

3rd October 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

The mornings have an Autumnal feel this week, and I am reminded that we are entering the season of coughs and colds.

I know that students may feel under the weather from time to time, particularly at this time of year. To help you decide if your child is well enough for school, the NHS has some online guidance that could help. This emphasises that "it's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold". [You can read this online here.](#)

Schools are under particular pressure from the Department of Education to be doing all they can to ensure strong attendance at school – you can read their [guide for parents here](#). At Pakefield, we have launched home visits this term as part of our strategy to promote and ensure good attendance, and to maintain checks on any student on roll. If your child is off school, please expect a visit, even if you have phoned in to say they are unwell.

I know you may be thinking that I sound like a broken record here, and that the school has sent numerous communication home about attendance already this term. The fact of the matter is that school attendance is a major problem in the UK, and poor attendance at school is directly linked to poor academic attainment.

If you would like support with your child's attendance, please contact our attendance officer, Mrs Cook, at the school.

Finally, if your child feels unwell during the day they must let a member of staff know and we will contact you. Students must not contact home directly - any absence not permitted by the school will be unauthorised.

With best wishes

Mr Dan Bagshaw

Head of School