



July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of a very busy year, we would like to thank you for your support and encouragement of your child and the school. This is the first full year at school for three years and we have finally been able to come together as a school community to celebrate our successes, such as awards evenings; build our bonds at transition events and create memorable experiences with extracurricular activities, including trips around the UK and to different countries. Having not had these kind of experiences for two years, the joy, enthusiasm and excitement has been palpable and we are very much looking forward to what new opportunities the future holds.

Next year, we aim to build on our successes and for that to happen, we need to work together to ensure students are in school and making the most of each and every opportunity, academic and otherwise. That brings me to one of our key areas of focus for next year: Attendance.

You will notice on your child's recent ATL 4 report that figures for attendance were supplied. Often, when looking at that number in isolation, it is difficult to contextualise what that means for absence so we have supplied a table at the bottom of this letter for you to see what these numbers mean in terms of sessions missed from school. Our school attendance target is 96% for all students; this represents excellent attendance however, it still means seven days off across the year for unavoidable absences, such as illness.

We know the impact that consistent school attendance has on achievement. A recent Department of Education White Paper stated that during KS4, 'pupils not achieving grade 9 to 4 in English and Maths had an overall absence rate of 8.8%, compared to 5.2% among those achieving grade 4'. We want all of our students to be the best that they can be and to have a whole host of opportunities waiting for them when they leave us. We cannot stress enough the importance of good school attendance in every year to build a solid foundation of knowledge and to develop the skills essential to success in later life.

Poor attendance and punctuality can affect a student's ability to achieve academically but it also has a lasting impact on social, emotional and mental well-being, especially when students feel like they are behind their peers, unable to catch up or they are distant socially.

All students should be aiming to be in school by 8:20 every single day, this will give them the best chance of success as they move through their education at Scalby. However, we do realise that due to circumstances there are sometimes barriers that prevent this. It is our aim to address any barriers to school attendance at the earliest opportunity possible and we wish to support all of our students. If you know there is a barrier to or you have a concern about your child's attendance, please contact the school so that our Pastoral and Attendance Team can support you and your child.

We know that the effects of the pandemic have been many and our staff have worked and continue to work tirelessly to address the impact brought about by the Covid pandemic however, there is still work to do to ensure our students are equipped for the future they both want and deserve. Please support us in continuing to ensure that your child is in school on a daily basis, making every second count.



**Scalby School**  
*being the best we can be*

I hope that you have a restful summer and we look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Tuesday 6th September.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Robertson  
Headteacher

