



November 7th, 2017

RE: School Attendance and the Attendance & Wellbeing Service

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Pontypridd High, we place great emphasis on the importance of attending school every day and we have the support of the Local Authority in ensuring that we provide the best possible opportunities for our pupils. There are already a number of initiatives in place which help us to promote and celebrate achievements and we are working with the Attendance and Wellbeing Service (AWS) to extend this further.

It is in all our interests and a legal obligation for registered pupils to attend school regularly. We recognise that some children will be unable to achieve this due to illness or because of exceptional circumstances. Other than in these special cases, your child should be attending school every day.

As part of Rhondda Cynon Taf's drive to improve school attendance, the AWS has arranged a number of activities for the remainder of this term which are aimed at raising the awareness of attendance across communities. As part of this campaign the following activities have been arranged;

- Daily Absence Response Teams (DART) deployed across school clusters
- Meet and Greets at school gates
- Joint Truancy Operations on the Valley Lines with British Transport Police
- Supermarket Swoops across county
- Retail Park patrols

DART activities are specifically designed to support schools in operating and managing their "First Day Response" procedures. These will involve home visits to absent pupils, particularly if there has been no contact made to explain the absence. Regular attendance is important because it is the best way of ensuring your child gets the most out of school. If your child is absent for any reason, please contact the school immediately to explain the absence.

I look forward to your support in achieving excellent attendance for the Christmas term which will help us to reach our school attendance target of 94.5% for this academic year.

Yours faithfully,

Huw Cripps
Headteacher