

27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Heath Lane Academy, we are committed to helping every young person achieve their very best. One of the most important ways we can work together to support your child's success is by ensuring strong school attendance, as every day really does count.

To further support your child with their learning, we are introducing a Wednesday morning homework catch-up session from 8.00 – 8.30am, starting **Wednesday 4th March 2026**. These sessions are an opportunity, not a sanction, and will allow pupils to catch up on any missed work in Maths, English and Science, helping them return to lessons feeling confident and prepared.

### Why attendance matters

Each school day builds part of a much bigger learning picture. When days are missed, gaps form, and these can make future learning harder. For example:

- **95% attendance = 9 days missed (54 lessons lost)**
- **90% attendance = 18 days missed (108 lessons lost)**
- **80% attendance = 33 days missed (198 lessons lost)**

While tutoring can help, it cannot fully replace classroom teaching, subject expertise, or the learning sequences built into daily lessons.

### Appointments & Illness

We understand that medical or dental appointments are sometimes unavoidable. Please arrange them outside school hours where possible or ensure your child attends school before and/or after the appointment.

If your child feels slightly unwell but is able to attend, we can support them throughout the day. Should they become too unwell to remain in school, we will contact you.

### Building strong daily habits

Good attendance is supported by routines at home. We encourage:

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**Principal:** Mr M Trimmingham

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- regular handwashing and good hygiene
- healthy meals and staying hydrated
- consistent sleep routines
- appropriate clothing for the weather

These habits support resilience, wellbeing, and readiness to learn.

### **Celebrating good attendance**

We love recognising pupils who show positive attendance habits. Rewards include:

- Weekly: £10 gift card and “skip the queue” passes
- Half termly: Golden Time movie and sweet treat reward
- End of term: Reward experience, such as bowling
- Inter-form competitions and special prize draws, such as our Easter Egg Draw

Thank you for supporting your child’s education. Together, we can help them make the most of every learning opportunity. If you need support or have questions about attendance, please contact your child’s Head of Year or Pastoral Lead. You will also receive a reminder message if your child is required to attend a Wednesday catch-up session.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ley

Transition Lead & Head of Year 8

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