



5th September 2016

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Public Examinations

There is a clear link between high levels of attendance and success in education and this is no less true when it comes to public examinations. Accordingly, we have taken the decision at St. Joseph's not to allow students to be entered for examinations if their attendance rates fall below 90%. This applies to all public examination modules, and to any students who would ordinarily be entered, whatever their age bracket.

Estyn's expectation for school attendance is at least 95% and this is what we aspire to at St. Joseph's. Our cut off point of 90% is therefore more than generous in providing examination opportunities for students. To put things in perspective, 90% attendance is equivalent to a day off every two weeks. It is difficult to see how we can prepare students properly for examinations if attendance is any lower than this.

There may, of course, be particular circumstances (e.g. illness) and these will be considered by the school, each case on its own merits. Any such circumstances should be brought to the attention of the school as soon as possible.

I trust that you will work co-operatively with us at St. Joseph's to ensure that school attendance remains a key priority and that examination success is maximised.

Yours faithfully,

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