

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 13, 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.

- At A Level, the difference between a young person being here more than 90% of the time (no more than 19 days absence) and those who are not is a whole grade, it can be up to 2 grades difference. That can be devastating in terms of offers from universities and employers and has affected some of our students this summer.
- Managing time for study can be difficult especially when considered alongside paid work, having a social life and maintaining really important hobbies and interests. However, getting the balance in Year 13 right must involve prioritising schoolwork and revision.
- It is so important to keep the longer-term picture to the forefront of thinking. Where does a young person see themselves in 3 – 5 years. That can be really helpful in maintaining focus.

Regular attendance is so powerful in helping young people reach their potential. Year after year, being present in lessons is the single most important factor in improving outcomes for Beckfoot A-Level 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 about 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

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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

Aieshah Ickringill
Assistant Headteacher

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