next steps.

Another highlight has been our first set of students leading assemblies, with form P presenting in each year group during this week's morning assemblies. Being form P they've had the privilege of going first but it's not long till it will be form Rs turn and each form will take the lead at some point this year.

The very wet weather at the start of this week reinforced the end of the Summer months, and the need for students to have a suitable outdoor coat. Please ensure these are clearly labelled with your child's name so that any lost property can be identified and returned.

Mrs Pilkington, Principal



Principal's Awards

Awarded to the students in each year group with the highest number of Positive Points and 0 Negative Points each week.



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

2022-2025

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to this week's star students:

Year 7

P - Cole
R - Abigail
I - Alexa
M - Ayaan
E - Mark
T - Charlie
A - Abiha

Year 8

P - Colby
R - Aleena
I - Asad
M - Zohra
E - Kaleb
T - Zaryab
A - Jessica

Year 9

P - Melissa
R - Reuben
I - Olivia
M - Harry
E - Sara
T - Khalil
A - Lily

Year 10

P - Frank
R - Raheem
I - Emmanuel
M - Leah
E - Sarah
T - Nadir
A - Samuel

Year 11

P - Annyah
R - Mohamed
I - Parisa
M - Noor
E - Vanessa
T - Tilly
A - Seheri

Primet Positive Focus: Inclusive



This week we have been focusing on our core value of being inclusive. All members of the academy are equally valued, and we appreciate the diversity within our academy community. Our curriculum ensures all students can make progress.

UNCRC Articles



As part of our UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award, we have been looking at each of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child Articles. There are 54 Articles in total. This week we have been learning about:

- Article 4 - Implementation of the Convention: Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights.

Upcoming Dates

22nd Sept to 3rd Oct – Year 7 Tutor meetings
23rd September – Year 7 Streetwise Road Safety Theatre performance
25th September – Open Evening
25th September – Year 11 MEGA Hub Event at Nelson & Colne College
25th September – European Day of Languages
26th September – Primary Maths Challenge Day
2nd October – Year 10 Pendle Careers Fair at The Muni
13th – 24th October – Year 11 Mock Exams
22nd October – Sports Presentation Evening
19th November – Star Awards Evening at The Muni

Focus on Year 8

Year 8 have made a very positive start to the academic year particularly our student leaders who supported Year 7 on their first day at school. We intend to build on this success with further training for the student leaders who can implement this in and around school. There will be further opportunities for students to take on leadership roles within the year group as form captains and student voice representatives.

Attendance and punctuality remain a priority for year 8 as is completion of homework. Class Charts logins for both parents and students remain the same and if you have not already done so, please log into your account as your support at home is crucial in ensuring your child can reach their full potential. Homework club is open to all students and runs after school every day except Friday. Homework club is held in T12 which is an IT suite where students have access to a computer should they need it and staff are also present to support students. All students should have a homework folder containing knowledge organisers which can be used to support independent learning at home.

During the first week of term the plans for our half termly reward events were shared and students were reminded that the criteria to receive an invite to any of the reward events is to have a 95% positive behavior ratio on class charts and 95% attendance. Finally a reminder that students should bring a school bag to school every day as a homework folder and a reading book together with a pen, green pen, pencil and a ruler are essential equipment which students are expected to bring to school. Please don't hesitate to contact school should you need further support.

Miss Heap, Head of Year 8



Focus on Maths

We are delighted to share what a brilliant start our students have made in Maths this term. They have shown real effort and enthusiasm in lessons, completing Ready to Reads and tackling problem-solving tasks with energy and focus.

Each year group has dived into exciting topics:

- Year 7 – Place Value and Rounding (Arithmetic assessment next week!)
- Year 8 – Ratio
- Year 9 – Properties of Number
- Year 10 – Algebra
- Year 11 – Probability and Data Collection

These topics not only build mathematical confidence but also link to future careers. From data analysis in finance and probability in risk management, to ratio in design and engineering, and algebra in coding and technology, students are already building the skills that underpin so many professions.

