



Shirebrook Academy

Principal: Lindsey Burgin BA (Hons) PGCE, MA
Chair of Governors: Mike Pollard / Christine Dale
Executive Principal: Rebecca Hibberd BEd (Hons), MA
CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons) PGCE

Vice Principals
Lindsay Ward BA (Hons) PGCE
Damian O'Reilly BA (Hons) NPQSL

Common Lane
Shirebrook
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July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Academy attendance

You will have seen in the press over the last few months the increasing concerns the government has about student absence rates nationally. Rates have not recovered since the covid period and the impact of this is evident in academic success and overall student wellbeing.

At **Shirebrook Academy** we are also concerned about our student attendance and are working hard to support improvements in this area by reviewing our curriculum to ensure that gaps in student learning are addressed, which will allow students to experience success and increase their academic confidence. We have also reviewed our curriculum offer in order to provide students with differing pathways to meet their needs, we have surveyed students about how we can support their wellbeing to improve attendance as well as how we can reward them for good levels of attendance.

We have noticed that our attendance rate (currently at 90.3%) improves over the first weeks of each half term, when on many days we are recording levels of attendance above the current national rate of 91.5%, however, over the last year, we have noticed that attendance levels significantly decline on the Friday of each week (by 12%) and each day of the last week leading up to a half term holiday. In this brief period of time, the drop in attendance puts our overall attendance rate back to being below national.

As we approach the end of the academic year, we ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends fully up to 12 30pm on the last day of term, **Thursday, 24 July**. Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence also shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in secondary school gain the best GCSE and A Level results. (See graph below). Students will be learning and completing important work right up until the end of term.

Could we also draw your attention to recent government statistics which say that students who miss time from school in their first week back in September are 60% more likely to become a persistent absentee in that academic year. This means their overall attendance is less than 90% (or they miss on average half a day of learning each week). Could we please ask you to support us again in ensuring your child does not miss any time away from school, including the days in the first week back. (See Attendance Ladder below).



All adults in school have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.



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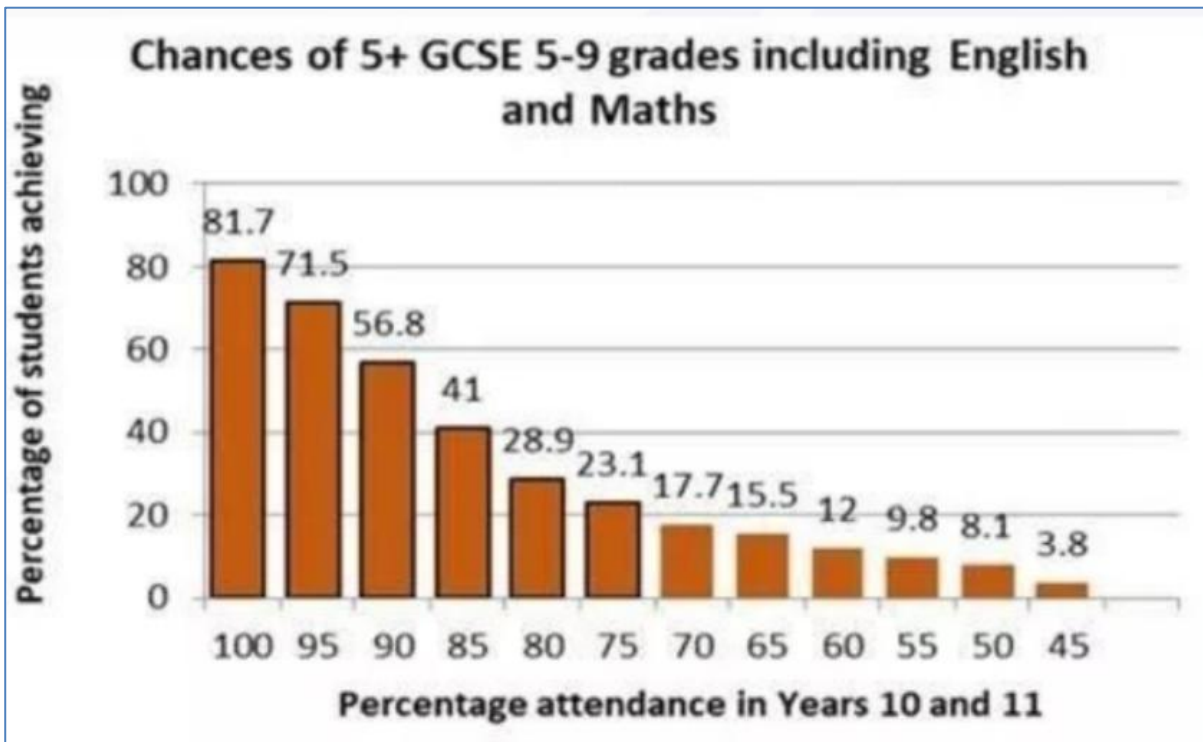


We are always keen to support parents/carers in improving the attendance of your children so please do not hesitate to contact your child's year team if we can help address any of the barriers which are preventing our young people attending school. We will remain in contact with you.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support and working in partnership with us to ensure your child optimises every minute of their time in school as well as makes excellent progress throughout their school career.

Yours faithfully

James Edwards
Assistant Principal: Behaviour, Attitudes and Pastoral Care



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