

Important School Attendance Notice to All Parents

Dear Parent/Carer

Building on our strong focus on regular school attendance and student wellbeing, this academic year we will be working with an external partner called *Aquinas (School Attendance Provisions)* to help improve the attendance, and ensure the safeguarding, of our students.

As a specialist service provider, Aquinas' role is to deliver high-quality practices and procedures that best enable every student at our school to fully access his/her educational entitlement.

Aquinas is a member of The National Association for Support Workers in Education (NASWE), as well as being an Accredited Company by Essex Police under The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). They work very closely with our own internal attendance and pastoral teams, as well as the Local Authority's attendance team.

Although Aquinas holds Police Accreditation, the legal enforcement aspect of their role is secondary to their priority of finding a positive, support-centred response to any identified barrier to the regular school attendance of our pupils.

Please be reminded that parents are expected to contact school at an early stage and to work together with staff to resolve any problems that may arise. This is nearly always successful. If difficulties cannot be resolved in this way, we may refer your child to Aquinas. The process of intervention implemented by Aquinas is designed to overcome any identified barrier to a student's school attendance without the need for legal action – so if you are requested to attend a meeting at school regarding attendance, please do try to attend, or contact us to explain any difficulties that may be preventing your child from accessing their full educational entitlement.

If you feel a meeting with our pastoral or attendance teams, or Aquinas, would be beneficial to you and your child, or you'd like to find out more about the school's attendance policy, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,