



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

September 2021

Dear Parent,

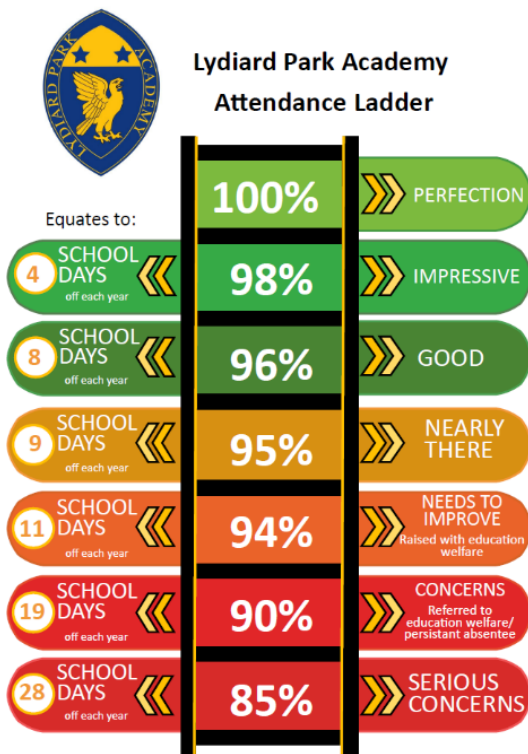
As we start a new academic year, we would like to remind parents of our attendance expectations. The Government, and Lydiard Park Academy, expect attendance at a minimum of 95%. We monitor attendance daily, always aiming for 100% attendance as this maximises learning opportunities. Evidence shows that pupils who attend school regularly make better progress both academically and socially. Last year, our Year 11 pupils with the best attendance achieved the best GCSE grades. Attendance to school was shown to be bigger than any other factor in determining pupils' academic success. You will see from the graphs at the bottom of this letter that pupils with 95%+ attendance **achieved much higher grades, passed a higher percentage of their GCSEs, and made significantly better progress** than their peers with attendance below 95%.

Every lesson counts, and it is this commitment to learning that will have a positive impact on attainment and progress. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child to not only get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behaviour and have a better chance of achieving their full potential.

When pupils are absent for just one day of school a month (even when the absences are authorised) it can have a negative impact. Those that miss an average of one school day a month often have difficulty keeping up with their peers academically and tend to fall behind. If absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve - even among those pupils who are struggling in school. Pupils who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships and are significantly more likely to be set up for a strong future.

Good attendance is an expectation of employers and it is proven to be one of the biggest impacts on pupil outcomes.

We trust that you appreciate the importance of attendance and thank you in anticipation of your support. **The vast majority of our pupils have attendance that is good or better - we thank you for your support.**



If your child's attendance falls below 95%, we will work together to try to improve attendance and ensure that your child adopts a positive consistent approach to school life. We have a strong pastoral system at Lydiard Park Academy, who work hard to help you and your child. If any pupil's attendance falls below 95% we may implement a series of actions to address this following a graduated response of statutory measures.

If a pupil misses school without good reason, and there are a series of unauthorised absences, a fine will be issued. If this has no impact Education Welfare at the Borough will be involved, which will form part of a legal process. Any time your child has an appointment in school time, medical evidence of this needs to be provided in advance (see attachment for more details). Once attendance falls below 95% we expect medical evidence to support all absences.

If your child is experiencing difficulties with his/her attendance, it is extremely helpful if you contact your year group's Pastoral Support Assistant (PSA) at the earliest opportunity to enable us to offer you support.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Pearson
Operational Principal

Gail Davies
Assistant Principal (KS4)

Joshua Coulson
Assistant Principal (KS3)



Principal:
Vice Principal:

