

#### **Festive Bake Off!**

In the final week of term, we held a festive bake-off featuring a brilliant selection of handmade treats, which were enjoyed by students and staff across the school. The event created a wonderful festive atmosphere and showcased the fantastic baking talents within our community.

Thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and supported the sale. The money raised will go towards a range of school activities, including the Year 11 Prom and upcoming school trips.

Congratulations to Mrs Hadfield, whose Christmas tree-themed brownies were selected as the overall winner of the bake-off!



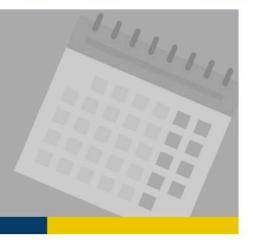
#### **Key Dates**

December 19th: Half-term 2 ends

February 2nd: Mock Exams Begin February 23rd: Half-term 4 begins

January 5th: Half-term 3 begins February 4th: Year 9 Parents Evening February 27th Mock Exams End

January 14th: Year 10 Parents Evening February 13th: Half-Term 3 ends



#### Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Students and our Swinton Community,

We have had an amazing term and continue to make outstanding academic gains. Our Year 11 students have sat their first round of mocks, following all exam guidelines and we could not be more proud of their resillience and dedication.

Our Year 10 students have completed their first round of GCSE assessments and are in the process of submitting their component 1 coursework worth approximately 30%.

Our Year 9 students are preparing to select their GCSE options and Year 8 have completed a round of assessments too. Our Year 7 students have settled into The Swinton Way very postively.

At Co-op Academy Swinton, we provide our students a rich learning culture that builds character, confidence and enables students to prepare for next steps. We have captured some of this in our newsletter this term.

I wish you and your families a safe Christmas break.







# Swinton Students Inspired by Olympic Athletes



Co-op Academy Swinton welcomed two Team GB athletes on Monday 17 November as Olympic Champion Eve Muirhead and Olympic bronze medallist Laura Deas visited the school with Magic Breakfast and Quaker to highlight the importance of starting the day well.

Eve and Laura joined pupils at the school's busy breakfast club, moving between tables, chatting with students and hearing about life at Swinton. They later spoke about their journeys to becoming elite athletes, including Eve's path to curling gold and Laura's experience in skeleton, a sport that reaches speeds of over 70mph. Pupils also had the chance to take photos, making for a memorable start to the week.

"It was a privilege to have Eve and Laura start our day with us at Breakfast Club. Eve and Laura worked with many groups of students, inspiring them to understand that big dreams start with healthy habits. Our students had the opportunity to ask questions, experience the Olympians sporting equipment and received an interactive sports session delivered by these amazing athletes. The excitement in the academy was unreal!"

Mrs Ali

After breakfast club, the athletes visited a Year 8 PE class for a presentation, Q&A and a closer look at their medals and equipment, before finishing the morning with a sports talk for BTEC Sport students.

The visit also reinforced the importance of breakfast clubs, which give pupils a calm, nutritious start to the day and help them feel ready to learn. With the support of Magic Breakfast, every child can access something to eat if they need it, helping them stay focused and engaged throughout the school day.



















#### **Art and Photography**

Our Art Department recently ran a brilliant two-day Graffiti Workshop, and the results were amazing. So many students had the chance to try something new and express their creative side, producing colourful, eye-catching pieces they were really proud of.

Throughout the workshop, students showed great focus, enthusiasm and excellent behaviour. The atmosphere was relaxed and fun, with everyone supporting each other and enjoying the chance to experiment with different styles and techniques.

A huge thank-you to our Art Department for giving our students such a fun and inspiring experience. It was a fantastic couple of days that everyone will remember!

CUBI ARE SHEET



#### **Art and Photography**



Our Year 7 and 8 student's artwork for their first term projects is now on displayed on our main corridor!

Year 7 studied the colour wheel showing a solid understanding of colour theory, mixing skills and how different colours interact

Year 8 responded to the artwork of Claes Oldenburg, demonstrating how students can take inspiration from an artist's style and develop their own creative ideas.

We're so proud of the time and effort put into these larger than life projects! The work put in shows and is proudly on display for all our students to admire!

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# Celebrating Our Incredible Pastoral Team!

We're so excited to shine a spotlight on our absolutely incredible pastoral team, who go above and beyond every single day to support our students in every way they can.

