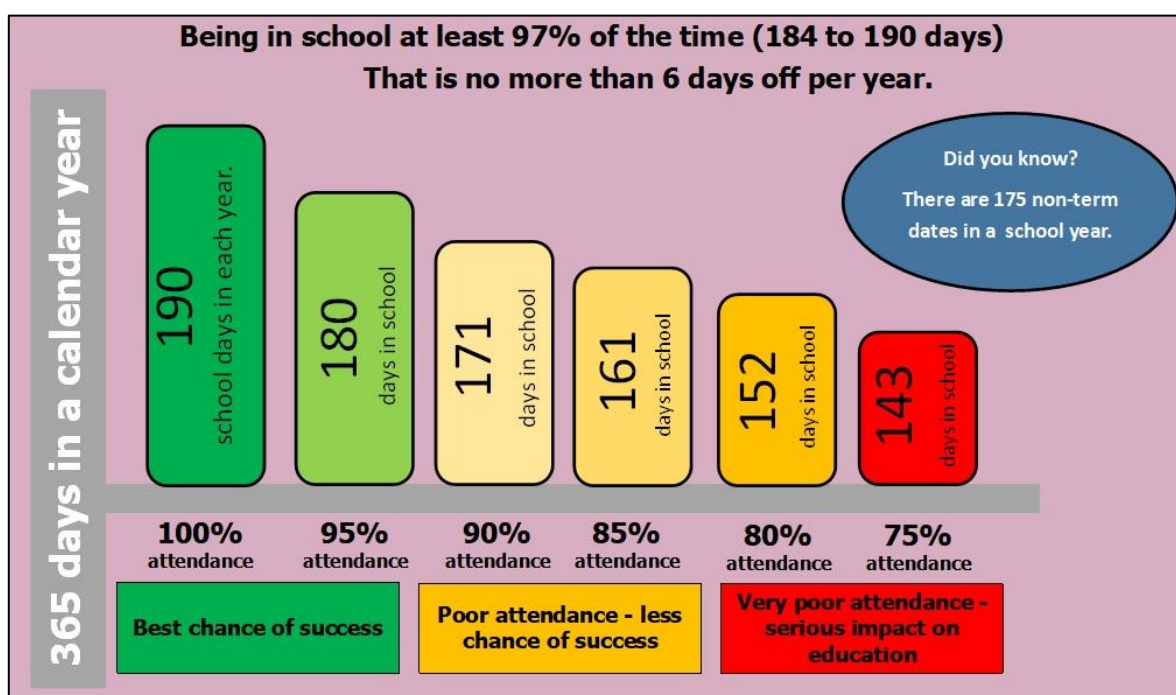


Friday 17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance

Our current school attendance stands at an encouraging **95.9%**, and we would like to thank all families for their continued support in making attendance a priority. Regular attendance is key to academic success, as every lesson counts toward progress and confidence in learning. We would also like to remind everyone of the importance of punctuality, being on time ensures students are calm, settled, and ready to learn when lessons begin promptly at **8:45am**. Let's continue working together to make every day and every minute of learning count!



Sports Fixtures

There are a variety of Sports Fixtures for students to participate in throughout the year. We do need consent for them to join these fixtures, which must be renewed annually, and can be made online through WisePay via the school website. If you need help logging into WisePay please contact the Student Hub by email on student.hub@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk or telephone 01935 811082.

Sixth Form 20 Mile Sponsored Walk

Sixth form students demonstrated The Gryphon School's LIFE values by completing a 20-mile sponsored walk in aid of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, chosen to mark the charity's 20th anniversary. Starting at The Gryphon, they trekked through Sherborne and nearby villages, showing leadership, resilience, and generosity. Their efforts raised over £1,300, a fantastic achievement showcasing fellowship and integrity beyond the classroom.

Headteacher: Mr J. Gower

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Digital Systems at The Gryphon

Please find below a reminder of the digital platforms we use at The Gryphon to support you and your child's school experience. If you have any concerns or you are having technical difficulties accessing any of the websites, please do get in touch by emailing jom@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk.

Microsoft Teams – Homework

Students have access to Microsoft Teams to view and complete their homework. Parents don't have direct access to Teams, but they will receive a weekly email detailing each Homework task; we hope this helps you to support your child with their homework. **Please note**, currently Year 7 parents are not receiving the weekly email, we are aware of this, and our technical team are looking to resolve this ASAP.

