



# The Rudheath Senior Academy

Middlewich Road  
Northwich  
Cheshire  
CW9 7DT

7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be writing to you for the first time as the new Headteacher of Rudheath Senior Academy. I look forward to meeting you all in person across the coming year. This will be my 10th year as a Headteacher and my third school and I can already feel how warm and welcoming this school is. Our weekly newsletters will give you lots of information about the work we will be doing with your children. I hope you access them, and I hope you have had a wonderful summer with the students. This will be a busy year for us as we continue to get back into the full habits of preparing our students in Year 11 for their summer exams.

As part of our work to embed our two key values of Excellence and Kindness, I am delighted that we will be launching a new attendance initiative. We have revised our procedures and will be working with parents and carers to improve attendance and punctuality. This is because research has shown regular attendance and good punctuality are crucial factors in students achieving their full potential, and we are totally committed to that.

We wish to work in partnership with you as parents and carers and so are seeking your full support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and on time. We are always pleased to work together with families to resolve any difficulties, but we are also committed to improving levels across our school as they are vital to ensure your child attains great outcomes. I hope we can build that fantastic trust that you understand that we only want the very best for your children. Everything we do will be geared towards them having an amazing school experience with us.

The target attendance figure for all students is a minimum of 97% attendance. Based on current attendance figures your child will be placed in to one of the following groups below. Your child will be informed of their Attendance Group.

## Group 1: No Concern – Green Group

- Your child attends for 97% - 100% of the time.

## Group 2: Concern – Yellow Group

- Your child attends for 95% - 96.9% of the time.

## Group 3: Risk of Underachievement – Amber Group

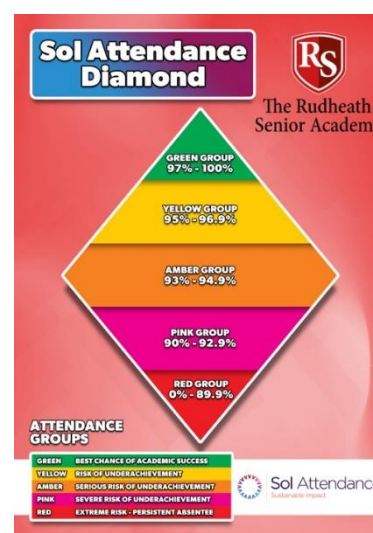
- Your child attends for 93% - 94.9% of the time.

## Group 4: Severe Risk of Underachievement – Pink Group

- Your child attends for 90% - 92.9% of the time.

## Group 5: Extreme Risk of Underachievement – Red Group

- Your child attends for 0% - 89.9% of the time. This is termed by the Government as being “persistently absent.”



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The Rudheath Senior Academy is part of North West Academies Trust (Company No: 088525533)  
Registered address: The Coach House, Union Street, Chester, CH1 1QP

## OUR MISSION

Opening Children's Eyes to the Wonderful World of Possibility

## OUR VALUES

**Excellence:** 1% improvement and 100% responsibility every day  
**Kindness:** No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted

## OUR VISION

- RSA will be an oversubscribed school of choice at the heart of the Northwich community which every student, staff member and parent is proud to belong to.
- RSA will be relentlessly ambitious about a curriculum that leads to excellent outcomes and careers, creating remarkable experiences and making memories that last a lifetime.
- RSA will be continuously driven about nurturing resilient, literate and articulate young people, who will be creative, confident and compassionate as they make their distinct mark on the world.



Regular attendance is not just a legal requirement, but it is vital for students to maximise their learning and achieve their full potential here at Rudheath Senior Academy. Here are some important steps that you can take to support this:

- Ensure your child attends every day, on time, equipped and ready to learn. Tutor time begins at 8.40am and all students need to be on the school site by **8.30am**.
- Ensure school has up-to-date addresses and telephone numbers. We will contact you by text or by telephone if your child is absent and you have not contacted the school. This ensures we have the right contact details to communicate with you in relation to all aspects of school life.
- If your child is ill, contact the school and provide an explanatory note on their return. Please make sure you telephone the school every day your child is absent.
- If you wish to check that your child has arrived at school, please contact Main Reception

Please remember, school attendance monitoring is insisted on by the Department for Education (DfE). If no contact is received regarding the absence, it is recorded as unauthorised. Ultimately, the school is responsible for deciding if the absence is acceptable or not. Only genuine absence can be authorised, and you will be asked to provide medical evidence if your child has a poor attendance record.

Please try to support us to help your child achieve excellent outcomes by:

- Ensuring that medical appointments are made outside school time.
- Ensuring Holidays are not taken during school time. Holidays will not be authorised during term time.
- Responding to school letters or telephone calls regarding attendance and punctuality.
- Contacting your child's tutor if you are having trouble in getting your child into the school. We are always here to help.

During my visits to the school prior to September, speaking to staff and students, it is clear that the values of Excellence and Kindness are well embedded throughout the Rudheath culture. I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of some other key areas to ensure the school runs smoothly:

- Please help us by ensuring your child has full school uniform or let us know if there are any issues so we can support, e.g. by loaning uniform items.
- Please ensure your child meets the standards regarding jewellery, e.g. facial piercings are not permitted during school time as they are a health and safety issue. One pair of stud earrings are allowed to be worn. Other Jewellery will be confiscated and returned at 3.40pm. We will ensure all the students are clear about this.
- Please remember we are a 'mobile detox' school and students must make sure phones are invisible between 8.40am and 3.10pm. Phones will be confiscated and returned to students at 3.40pm if used during the school day. Please support the school in this matter by reinforcing this message to students and ensure you contact the school reception should you need to communicate with your child.

As our students return to school they will see that significant investment has gone in to rebuilding the science block with four brand new labs and a 60-seater auditorium area. The sports hall too has had a refurbishment with extensive decoration and a new floor. As students and staff, we are enormously lucky to learn in such wonderful spaces.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to meeting you in due course throughout this year.

Yours faithfully



**James Kerfoot**  
Headteacher