One of those amazing team members is Miss Daley, a true Swinton legend with 13 years of dedicated service and a proud former student of our school! Throughout her journey with us, she has contributed across so many areas: working within our SEND Department, teaching PE, supporting transitions, and now leading our Year 7s as they navigate their very first year at Swinton.

Since joining us in November 2012, Miss Daley has offered unwavering support to thousands of students and their families, making a profound impact on our school community. She embodies The Swinton Way in everything she does and is a shining example of the wonderful staff who make our school so special.

Here's what she has to say about her journey:

"I love working for team Swinton, getting to live and breathe The Swinton Way whilst supporting a huge range of our students and their families. I'm so proud to continue to be part of the Swinton community, I really do have the best job in the world."

Miss Daley

A huge thank you to Miss Daley, and to our whole pastoral team for all the hard work they put in on a daily basis.





### Year 10 Students Enjoy an Unforgettable Adventure in London!

40 of our Year 10 students set off for an unforgettable overnight trip to London. From start to finish, the group represented the school brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, curiosity, and fantastic behaviour throughout the visit.

One of the major highlights of the trip was a magical evening at Winter Wonderland, where students enjoyed the festive lights, attractions, and the vibrant atmosphere. During the day, they explored the fascinating exhibits of the Natural History Museum, gaining a closer look at everything from dinosaurs to dazzling gemstones.

The adventure continued with a scenic boat ride along the Thames, offering unique views of some of London's most famous landmarks. Students also had the chance to see the Houses of Parliament up close before ending their day with breathtaking panoramic views from the London Eye.

It was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience the capital's culture, history, and excitement that they all took with both hands!







#### Celebrating Mrs Chambers!

We are so proud to share that Mrs Chambers has won the Geoff Clarke Award for Social Inclusion.

This award recognises a member of staff who has made a real difference to pupil premium students, and Mrs Chambers truly deserves this recognition. The care, commitment and dedication she brings to her work has a lasting impact on our pupils and our wider community.

Mrs Chambers embodies The Swinton Way and the Co-op values every single day. We couldn't be more proud of everything she does, her achievement is a wonderful reminder of the difference one person can make.





## Year 11 Trio Win Pendleton Sixth Form College TikTok Challenge!

We are so proud to announce that three of our Year 11 students, Charly, Heidi and Nevaeh, have won Pendleton Sixth Form College's TikTok Challenge!

They attended the Open Event, created an amazing TikTok sharing their experience, and showcased everything they loved about exploring Pendleton and learning more about studying there.

Their creativity has earned them the £100 first prize! What an incredible achievement!

# Students Roar to Success with Swinton Lions Young Leader Awards

12 of our amazing Year 9 and Year 10 pupils proudly received their Young Leader Awards!

They earned this fantastic achievement through the Swinton Lions Community Sports Foundation, as part of the RFL Inspiring Futures Programme.





A group of our Year 10 students took part in an impactful presentation, delivered by The Riot Act, which used an engaging blend of drama, video, and scientific insight to explore the challenges faced by young drivers and their passengers.

By highlighting key barriers, including peer pressure, inexperience, and distractions, the session aimed to build a clear understanding of the risks associated with young driving and to encourage safer choices on the road.



#### Creative Media

In Creative Media students have been exploring digital design using Photopea, an online image editing tool to create logos and posters for an upcoming camping event.

Before going digital, they sketched their designs on paper.
Once their concepts were ready, students brought them to life in Photopea, applying what they've learnt about layers, selection tools, and image manipulation to turn their sketches into professional-looking digital designs.

It's been great to see their creativity shine as they develop both their artistic and technical skills!



# Celebrating Our Year 11 Graduates!

We were proud to host our annual Presentation Evening for our most recent Year 11 graduates. It was a wonderful occasion as our former students and their parents returned to collect their GCSE certificates, with special awards presented to those who excelled in individual subjects.

It was fantastic to see so many familiar faces again and to hear all about the exciting paths they've taken since leaving us in July. We're incredibly proud of everything they've achieved so far, and we can't wait to see what they'll accomplish next.

#### Congratulations Class of 2025!













#### Cadets Gain Vital Life-Saving Skills



This term our Cadet Detachment has continued with their first aid training. Tuesday saw them learning how to give CPR and use a defibrillator from SSI O'Hara, former paramedic and an instructor with GMACF.

Vital life saving skills learnt which they practised and showed confidence with. Hopefully they will never have to use them but in the event they do, they are now equipped to administer vital first steps in preserving a life!





