



NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL
COURAGE COMMITMENT COMPASSION

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2nd December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Attendance Matters

Thank you

Firstly, thank you to all our families who continue to work closely with us to support excellent attendance. We genuinely appreciate all you do. Many of our students maintain outstanding attendance, and we are proud to recognise this through weekly and termly house points for 100% attendance. Heads of Year also celebrate those who achieve 100% attendance across the entire academic year—a significant accomplishment that reflects real commitment. We are delighted that so many students are in school, in lessons, every day.

Illness and School Attendance

As we move through the autumn and winter months, coughs, colds and seasonal illnesses naturally become more common. The Department for Education encourages parents and carers to refer to NHS guidance when deciding whether a child is well enough to attend school. You can access that guidance [here](#). Remember, illness does not always require a child to stay at home.

The Department for Education's *Education Hub* also provides helpful information, including tips for keeping children healthy—this article can be found [here](#). In school, we take a number of steps to reduce the spread of illness: vaccinations delivered on site, signage promoting good hygiene, ventilation where possible, and teaching students about healthy lifestyles through PSHE and Tutor time. .

Unavoidable Absence – A Reminder of Procedures

If your daughter is too unwell to attend school, please email Attendance@Newlandsgirls.co.uk with your daughter's name, Form and a clear reason for absence—more specific than “ill”, where possible. This detail helps us plan any support needed should there be a longer-term impact on her wellbeing or attendance.

Avoidable Absence (Unauthorised)

We understand that some family events or commitments may feel important during the school day. However, we ask that appointments and celebrations are arranged outside school hours wherever possible. Joining family events after the school day has finished helps prepare young people for expectations they will face in the workplace, where time off is not always possible. Our Attendance Policy sets out examples of requests that cannot be authorised, in line with Department for Education regulations which limit leave of absence to specific circumstances.

Why Attendance Is So Important

Even a small number of missed days can significantly affect a child's progress. Research from the Department for Education shows a clear link between attendance and achievement, particularly in secondary school. Year 11 students with near-perfect attendance have almost double the likelihood of securing grade 5 in English and Maths compared to similar students attending 90–95% of the time. Attendance also influences opportunities and future earnings.

As parents and carers, you play a crucial role in setting the expectation that attendance matters. Please only keep your daughter at home when she is genuinely too unwell to attend. If any issues arise that may affect attendance, do get in touch early. Tutors and Heads of Year are available to work with you to find solutions, and Appendix 2 of our Attendance Policy (available [here](#)) outlines the range of support strategies we can put in place.

Opportunities in School

A strong sense of belonging is a key factor in students' wellbeing and success. Our vision is to build an ambitious and caring community where every student contributes and participates. Daily attendance gives students access not only to high-quality learning, but also to the rich wider life of the school—clubs, competitions, extra-curricular activities and inter-house events across a huge range of interests.

Students also benefit from our wonderful facilities including the Wellbeing Hub, Library, Pit Stop, Cocoon, Friendship Room, cafeteria, hall and outdoor areas—spaces that can offer both calm and connection. They gain confidence from the leadership of our Mental Health Ambassadors, Anti-Bullying Champions, prefects and peer mentors, and from discovering their own skills and passions. Being in school helps students thrive personally, socially and academically.

Communication

We are continuing to develop our communication with families through the in-app messaging feature in Arbor. Please ensure notifications are enabled so that you receive instant alerts when we send important information. If you have any feedback on the app, please contact us at office@newlandsgirls.co.uk in the first instance—we would be happy to hear from you.

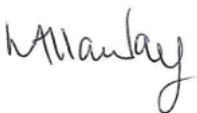
Looking Ahead

The run-up to Christmas and the new year is full of exciting events, and we look forward to students showcasing their talents while learning and having fun. Upcoming events include:

- Winter Concert
- Sixth Former for a Day
- *A Christmas Carol* performance for Years 10 and 11
- Christmas Jumper Day
- Gym and Dance Auditions
- Year 8 Inter-House Panto
- Carol Concert
- Inter-House Dance

Thank you once again for your continued support as we work together to secure excellent attendance in every lesson, every day.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Lesley Allaway
Deputy Headteacher