We'd like to put a strong focus on homework this year, as it is key to consolidating learning:

- Years 7 & 8 – 30 minutes a week on MathsWhizz. Students are aiming to collect blue gems (new knowledge) and red gems (recall). Once they achieve three of each, they earn a place in the Hall of Fame!
- Years 9–11 – MathsWatch tasks are the main homework platform.
- All Year Groups – We also have access to Eedi, where students can go above and beyond, extend their learning, and join another exciting leaderboard.

🏆 Current Leaderboards:

- MathsWhizz: 7E!
- MathsWatch: 9.2!

For any student who needs extra support completing homework, T12 is open on Wednesday after school and Thursday lunchtime with Mrs Erskine.

If your child has forgotten their login details, please contact their maths teacher or myself, and we'll be happy to reset these.

We're really proud of the commitment shown so far, and with your continued encouragement at home, we know the rest of the year will be just as successful.

Mrs Erskine, Head of Maths



Personal Development

This week in Personal Development students have been looking at:

| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Being an organised Primet Student | Why is personal Development important? | How does the Teenage Brain work | Independent Learning and GCSE Pod | Mock interview preparation |

Next week they will focus on:

| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Being an aspirational Primet Student | Exploring Personal Development | Good Sleep and Screen time. | GCSE Pod / PD and success / Barclays life skills registration | GCSE Pod / Flash Cards / Power to Perform |

Mrs Bielby, Head of Personal Development



Mock Interviews

Thank you to all of the employers who supported today's Mock Interview Day.



Oracle Updates

Our School Library is Now Online

<https://uk.accessit.online/cln06/#!/dashboard>

Click on the link above,
or type "library" in the search bar of our school website

The screenshot shows the Oracle library dashboard with various sections:

- ORACLE OPENING TIMES:** Before school: 8.20-9.45am, Every break, Every dinner, Afterschool: 3.20-4.15pm. A Calm, Quiet, Space For Reading, Exchanging Books, Homework, Afterschool Activities, Accelerated Reader Quizzing.
- BOOK REVIEWS YOUR OPINION MATTERS:** Read a book and then find it on Accessit using the search bar. Click into it, then choose 'Write a Review'. In a short paragraph, tell us your honest opinions. We'll check it, publish it, and you'll earn positives. Your review will help others decide if the book is right for them.
- Y7, 8, 9 Accelerated Reader INFO:** Your Online AR Info Booklet is Available For Children Here.
- Accessit ORACLE PHONE APP:** Includes a QR code and instructions: 1. Download the Accessit Library App on your phone, 2. Open app and scan QR code, 3. Tap on the app logo you see to access any of our school computers.
- Books on Display:** A carousel of book covers with the text "Click Here to Discover How to Access Book Reviews".
- YouTube Link Here:** A section for video content.
- Footer:** "Things to do", "How to pick a good book", "How to use the Accessit Library Web App", and "Track your gaming skills".

Using their Primet Logins, Students Can Now

- View their current loans
- * Research our library catalogue
- View online educational resources/videos
- * Write book reviews
- View & interact with our dashboard – full of information, book trailers and lots more.

Thank you to Asad Y8, for one of our first,
online book reviews. 5 positives awarded

The screenshot shows a book review for "Super Sleuth" by David Walliams. The book cover is on the left, and the review details are on the right.

| Review Date | Reviewed by | Rating |
|-------------|-------------|--------|
| 15/09/2025 | Asad | ★★★★★ |

Review: A...Super Sleuth! I loved reading this book over the course of the 5 week holidays. My favorite character would definitely be Watson, as he is an amazing detective dog. I would rate this book 5 stars, and this is backed up by the astonishing illustrations and the creative story. I would very much like to meet the author, and ask him a few questions like - will there be a sequel? Will you make more stories like this? Can I have a signed edition? This book is a murder mystery if you have not guessed yet - it involves Dilly and her dog Watson on the masquerade (a luxurious ship) trying to solve a murder mystery. Lastly, I would recommend this to people who are up for an excellent murder mystery with illustrations. A truly amazing read indeed.