## A Great Home Experiment from Matiyar in Year 7

Matiyar in Year 7 carried out an impressive science experiment at home, testing different mixtures until he discovered that 120ml of water and 240g of cornflour make the perfect non-Newtonian fluid, a substance that flows like a liquid when relaxed but turns solid under pressure. Fantastic curiosity and brilliant work!



### Winter Showcase 2025

We held our annual Winter Showcase and what an incredible evening it was!

From Blood Brothers to Matilda, from Arctic Monkeys to Mariah Carey, our students delivered a wonderfully varied programme with truly something for everyone. Whether acting, singing, dancing, or performing with the band, they absolutely lit up the stage. Their talent, passion, and hard work shone through in every moment, leaving the audience amazed from start to finish.

A huge thank you to Mrs. Prady, Mrs. Bond, and Mr. Haslam for their creativity, dedication, and endless effort in bringing this fantastic production together. We're so proud of everyone involved!



























## Design and Technology

It's been a creative and hands-on term for our Design and Technology Department!

In Year 11 Hospitality, Miss Glorioso's class have been busy in the kitchen, cooking dishes based on their own recipes. They've been exploring new techniques, developing their culinary skills, and showing real creativity as they worked through the practical elements of their dishes.

Meanwhile, in Year 10 Design, Mr Sanderson's students have been looking into ergonomics, using game controllers as a case study to understand how comfort and usability influence product design. They then applied this learning by creating their own cardboard controller models, an important step as they work towards prototype products in Year 11.

A huge well done to all our DT students and staff for their effort, imagination, and hard work across the term!













## Physical Education

It's been a really busy and exciting term for our PE Department!
Our Girls' Netball Club, led by Mrs Hulton and Miss Sparrow, have been working hard on their back-line set pieces as they get ready for their upcoming fixtures. It's been great to see their teamwork and commitment on court.

Our Year 8 Boys' Football Team, coached by Mr Davies, put in a brave and determined performance against local rivals Walkden. They've shown real progress in recent weeks and will be looking to carry that momentum into the next round of knockout games.

In core PE, our Girls have been getting stuck into Gymnastics, practising partner balances and counterbalances, moves that involve working together to create shared shapes and holds. They've approached it with real enthusiasm, and their confidence is growing with each lesson.

A huge well done to all our students and staff for their hard work and energy this term!



#### **Modern Foreign Languages**

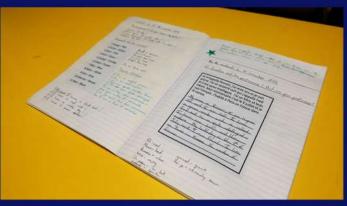
In French, our Year 7 students have been learning how to recognise masculine and feminine nouns, and how to express their likes and dislikes using vocabulary from previous lessons. They formed sentences to express their opinion on specific foods, places, music genres and animals.

Through speaking practice and short written tasks, ours students continue to grow more confident in identifying noun genders and using j'aime / je n'aime pas accurately. It's been great to see them applying their learning and developing their communication skills in French.













## Music

We were delighted to welcome the Abram Wilson Foundation for a fantastic series of Future Sound workshops, designed to show young people that a career in the music industry is possible and to spark a lifelong love of music and the arts.

Our KS3 students first enjoyed an exciting, interactive introduction to different styles, instruments, improvisation, and more! This initial workshop set the stage for a deeper dive into music-making the following week.

Building on that experience, pupils then took part in a second set of hands-on creative workshops, including:

- Song and lyric writing
- Piano composition
- Percussion and rhythm exploration

These sessions gave students the opportunity to experiment, express themselves, and develop new musical skills, all while discovering the many exciting pathways the music industry has to offer.

A huge thank you to the Abram Wilson Foundation for inspiring our young musicians throughout this brilliant workshop series!













#### 2nd Annual Christmas Markets!

On Saturday, 6th December, we held our 2nd annual Christmas Makers Market! With stalls ranging from baked goods to tree decorations to handmade gifts, it was a wonderful occasion that brought together all corners of our community. The day was a huge success, and we're so grateful to everyone who came and browsed what our amazing stallholders had to offer.

A huge thank you to all our stallholders and to our wonderful staff, who volunteered their time on a weekend to help out and make the event a roaring success!