Mr G. Pearson
Miss S. Hesten

Grange Park Way, Grange Park, Swindon, SN5 6HN
Tel: 01793 874224 Fax: 01793 876274
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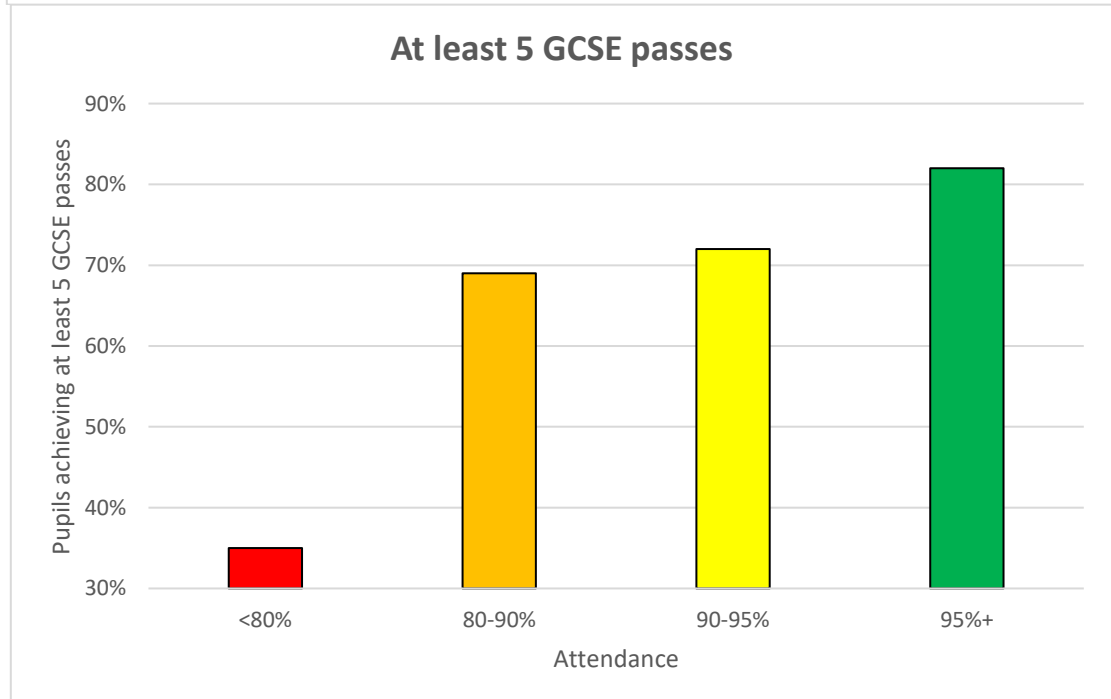
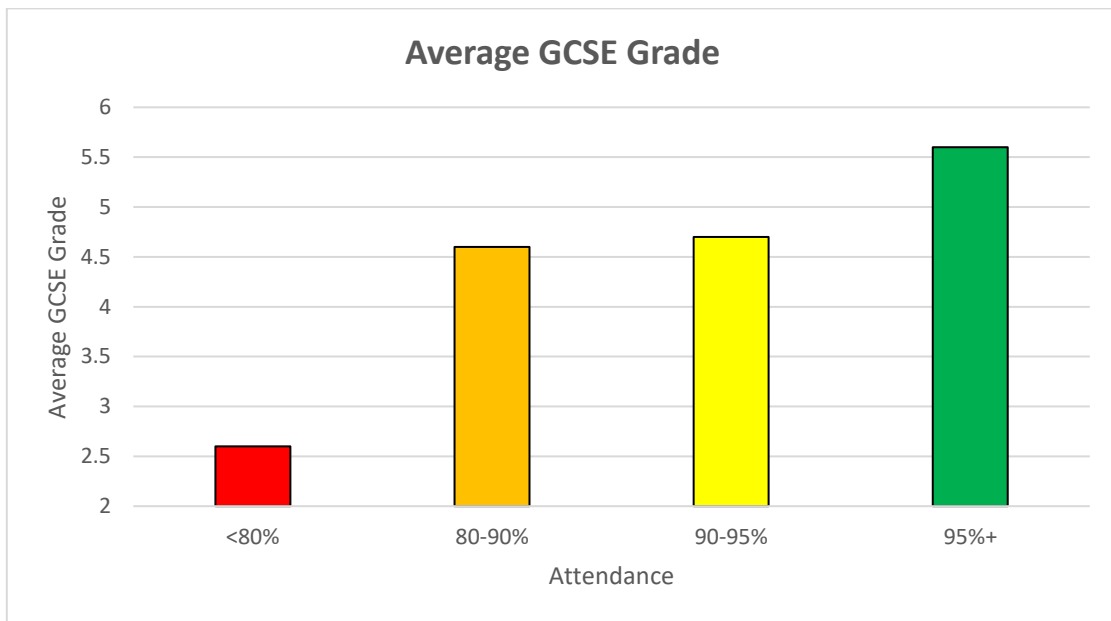