Who would like this?: People who are good at solving puzzles, mysteries etc and people who enjoy this? like murder, deaths and detectives!

[Write a review](#)



Poetry Competition

I Have a Dream

Closing Date: Monday 20th October 2025

Write a poem about any of these:
your hopes, wishes, aspirations,
or something wild and impossible,
or personal or worldwide changes,
or achievable or improbable dreams.
Let your creativity fly.



Pick up your entry form from Oracle

Prizes: positives for creativity, certificates,
and £10 Amazon voucher for overall winner...

AND YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR POEM PUBLISHED IN A NATIONAL BOOK!

Excessive Leave in term time - S444

Education Act 1996

Lancashire County Council are currently reviewing the arrangements for pupils who are absent from school due to unauthorised leave/holidays.

Attendance at school is vital to help children thrive and achieve their best. Children who are absent from school can fail to meet their academic potential and those who fall below 90% attendance are at significant risk of underachieving.

Absence during term time must be avoided. If you are considering taking your child out of school for any reason, it is essential that you request permission for the absence.

When penalty notices are issued, parents have the opportunity to discharge liability for an offence under S444 of the Education Act instead of being prosecuted by the Local Authority. The penalty notice regulations determine the amount of the penalty notice fine.

Unfortunately, some parents are choosing to remove their children from school for longer periods, as the fine amount is the same regardless of the number of school days missed.

From 01/01/2025, the following rules will apply:

1. Unauthorised leave less than 15 school days: penalty notice issued
2. Unauthorised leave of 15 school days or more: the Local Authority will review any requests for penalty notices and may prosecute parents and not offer the opportunity to pay a penalty notice fine instead.

Failure to ensure your child's regular attendance at school is a criminal offence, and this means that if you are convicted, this could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and you will have a criminal record.

We have been asked by Lancashire County Council to issue this letter to parents to inform you that this procedure will now be applied to all excessive leave requests made to this school.

Attendance Matters

Children and young people who miss school, miss out on not only learning and education, but also spending time with other children and friends, which helps with developing social and emotional skills. Children who miss school more than others, sometimes find it more difficult to keep friendships.

Some parents may say taking their children out of school for a few days won't impact on their children's education. Being at school every day means children's learning will improve, they will be able to attend all school activities like out-of-school clubs and school trips, and they will have better futures.

We understand everyone is sick sometimes, but regularly taking days off for illness is a cause for concern. Where possible, parents should encourage their children to come to school.

Long-term effects of missing school

If children are absent, it can impact not only on school grades, but their later life. If they're absent for five more days than the average, young people are more likely to not be in work by age 42 and have lower wages.

Keeping children safe

We want to ensure children and young people are in a safe space and not at risk of getting involved in crime and becoming exploited. The best way schools know children are safe during school hours is when they are in school.

Getting help

If children are struggling to attend school every day, please speak to the school to see what help might be available for both children and parents. This could include learning, mental health issues, or any other issues.

Did you know?

- By going to school, children can meet with their friends for social and emotional development and not become isolated at home.
- Children who stay away from school are struggling more with their mental health and some are even unable to leave home.
- It's much more difficult for children to keep up with their education if they miss school and so fall behind – teachers have to make sure all students are progressing.
- Teachers are following a curriculum, and if children have been out of the class, they may find the next bit of the topic much harder to understand.

