



The COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL *Leftwich*

Achieving Excellence

Principal Mr M Snelson BSc (Hons), PGCE, MSc

Dear Parent/Carer

September 2020

Re: Holidays in term time

From 1st September 2013, **the law did not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time.** This law was contested and on April 6th, 2017, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously against the father who had won earlier legal battles in relation to a fine imposed following a term-time holiday without permission.

The issue for the Supreme Court to consider was the words “fail to attend regularly”. The Supreme Court determined that “regularly” meant “in accordance with attendance rules”.

As well as ensuring that students attend at all times required by the school, the Supreme Court explained this interpretation offered certainty to schools and parents on whether or not an offence is committed when taking a child out of school without leave.

Consequently, a leave of absence may only be granted by the school in exceptional circumstances. If a child is taken out of school in term time, either without requesting a leave of absence or when a leave of absence is denied, then the period of absence will be unauthorised and the child in question may be deemed to have failed to attend school regularly. A fixed penalty notice (a fine) can then be issued and prosecution for non-payment initiated.

The school prefers to work constructively with parents and carers and appeals to their good common sense in investing in their children’s futures by sending them to school every day in term time in order to maximise their potential, academically and socially.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in anticipation of your full support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Snelson".

Mr M Snelson
Principal



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