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Attendance and Progress

Results for 2021 Year 11s in their final GCSEs:

Attendance	Average GCSE Grade	Average Progress Score	At least 5 GCSE passes
<80%	2.6	1.74 grades below target	35%
80-90%	4.6	0.37 grades below target	69%
90-95%	4.7	0.54 grades above target	72%
95%+	5.6	0.8 grades above target	82%



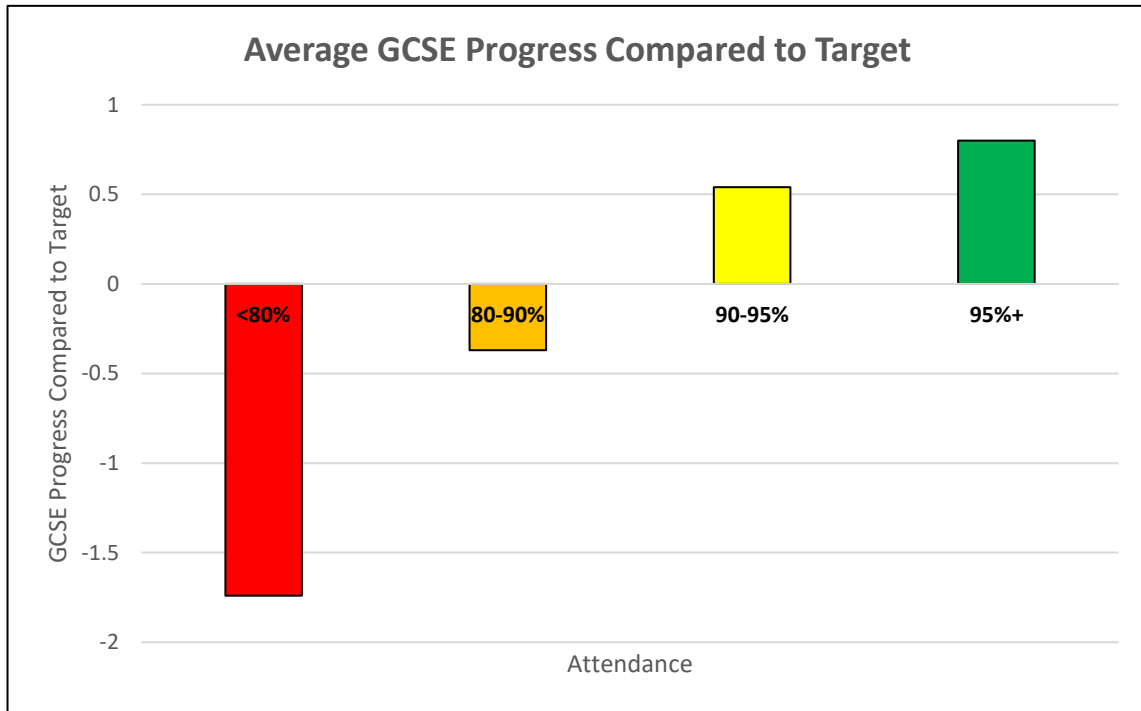
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