#### Year 7 STEM World of Work Day

All of Year 7 took part in an inspiring STEM World of Work Day. Employers connected with the Salford Foundation visited school to talk with students about their careers and the diverse STEM sectors they work in.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) plays a vital role in today's workplace and opens the door to countless exciting future career pathways. Our students gained valuable insights and left feeling motivated about the possibilities ahead!





#### **Practical Precision in Year 10 Chemistry**

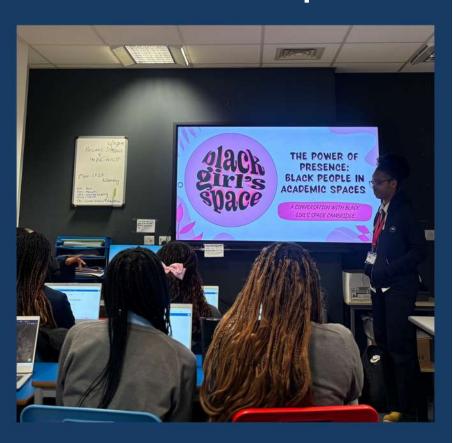
Year 10 Separate Chemistry students discovered that there is precision in every drop during their titration practical. Working carefully and methodically, they developed their practical skills while ensuring accurate results. Next, they will use the data collected to calculate the concentration of the acid used in the experiment.



#### Inspiration in Action with Black Girls Space

We had the pleasure of hosting the Black Girls Space from Cambridge University. They are collaborating with schools across the country, with the aim of inspiring and supporting young black girls of the UK to aim high academically.

One of the students from BGS was a former Co-op Academy Swinton student. We are proud to have this opportunity to have an alumni support the next generation of Co-op Academy Swinton students!



# Spreading Christmas Joy at Worsley Lodge

Our Social Action Group visited Worsley Lodge to spread some Christmas cheer to the residents, creating a warm and welcoming festive atmosphere. The students thoughtfully facilitated a range of seasonal activities, including making Christmas decorations, bracelet making, games, and colouring, which encouraged conversation, creativity, and plenty of smiles.

The visit was topped off with a wonderful musical performance by Daisy, our Co-op Academies Young Musician of the Year winners, which was thoroughly enjoyed by residents and students alike. It was a truly heart-warming afternoon that highlighted the power of community, kindness, and shared celebration for everyone involved.



# Safeguarding

Dear Families,

We know that children are more likely to face online risks during holiday periods. Here are some links to help you keep your child safe online:

Our Trust broadband provider, LGfL, has some really useful parental guidance and top tips:

https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/

UK Safer Internet Centre provides tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online

https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers

Educate Against Hate provides practical advice and support on protecting children

from extremism and radicalisation

https://www.educateagainsthate.com/category/parents/

Childnet provides advice for parents and carers to help support children and young

people in their safe and responsible use of the internet.

https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/

We wish all parents, carers, pupils and colleagues a happy and safe christmas break.

#### **Your Safeguarding Team**



Mrs Coote
Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(By IT Corridor)



Miss Chadwick
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(Safeguarding Office,
by History Corridor)

If you have a worry or an issue you can speak to any member of staff you feel comfortable speaking to, but our Safeguarding Team in school are listed above who are always available to speak to during the school day and term time.

## Your **School Uniform**



Be ready to learn with all the uniform you need for the new term! Here is what your child will need:

- Academy Blazer
- Academy Jumper
- Shirt, light blue, plain
- Academy Tie (clip-on)
- Shoes, plain black only

Students can choose between wearing a Skirt or Trousers:

Skirt (Must be worn with plain black tights, Denier 60+), Trutex navy blue, stitch down pleat

- Trousers, must not be skinny fit/tight fit.



#### PE Kit

Our PE Kit is now fully Unisex, your child will need a range of the following items:

- School Branded Navy Shorts
- School Branded 1/4 Zip Long **Sleeved Jersey**
- School Branded Navy Leggings
- School Branded Navy Hoodie
- School Branded Navy Jogging **Bottoms**
- Navy or Black Knee Length Socks

All your school uniform needs are easily available at our uniform suppliers:

- Whittakers, 123-125 Chorley Rd, Swinton, Manchester M27 4A
- Debonairs (online only) https://debonairschoolwearwythenshawe.co.uk

#### **Everyday Equipment**

- Black Pen, Green Pen, Pencil, Rubber, Pencil Case, Scientific Calculator and Ruler