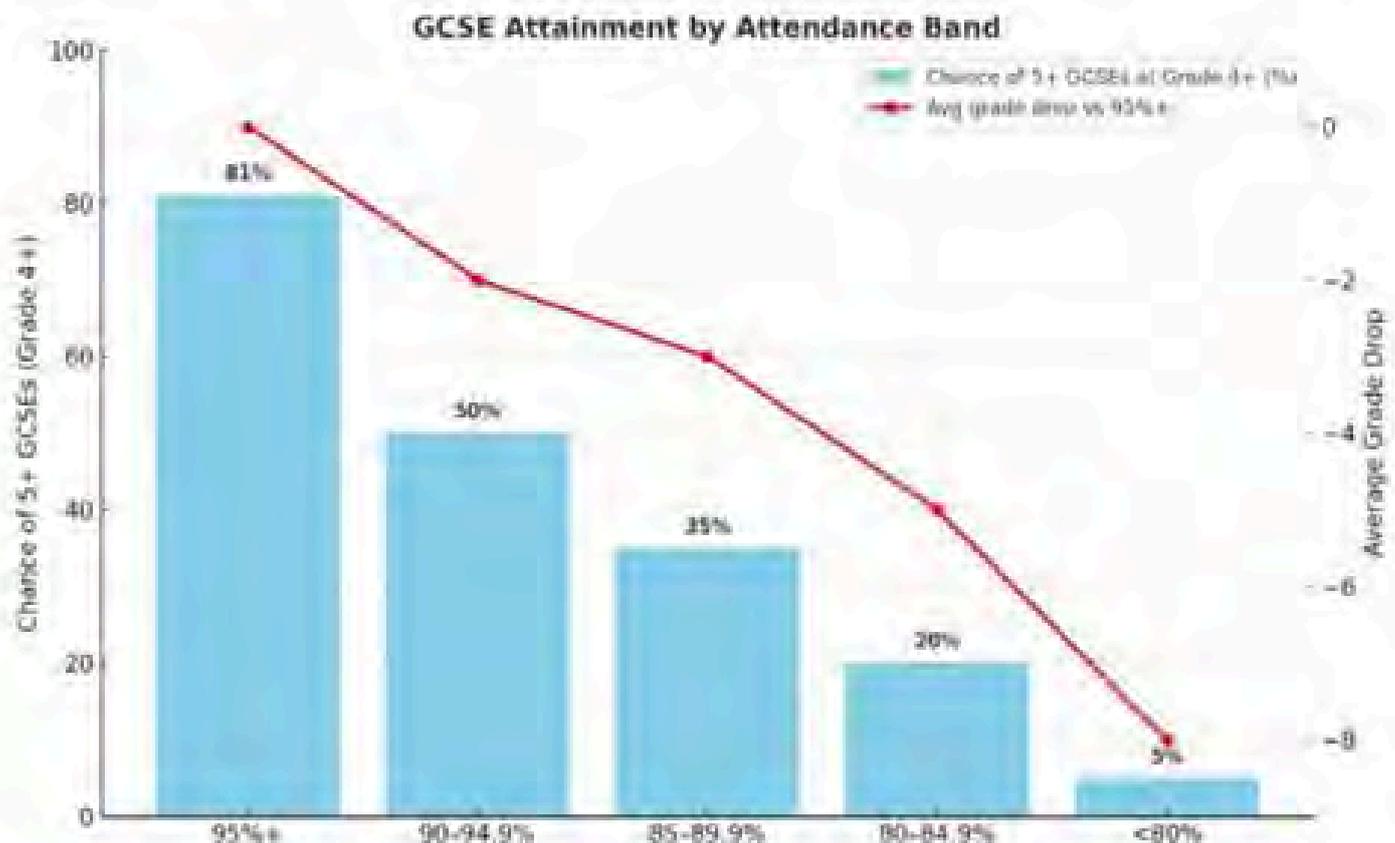
Missing out on school adds up

- 80% attendance over a school year means your child misses a whole year of education over five years
- 85% attendance means that 29 school days, nearly six weeks, or 145 lessons are missed over a year
- 90% attendance means 19 school days, four weeks or 95 lessons are missed over a year

Attendance Matters

GCSE Attainment by Attendance Band

Attendance has a direct and powerful link to GCSE attainment. Pupils with high attendance (95%+) are far more likely to achieve strong passes, while persistent absentees see their attainment collapse. The chart below shows the relationship between attendance bands and outcomes.



Key Findings:

- Pupils with **95%+ attendance** have around an **81% chance** of achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grade 4 or above.
- Pupils with **90–94.9% attendance** are typically around **2 grades lower** across their subjects.
- Pupils below **80% attendance** see outcomes collapse: fewer than **5% achieve 5+ strong passes**.

