



NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL
COURAGE COMMITMENT COMPASSION

☎ 01628 625068
✉ office@newlandsgirls.co.uk
🌐 www.newlandsgirlsschool.co.uk
📍 Farm Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 5JB
📷 newlands_girls_school

9th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to inform you of an important change to our approach to school attendance from September.

In line with the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance, and following the legal Safeguarding frameworks, part time timetables at Newlands will only be used in **very exceptional circumstances** and only if it is decided that it will be in the child's best interests. In most cases, we will not be offering part-time timetables as a planned or short-term provision. From September, all students, including those who may have had such a provision in the past, will be expected to attend school **all day, every day**, unless absence is unavoidable and authorised.

For a small minority of students who have struggled to maintain excellent attendance, a reintegration plan will be written before the end of this academic year to ensure a smooth transition in September. You will be contacted before the end of term to discuss this.

Attendance at school is not optional. Regular, full-time attendance is the most inclusive and effective way to support students to thrive.

The DfE is clear that being in school, every day, is central to safeguarding, academic achievement, wellbeing, and long-term outcomes. Evidence consistently shows that **students with attendance above 95% are twice as likely to achieve a Grade 5 or above in GCSE English and Mathematics** compared with those whose attendance is lower. Put simply, the best place for children to learn, succeed, and feel a sense of belonging is in school.

We recognise that some students face genuine barriers to learning and attendance. To strengthen our support, we appointed a Raising Achievement Mentor in school. In her role, Jo Holder (our Raising Achievement Mentor) focuses on helping students to overcome challenges, re-engage with learning and build the skills and confidence needed for full-time attendance. Our approach is proactive, supportive, and centred on removing barriers rather than reducing access to education.

This updated approach has been written in conjunction with colleagues at the Local Authority, as well as our Parent Support Adviser, Lisa Mack, who continues to work closely with families to support attendance,

wellbeing, and provide early intervention where concerns arise. We are committed to working in partnership with you as parents and carers to ensure every child accesses their full entitlement to education.

While short-term, exceptional arrangements may occasionally be required as part of a carefully planned reintegration, part-time timetables will no longer be used as an ongoing solution. **Our expectation is that every student attends school every day**, with appropriate support put in place within the school environment.

We thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we implement this approach, which we firmly believe gives every student the best chance to fulfil their potential.

If you have concerns about attendance or would like support, please contact the school so we can work together positively and quickly.

Yours sincerely



Miss Jo Capon
Headteacher

