

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025  
Our Ref: VBA/ACU/JFI



**RUSHEY MEAD**  
**ACADEMY**

**Rushey Mead Academy**

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Dear Families,

**Re: Attendance**

**Principal:** Mrs V Barwell

At Rushey Mead Academy and Abbey Mead Primary, we are committed to providing the best possible education and opportunities for all our pupils. We write to you jointly to express our deep concern regarding the impact of term-time absences on pupils' learning, wellbeing, and social development.

Regular attendance is crucial for children to achieve their full potential. When pupils miss school for extended periods—particularly to travel abroad—the effects can be significant and long-lasting. Gaps in learning make it difficult for children to keep up with their peers, leading to lower attainment and reduced confidence. Beyond academics, absence disrupts social connections, affecting friendships, teamwork skills, and emotional wellbeing.

We fully appreciate that family events and celebrations are important, but we strongly urge families to schedule these during the 13 weeks of school holidays. Taking leave during term time not only impacts the individual child but also disrupts the wider school community. Lessons are carefully structured to ensure progression, and repeated absences mean teachers must revisit material, which can affect the learning of the whole class.

Both Rushey Mead Academy and Abbey Mead Primary share the same high expectations regarding attendance. We work closely across our schools to support families and reinforce the importance of minimising absences. We urge parents to communicate with us and explore ways to avoid term-time travel. If leave is unavoidable, we request early discussions to explore possible alternatives and minimise disruption.

As a partnership of schools, we are taking a firm stance on attendance to ensure that every pupil receives the education they deserve. We appreciate your support in prioritising your child's learning and future success. If you have any concerns or require guidance on managing family commitments alongside school attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs V Barwell  
**PRINCIPAL**