

Dear Parents and Carers of DSTC,

**RE: Attendance and Punctuality**

As we start week 4 of the new school year, it is extremely uplifting to see so many of our students attending school and arriving in good time. Whole school attendance is currently above 95%, demonstrating our student's attitude to learning and your organisational skills in getting them out in time.

With this in mind, I am writing to remind all our DSTC parents and carers to please continue supporting their child so that these rates of attendance can be maintained.

Good attendance and punctuality are vital components to support effective learning. Students who attend school regularly and on time get the best possible chance of success through maximised learning time. It is especially important to leave home in good time as traffic levels have increased throughout Dartford. Heath Lane becomes exceptionally busy in the morning too, so leaving early gives you more of a chance to find a space for drop off.

Being on time for school means students are in the right frame of mind to start their day and do not feel rushed or anxious about arriving late. Arriving late to school means that they miss the start of lesson 1 and could even be marked absent after registers close. It is also disruptive to lessons and the learning of others when students arrive late to a class. In order to support good punctuality, we will be running "lates detention" during breaktime. Students who are regularly late without good reason will spend that time with our Attendance Officer, Ms Smith, discussing and implementing strategies to be on time for school. Any student asked to attend at a breaktime must do so, or will receive an RSL detention.

Use of the DSTC car park has also increased - please drive carefully when on site (which has a 5mph speed limit) and ensure that you do not drive into the marked staff area.

I would like to thank you again for the support you have given your child during the first weeks back. We are looking forward to working with you in a continued partnership across the school year.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr M Allen  
Assistant Vice Principal for Engagement