

Welcome to the Spring Term edition of AIM (Attendance Issues Matter). The Attendance Team would like to congratulate the **941** students whose attendance is above 97% so far this year - well done to you all.

Social Media

The Support and Guidance staff would like to raise your awareness of the variety of social media sites that young people are using today and the impact these are having on students' attendance and behaviour within the Academy. We are aware of at least 16 different social media apps that students are using and their use has caused issues for other students who, as a result of the comments, have struggled to come into the Academy. Some posts have even raised serious safeguarding concerns, which we have had a duty to act upon.

The apps that students are using include Facebook, Snapchat, Oovoo, WhatsApp, Vine, X for rate, Twitter, Tindr, Vine, Ask, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Redditt, Secret and LinkedIn and below you will find the age restrictions (as of 2014) for the majority of the apps.



What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

Age Restriction	Apps/Sites
13	Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Google+, Tumblr, Reddit, Snapchat, Secret
14	LinkedIn
16	WhatsApp
17	Vine, Tindr
18	Path
18 / 13 with parent's permission	YouTube, WeChat, Keek, Kik, Foursquare, Flickr

Age specified in the platform's terms of service as of 09/2014.
linneyville.com

Parents/carers have a responsibility to closely monitor their child's use of the internet and decline registration to these apps if thought inappropriate. As an Academy we educate our students about the dangers of posting comments and photos onto these sites and this is discussed regularly in assemblies, form time and during lessons. Despite this, some students continue to use these sites inappropriately and many hours are spent by Support and Guidance trying to deal with such issues.

Written Notification

It is important that if you are moving areas, moving your child's school or leaving the country that you notify the Academy as soon as possible in writing. This letter must be signed by someone who has parental responsibility. This information is needed for our records and it enables us to support you and your child in the transition to another school.

NOTES, NOTES, NOTES

Any absence from the Academy whether a full day or part of a day, **must** be explained by a letter. If you require your child to leave the Academy to attend an appointment, then a note must be sent in **prior** to the appointment otherwise the student will not be allowed to leave. The Academy has a duty to safeguard all our students and we must ensure that adult supervision of students is maintained at all times.

Unfortunately, due to the demand on Support and Guidance, staff members do not have the time to contact home to confirm such appointments. It also causes great disruption to others when students are not aware that they need to leave the Academy mid-lesson. We appreciate some appointments are made on the day and in these circumstances, we will support you in getting messages to your child.

Assessments/Exams

Assessments and exams can be a challenging part of school life for both the student and their family. Children who worry about assessments may become irritable, not sleep well, lose their appetite, and appear quieter than normal. Some also experience headaches and stomach pains.

How can you help your child through this time? Remind your child that feeling anxious is normal and nervousness is a natural reaction to assessments and exams. **Do not allow your child to stay at home – this will only increase their stress and worry.** Reassure your child and remind them of all the work they have done to prepare themselves for the assessment. Encourage them to do their best and that it is not the end of the world if things do not go well. Please speak with your child's Head of Year if you are concerned about the upcoming assessments/examinations.

Uniform

Please remind your child that the Academy is a place for learning and not an opportunity to show off the latest designer clothing, piercing or colourful hairstyle! The uniform requirements and restrictions to jewellery and make-up are clearly detailed on the Academy website. Under no circumstances are facial piercings such as a nose stud, smiler, lip or tongue piercing allowed to be worn while your child is at the Academy. This also includes clear studs/bars. The Academy does not want a fashion accessory to affect your child's attendance and attainment.

