

17th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As your child progresses through Year 10, this is a crucial time in their education. The habits they develop now will directly influence their success in mock exams, GCSE outcomes, and future college opportunities. These are important because they help determine predicted grades and highlight gaps in knowledge. Missing lessons in the lead-up to mocks means missing key content that may not be retaught, placing pupils at a disadvantage. National research shows a clear link between attendance and attainment. Pupils with attendance above 95% are almost twice as likely to achieve a grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths compared to those with lower attendance. Missing just 10 days of school can halve the chances of achieving strong GCSE passes.

Attendance also accumulates over time:

- 90% attendance = 1 day missed every 2 weeks
- 89% attendance = 21 days missed per year (over 4 weeks of learning lost)

Even small gaps in attendance result in significant lost learning, which is difficult to recover and leads to lower outcomes. Your child's target and predicted grades are shaped during Year 10. These grades are used when applying to college or sixth form. Many colleges begin accepting applications as early as October in Year 11. This means that the work and assessments completed in Year 10 are critical in determining available pathways. Colleges also set clear expectations and most expect:

- Attendance of at least 96–97%
- Strong punctuality
- Positive attitude to learning

Pupils who do not meet these expectations may find their options limited. Year 11 is not a full academic year. GCSE examinations begin in May, leaving approximately 150 teaching days or fewer from September to exams. This means pupils must enter Year 11 fully prepared, with strong routines already in place.

PART OF THE FAIRFAX MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

E: POST@BOURNVILLE.FMAT.CO.UK | W: WWW.BOURNVILLESCHOOL.ORG | REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES COMPANY NO. 07661164



Punctuality is equally important. Being late to school leads to lost learning time that builds up significantly over the year:

- 5 minutes late every day = 3 days of learning lost
- 10 minutes late every day = over 6 days lost
- 15 minutes late every day = nearly 2 weeks lost

Arriving late means pupils miss explanations, instructions and key learning opportunities. This makes it harder to keep up and impacts confidence and progress.

We encourage all families to support pupils in developing strong routines:

- Establish a consistent bedtime and morning routine
- Prepare uniform, equipment and bags the night before
- Set alarms early to allow enough time to travel
- Aim to arrive at school at least 10 minutes before the start of the day
- Use school support such as breakfast clubs where available

Good punctuality is a vital life skill. It supports organisation, resilience and reliability—qualities expected by colleges and employers. Please note that pupils who arrive late will receive detention, and we expect all pupils to attend and complete these.

Excellent attendance and punctuality are essential for success. By ensuring your child attends every day and arrives on time, you are giving them the best chance to achieve their target grades and secure their preferred college place.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms R Dhinsa
Head of Academy

PART OF THE FAIRFAX MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

E: POST@BOURNVILLE.FMAT.CO.UK | W: WWW.BOURNVILLESCHOOL.ORG | REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES COMPANY NO. 07661164

