IMPROVING ATTENDANCE ONLINE

Persistent absenteeism has a number of detrimental effects, including:

- Lack of consistent teaching dramatically slows progress
- There is a strong correlation between absenteeism and school drop out
- Pupils become more and more disengaged from learning and their school community
- Pupils can, as a result, feel less confident and have low self-esteem
- Wasted school resources

It is essential, therefore, to monitor absenteeism, whether online or from school, so that we can implement strategies[1] to encourage better attendance. With reference to the NTP, pupils can ill-afford to miss any of the 15 hours they are allocated. If absence from tuition sessions are persistent, and strategies implemented have not increased attendance, schools should consider swapping in a pupil to benefit from the tuition. Please contact us if you wish to do this.

Set Expectations & Manage Perceptions

- Before tutoring starts, ensure parents are onboard. Have them complete the parental agreement/ code of conduct and emphasise the benefits of their child receiving tuition. Frame the tuition offer in a positive light: their 'child has been chosen because of their potential to improve progress' rather than because their child needs to catch-up; and we 'know how difficult home learning is so we'd like to offer some support for busy parents.'

Messaging & Engagement

- Reminder of upcoming tutoring sessions - times and dates
- Message to parents to note absence, make them aware of how many sessions have been missed and reinforce the benefits of good attendance
- Phone call to parents for persistent absence - evidence to show this has the biggest impact on attendance
- Create time for mentorship to increase sense of belonging by nurturing the student
- Provide plenty of positive feedback and messages on progress, attitude and behaviour to pupils, parents and teachers - use postcards, texts/calls to parents, certificates, rewards

Remove Barriers to Attendance

- Before tuition begins, make sure all pupils have access to the right equipment - internet, device, headphones (as appropriate)
- Ensure pupils and parents understand the aims of the block and how it will benefit them

Make it Relevant and Useful

- Liaise with the tutor to align tutoring with what is happening in the classroom - make learning relevant to the pupil - pre-teach content for improving pupil success, confidence and self-esteem and post-teach to deal with misconceptions from lessons before the next lesson. Tutoring should complement great teaching rather than being in isolation
- Where possible, we should make learning culturally relevant to increase interest and engagement in sessions.