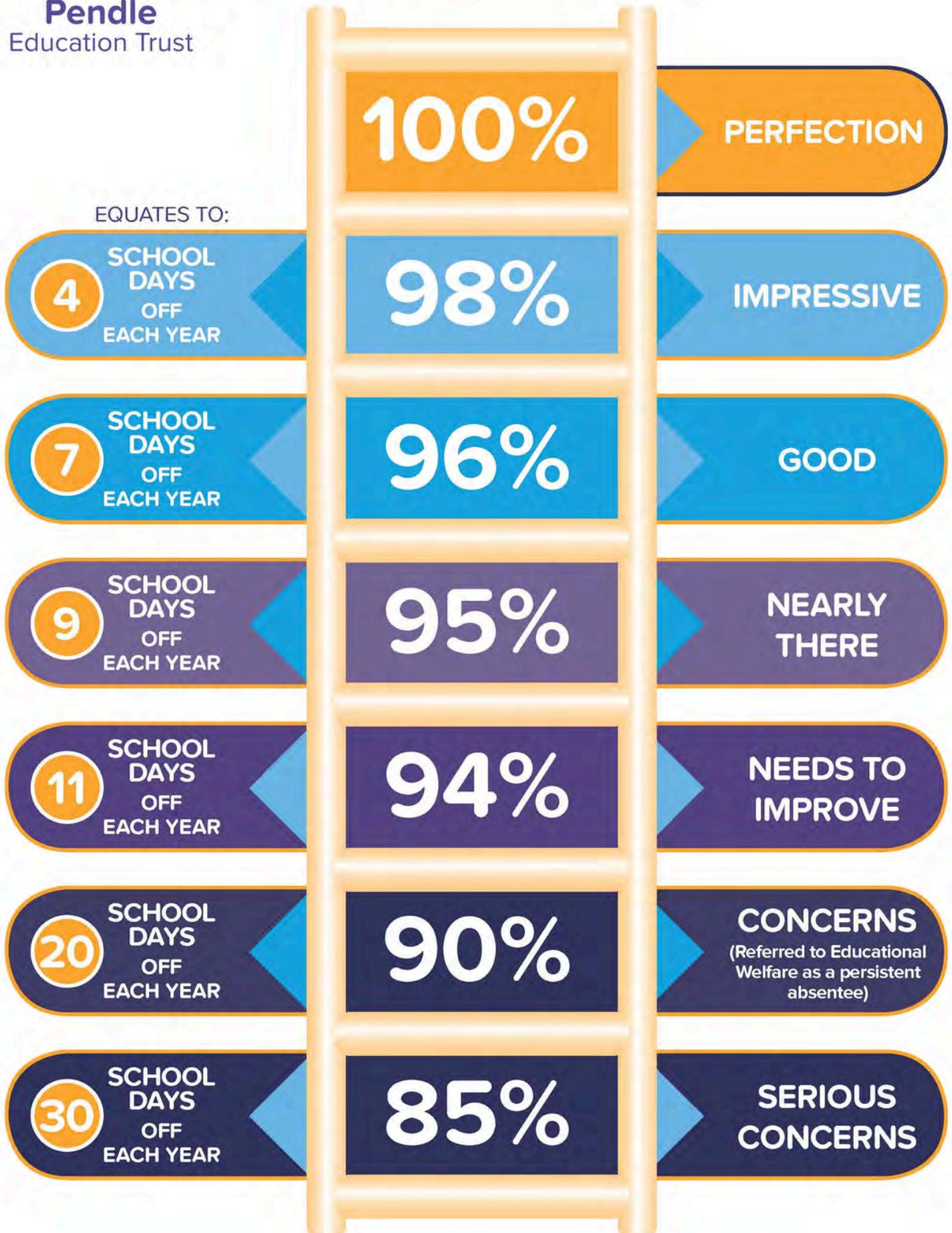
Key Message: Each 1% drop in attendance is linked to lower attainment – approximately a quarter of a grade per subject.

