

18 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

We wanted to take the opportunity to share some information with you about the importance of strong school attendance throughout Year 11, particularly in relation to student outcomes in public examinations.

Before going into the details, we want to acknowledge that school attendance continues to be a national concern and an area of increased focus for schools. We are very aware that for some families, conversations about attendance can feel difficult, especially when there is so much else going on in daily life.

For the past few years at Beckfoot, we have been thrilled to celebrate some exceptionally strong results with our Year 11 and Year 13 students. For a small number, however, opening their envelopes brought disappointment and tears. Seeing this is incredibly upsetting for students, families, and staff alike. Too often, we find that these outcomes are linked to gaps in attendance, and it is for this reason that I want to share what we have learned from recent years.

The 2026 Beckfoot GCSE outcomes show the following for students who attended school well over 90% of the time (170+ days per year):

- 23% of those students achieved grades 9-7 in English and maths
- 69.3% of students secured grades 9-5 in English and Maths
- 82% of students secured grades 9-4 in English and Maths

Students who attended school less than 90% of the time (19 days or more absent)

- 3% of those students achieved grades 9-7 in English and maths
- 19% of students secured grades 9-5 in English and Maths
- 43% of students secured grades 9-4 in English and Maths

Nationally, when we look specifically at students achieving a standard pass (grades 9-4) or a strong pass (grades 9-5) in English and Maths, the impact of attendance is very clear:

Attendance	What this means over the year	% chance of achieving English & Maths 9-4	% chance of achieving English & Maths 9-5
95%	10 days absent, approximately 50 missed lessons	85%	72%
90%	19 days absent, approximately 100 missed lessons	77%	52%
80%	38 days absent, approximately 200 missed lessons	63%	32%
70%	57 days absent, approximately 288 missed lessons	33%	22%
50%	95 days absent, approximately 475 missed lessons	14%	0%

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These figures show just how powerful regular attendance is in helping young people reach their potential. Year after year, being present in lessons is the single most important factor in improving outcomes for GCSE students.

We want to reassure you that this letter is written with the absolute best intentions. Many families reading this will already be doing everything they can to ensure excellent attendance, and we thank you sincerely for that support. We care deeply about our students and the opportunities they will have access to in the future. Young people only get one chance at their education, and the knowledge and confidence they gain now will shape the lives they go on to lead.

We look forward to continuing to work together to support strong school attendance and do remember that we are here to help in any way that we can. If you have any concerns about your child that you wish to discuss with us, please do get in touch. If we cannot help directly, we will work with you to help you find other support.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

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