

14 October 2025

Dear Parents

**Attendance, particularly Year 7**

I have communicated previously that attendance is the single biggest issue affecting UK schools, and Knole Academy is no exception. The link between attendance and achievement is strong. Firstly, a thank you to the majority of parents who have supported good school attendance in this first half term. The biggest drop off in attendance during the academic year has historically arisen after the October half term, this is particularly the case in Year 7, where both nationally and at Knole Academy, the attendance rates drop significantly at this point. While this might be attributed to the normal wave of colds and illnesses that occur at this time, what is most concerning is that these attendance rates never recover to the point they were before the half term. I urge every parent to be mindful of attendance, especially in this period; establishing strong routines now engenders improved attendance in the future.

I also need to reiterate that term time holidays will not be authorised absences, regardless of the motivation for removing a child from school. The Department for Education state clearly that "school is statutory, holidays are not."

**Year 11 Mock Exams**

A congratulations to the Year 11 who completed their first set of mock exams in September and October. The next round of mocks will be in January and February; these will contain more of the exam papers as additional content will have been taught by then, before the real exams start in May. I am encouraged by the number of students who have taken a mature approach to the exams and clearly have been revising. If students are struggling with their revision there are guides on the school website <https://www.knoleacademy.org/our-school/exam-information/>. The basic message is, however, every Year 11 student should be revising. Work done now will make a real difference to outcomes in the summer exams. In terms of quantity, an average of two hours per night is appropriate with about 30 minutes spent on any one subject at a time.

**Half Term**

We break up for half term on Friday 17 October at 3.30pm. The last day is a normal day, and we return on Monday 3 November at 8.40am.

Yours faithfully



David Collins