



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you at the start of the new year to share with you the priorities that the school has set out for continuing to improve. Two important documents are attached to this letter, and are also posted on the school website. These are:

- A Three-Year Plan for the school, in which the governors set out their vision for future development.
- The School Improvement Plan, which shows how the staff of the school intend to move closer to fulfilling the governors' vision.

The potential of this school to build on its many strengths and become *recognised* as something special is significant. In my letter at the end of last year, I acknowledged the areas of concern raised in the parent survey, and I remind and reassure you of the fact that these are in the forefront of our minds.

I have one key issue that I wish to highlight at the outset of the term: that of attendance. The GCSE results were stark in their relationship with each student's attendance. In short:

Students with 100% attendance:	Progressed <u>far better</u> than the national average
Students with more than 90% attendance:	Progressed <u>in line</u> with the national average
Persistent Absentees (less than 90%):	<u>Fell well short</u> of national average progress by a <u>whole grade</u> on average

We had too many persistent absentees last year (above national average) and we have put measures in place to yet further support students who don't make it to school regularly enough. Our school target for attendance is 96% minimum across all students.

Meanwhile, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our students and staff on their sensational return to school. I had a picture in my mind of what our first week would look like and I have to say that everyone has exceeded my high expectations. Long may it continue!

With best wishes.

Mr A McGinnes
Headteacher