> - A Rucksack, able to accommodate PE Kit, A4 sized books and all other equipment



For our full list of uniform requirements

please visit: https://www.swinton.coopacademies.co.uk/parents/uniform

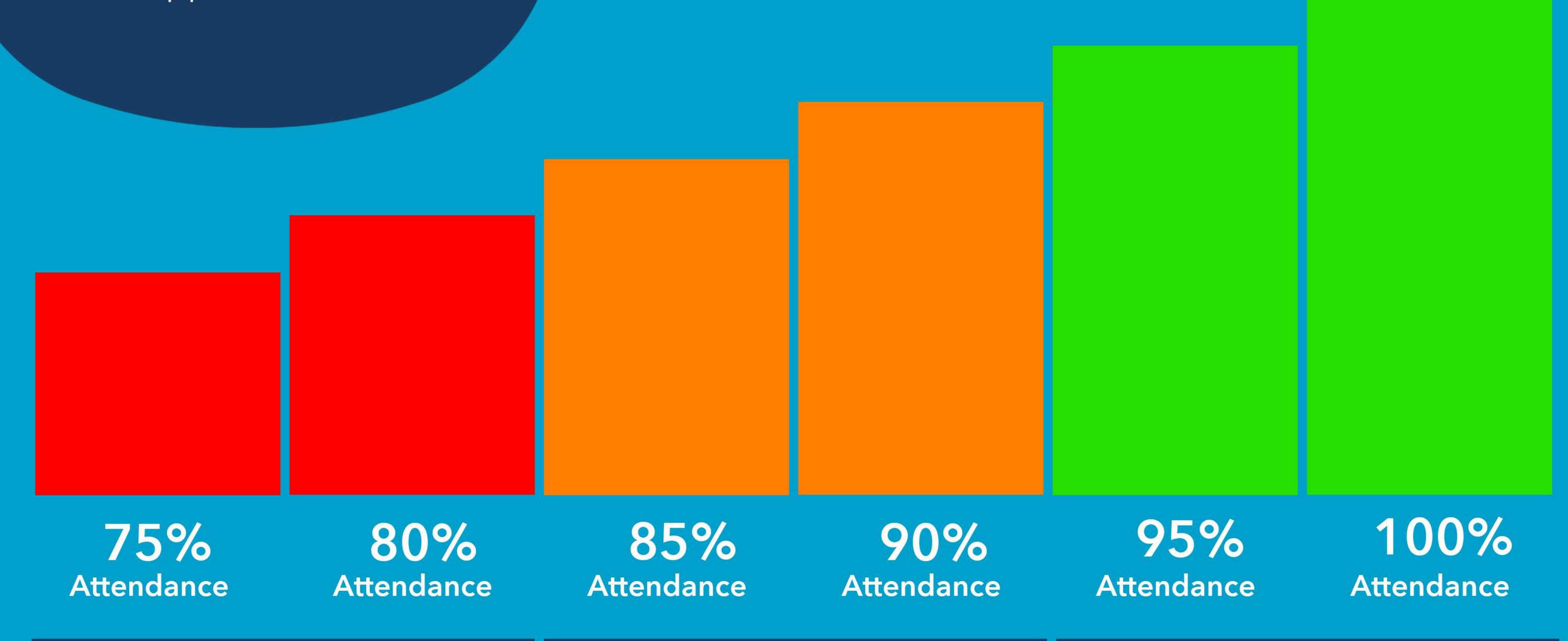


# Good Attendance Equals Good Results!

Students with less than 96% attendance will lose 80+ hours. It is vital to the success of learning that students have high attendance!

# 175 Non-School Days A Year

There are 175 non-school days during the year to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments.



# Serious Concern

Serious Concern.

Serious impact on education.

Students leave with limited

GCSE grades.

# Worrying

Poor Attendance.
Less chance of student success.
Makes it harder to make progress.
Concerning!

# Good

Excellent Attendance.

Best chance of success,

Gets you off to a flying start.

Well done!

# Great attendance means being in school at least 97%

Did you know? A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.5%



In line with national guidance Attendance below 95% will follow procedures leading to a fine.





# Co-op Academy Swinton Community Pantry

We're excited to announce our partnership with MCKS, where we aim to provide support to the Swinton Community

#### **Opening Times**

The Community Pantry will be open in JB's
Tuesday 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Wednesdays 7:30am - 10:00am
TERM TIME ONLY

Entry is via the leisure centre

