

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school, we recognise that deciding whether your child should attend school when they are feeling under the weather is not always straightforward. Some mornings, a young person may not feel 100%, but also not be so unwell that they need to stay home.

We understand that, as parents and carers, you often face a difficult decision. You want to ensure your child is cared for and able to recover, while also being mindful of the impact that time away from school can have on their learning, friendships and overall sense of belonging.

To help bridge this gap, we are introducing a new initiative designed to support students who are slightly unwell but still able to attend school.

On our school website, the contact us page includes a form that parents and carers can complete to inform us of any child who is attending school with any minor illness, discomfort or temporary need that may affect their child during the school day.

The form provides an opportunity to indicate any reasonable support that may help your child manage their day more comfortably. This could include:

- A check-in from a member of the pastoral team.
- Access to a quiet space at break or lunchtime.
- A short time-out pass if needed.
- A lift pass.
- A toilet pass.
- Permission to leave lessons a couple of minutes early to avoid busy corridors and reduce the risk of being knocked or jostled.
- Other temporary support that may help your child access learning whilst they are not feeling their best.

Our aim is not to encourage students to attend when they are genuinely too unwell for school. Rather, we hope this approach will help those students who are experiencing minor illnesses or temporary difficulties to remain connected to their learning while receiving appropriate support throughout the day.

By gathering this information directly from parents and carers, we will develop a better understanding of the challenges some students face and be better placed to provide the care and flexibility they need. We hope this will help students continue to access learning, maintain routines and feel supported, even on days when they are not feeling 100%.

On a personal note, I am a dad myself and understand the dilemma many parents face. When your child wakes up feeling unwell, you are often torn between wanting to look after them at home and wanting to ensure they do not fall behind in their education. It is rarely a simple decision. Through this initiative, we hope to provide a middle ground—one that supports both the wellbeing and educational needs of our students.

As always, if your child is suffering from a contagious illness, a significant illness, or is genuinely too unwell to participate in the school day, they should remain at home and follow the appropriate medical guidance.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure that every student feels cared for, understood and able to achieve their best.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Tyler