



December 2023

What is the number 1 thing you can do to help your child be successful in January?

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you and your family are well as we enter the Christmas period. I would like to start by thanking you for the tremendous support you have given during this term. We have continued to make huge improvements. In October we got official confirmation that our GCSE results, in the summer, were the best in the school's history. Our progress 8 score of +0.67 was the third highest in the North East. This is something that we are very proud of, taking into account we were bottom of County Durham in 2018! However, we know that we can still achieve more.

When I was analysing the results, I was shocked to see the impact of attendance on GCSE results. Whilst I knew it was important, based on this table from National data, I didn't expect it to have such a big impact on Tanfield students' chances of success.

Attendance	Days Missed Per Year	Weeks Missed Per Year	% Chance of Achieving 5 Grade 5-9
100%	0	0	94.8%
95%	5	1	74.3%
90%	15	3	34.7%
89% and below	17.5 plus	3.5 plus	26.7%

This table is specific to our students from last year:

Attendance	Progress 8
95% and above	+1.15
90% to 94.9%	+0.93
51% to 89%	- 0.13
Under 50%	-1.21

This data shows that students who had attendance above 95% achieved more than one grade higher, in every subject, than they should have based on the national average. If all students achieved this, we would have been in the top 1% of schools in the country. Attendance below 90% meant that students performed significantly worse than the national average.

Therefore, the number one thing you can do in the New Year, to help your child be successful, is to ensure that your child attends school every day. If your child is in school 100% of the time, on time, they will leave Tanfield School with the results they need to reach their goals.

Whilst all of our year groups have worked exceptionally hard this term, we are particularly proud of our year 11 students. They have completed 6872 extra hours of learning, by attending Get Exam Ready each evening, at an average of 48 hours per student. They have also carried out 1818 hours of SparxMaths and completed 1956 hours of Tassomai, answering 559.376 questions. This is better than last year and is a reason why we are confident that they will achieve an amazing set of results.

Return to school arrangements after Christmas

All students are to return to school by 8.35am on Tuesday 9th January.

Finally, I hope that you all have a very enjoyable and safe Christmas break and we look forward to another exciting term.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Clough
Headteacher