Attendance Matters



Pendle
Education Trust

Attendance Ladder



Uniform reminder: School Shoes

Our uniform is designed to be smart and simple. When worn correctly it brings great pride to students and the academy. Wearing a uniform demonstrates high standards, our academy values and a sense of community. Wearing the uniform shows you belong to our family and it's an expectation at the Academy.

Please be aware that some commercial retailers may label some part of their range as 'Schoolwear' when it is not. This is especially common in footwear. Both girls and boys are asked to wear black shoes. The pictures below may give some guidance as to appropriate footwear for girls and boys at Colne Primet Academy.



Details of our uniform are included in our parent handbook and on our website. Please ensure your child is setting off to school meeting our uniform expectations. If you need any support with uniform or have any concerns please speak to your child's Head of Year or Pastoral Support Assistant.

Extra-curricular timetables



PE Extra-Curricular Sport (Autumn Term 1 2025)



| DAY | TIME | ACTIVITY | ROOM | STAFF |
|-----------|--------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday | Lunchtime | Year 7 Football / Benchball | Sports Hall | LHM/CJO |
| | After School | Football trials (year 7 & 8) Netball (year 7 & 8) | All weather pitch | LHM/CJO |
| Tuesday | Lunchtime | Year 8 Football / Benchball | Sports Hall | KDO/LHM |
| | After School | Football (years 9-11) Netball (years 9-11) | Field Netball | LHM/CJO EDR/KDO |
| Wednesday | Lunchtime | Year 9 Football / Benchball | Sports Hall | EDR / CJO |
| | After School | Boys' Basketball all years Girls' football – all years Girls' rugby – all years | Sports Hall | CJO/LHM EDR KDO |
| Thursday | Lunchtime | Year 10 Football / Benchball | Sports Hall | LHM/EDR |
| | After School | STAFF MEETINGS | STAFF MEETINGS | STAFF MEETINGS |
| Friday | Lunchtime | Year 11 Benchball | Sports Hall | KDO/CJO |
| | After School | Badminton all years | Sports Hall | CTH |

Extra-Curricular Timetable – Autumn 1 (2025)

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| Lunchtime | | | | Maths Club and homework help 12.20 -1pm (T12) | |
| After-school 3.20pm | <p>Reading, Homework, AR Quizzing, Exchanging books, Chess 3.20 -4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)</p> <p>Board Games Club 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)</p> <p>Year 7 Science Club 3.20- 4.15pm Miss Flegg (M11 Science)</p> <p>Student Support* 3.20 - 4.15pm Casey S T (Cabin, Quad)</p> <p>Performance Club 3.20-4.15 Mr Husband and Miss Smalley (F13, HALL)</p> <p>*This is tailored to the students' needs and interests.</p> | <p>Reading, Homework, AR Quizzing, Exchanging books, Chess 3.20 -4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)</p> <p>Performance Club 3.20-4.15 Mr Husband and Miss Smalley (F13, HALL)</p> | <p>Reading, Homework, AR Quizzing, Exchanging books, Chess 3.20 -4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)</p> <p>Music Club 3.20 – 4.20pm Mr Husband (Music)</p> <p>Maths Club and homework help 3.20-4pm (T12)</p> | <p>Student Support* 3.20 - 4.15pm Casey S T (Cabin, Quad)</p> <p>Reading, Homework, AR Quizzing, Exchanging books, Chess 3.20 -4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)</p> <p>Free Film Screenings 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle) See posters for details of dates and times</p> | <p>Reading, Homework, AR Quizzing, Exchanging books, Chess 3.20 -4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)</p> <p>Board Games Club 3.20 - 4.15pm Ms Dawson Lib1 (Oracle)</p> |

JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS

**A LEVEL
OPEN
EVENT**

SAT, 20 SEPT
10.00am to 2.00pm

**YEAR 11
OPEN
EVENT**

WED, 15 OCT
5.30pm to 7.30pm

**YEAR 11
OPEN
EVENT**

TUE, 11 NOV
5.30pm to 7.30pm

**CAREERS
OPEN
EVENT**

THU, 5 FEB
5.30pm to 7.30pm

**YEAR 7, 8,
9, 10 & 11
EVENT**

THU, 23 APR
5.30pm to 7.30pm

**NEW
STUDENT
DAY**

THU, 25 JUN
All Day

**GCSE
RESULTS
DAY**

THU, 20 AUG
All Day

ncc.eastlancslearning.ac.uk

JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS

**YEAR 11
OPEN
EVENT**

TUE, 30 SEPT
5.30pm to 7.30pm

**YEAR 11
OPEN
EVENT**

WED, 22 OCT
5.30pm to 7.30pm

**CAREERS
OPEN
EVENT**

TUE, 3 FEB
5.30pm to 7.30pm

**YEAR 7, 8,
9, 10 & 11
EVENT**

TUE, 28 APR
5.30pm to 7.30pm

**NEW
STUDENT
DAY**

FRI, 26 JUN
All Day

**GCSE
RESULTS
DAY**

THU, 20 AUG
All Day

arc.eastlancslearning.ac.uk



Sixth Form Centre

OPEN EVENING

September
Wed 17

October
Thurs 2

November
Tues 18

**2026
February**
Tues 10

5.30pm to 8.30pm

BOOK NOW - burnley.ac.uk



BOOK NOW



For 4-16 years

JUNIOR + 14 UP MEMBERSHIPS



pendle Leisure Trust offers a wide variety of sports and activities for children and teens, led by qualified, friendly and passionate instructors whose aim is to help get your child active.

Our memberships provide great value for money for 4-16 year olds who want to access Pendle Leisure Trust's gyms, swimming pools and classes on a regular basis.

**Junior (8-13yrs)
Membership**

£ **13**.99

monthly

Great value for money for anyone aged 8-13 who wants to access Pendle Leisure Trust's facilities on a regular basis

**Teens (14-15yrs)
Membership**

£ **18**.99

monthly

An excellent, affordable option for 14-15-year-olds who want regular access to Pendle Leisure Trust's facilities.



Junior Basketball Classes

4pm - 5pm

[West Craven Sports Centre](#) - Sports Hall

Junior Basketball (Term Time Only) in Partnership with West Craven Turbines



JUNIOR BADMINTON

AT PENDLE LEISURE CENTRE



FRIDAYS

6-7PM (6-16YEARS)

COME & JOIN US

ASK AT RECEPTION FOR FURTHER DETAILS

[PENDLELEISURETRUST.CO.UK](http://pendleleisuretrust.co.uk)

PENDLE LEISURE CENTRE | CROWN WAY | COLNE | BB8 9NP



6 week courses at The Good Life Project
Tuesdays at 3.30pm (term-time only)

Hodge House Allotments, Nelson – Opposite Holy Saviour Primary School



FOOD GROWING

Sowing, planting, potting on and harvesting.
How to grow your own food at home!



FOOD SAFARI

Around the allotment – getting to know and identify plants and wildlife.



EXERCISE HUNT & GAMES

Prizes to be won!
(Family Swims & Junior Gym Passes)



COOKING

Sessions on selected weeks using food grown on the allotment.

Plants, food bags & recipes to take home
Children **MUST** attend with a parent/guardian
Suitable clothing & footwear required

To book, scan the QR code, email kathy.titterton@pendleleisuretrust.co.uk or telephone 01282 661232 - limited places available



AVAILABLE NOW

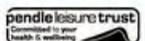
Pendle Wavelengths Nelson | West Craven Sports Centre Barnoldswick | Pendle Leisure Centre Colne

- Pre-School (3-4yrs)
- Stanley 1 (4-5yrs)
- Octopus 1 (6-8yrs)



Scan the QR code or join online at pendleleisureplus.co.uk/swimming-lessons

Can't find a lesson time perfect for you? Sign up with your email address and you'll be notified once new lessons are released.



COLNE PRIMET ACADEMY



Pendle
Education Trust



**Thursday 25th
September 6pm-8pm**

**OPEN
EVENING**



01282 863970



Colne Primet Academy



Colne Primet Academy

Book your tickets now www.colneprimet.co.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🍌 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College®