Parent Zone

For direct links to Arbor, WisePay, Parents Evening bookings and more, please visit our Parent Zone, accessible via our school website or by clicking [here](#). **Please note**, Parents Evening bookings information is emailed to all parents two weeks before the parents evening.

Arbor Parent Portal / App – behaviour, attendance and reports

If you have not yet downloaded the Arbor app, please go to the Arbor website by clicking [here](#) to activate your account. Now click on 'Forgotten password' and use the email address that we hold on file for you. You will receive an email containing instructions to finalise your account. Once set up, you will be able to see your child's attendance, behaviour / achievement points, termly reports, timetable and more. If you have any queries or technical difficulties, please do get in touch.

WisePay – Trips and cashless catering

We use WisePay for parents to give consent and pay for trips. You can also top up your child's lunch account balance. If you have forgotten your WisePay details or need support, please email student.hub@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk. Please be advised that after half term, students will no longer be able to top up their WisePay balance using coins in the school canteen. As part of our move towards a fully cashless system, which we aim to have in place by September 2026, we will begin phasing out cash top-ups. During this transitional period, students will still be able to add funds using notes only, but coin payments will no longer be accepted. We appreciate your support as we work towards a smoother and more efficient payment system for all.

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Free School Meals – Are you eligible?

Many families will be affected by the ongoing cost of living crisis. We want to ensure families are aware of any support that may be available at this time. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get certain qualifying benefits. There are many benefits to free school meals, such as:

- Improving behaviour & concentration
- Introducing healthy eating habits from a young age
- Giving children the nutrition they require
- Access to free activities via the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
- Providing extra funding to the school to support your child's education

Please visit the Dorset County Council web page for further information and a quick and easy online application form: [Apply for free school meals - Dorset Council](#). The application process is confidential, and the school won't see any specific information about your income or the benefits you receive. If you have any questions, you can contact Dorset Council's Free School Meals team on 01305 221090 or email freeschoolmeals@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk for confidential advice and support.

Breakfast Club (Free School Meals)

Every morning in the school canteen, from 8.20am – 8.40am, we offer a breakfast club for students in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM). FSM students can choose one of the following two options, free of charge, and this will not be deducted from their daily FSM allowance: cereal box & a hot drink or toast & a hot drink. We can provide this service because of ongoing annual donations from Sherborne Food Bank. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing support.

Sherborne Food Bank

Sherborne Food Bank delivers emergency food parcels to Sherborne and surrounding communities from Bishops Caundle to Bradford Abbas, Stalbridge to Charlton Horethorne and beyond, an area of some 78 square miles. They work in co-operation with other recognised local food charities. Serving a largely rural area, they deliver parcels to the home address of clients, or by agreement to the agency office which is referring them. For those in rural areas, without access to transport, their delivery service is vital. If you or someone you know needs assistance, then The Gryphon School, as a referring agency, can contact the Food Bank on your behalf and initiate emergency support. You can make us aware by contacting your child's Head of Year or Deputy Head of Year. We are only an email or phone call away and we will always be more than happy to help in whatever way we can.

Harvest Collection

"A massive thanks to all at The Gryphon School this year for their Harvest donations that will go to the Sherborne Food Bank. The food bank supports families and individuals in crisis in Sherborne and the surrounding areas and because of your generosity many mouths will be fed" (Reverend Jim Edie, Gryphon School Chaplain and Sherborne Food Bank Trustee).

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Service Students

As part of our ongoing support for our service community, Mrs Bending held our annual service meet and greet lunch on Tuesday 7th October. This event, which is held at the beginning of every academic year, allows students with a parent(s) currently serving in the military, to meet one another, enjoy some light refreshments and learn about the ways in which we support, empower, and enrich the experiences of our service community. We hold monthly events across the course of the year, including enrichments activities and trips. The lunch held recently, was attended by 30 students, from a variety of year groups. Students were able to contribute to the planning of future events and ideas were sought on how to make our monthly events as meaningful and as purposeful as possible.

Remembrance Day Service

This year our Remembrance Day Service will be held on Tuesday 11th November at 10.00am. Students who have family connections to the Armed Services will be invited to attend. Students who are part of any Uniformed Youth Services organisation are allowed to wear their uniforms to school on this day and will also be invited to attend the service.

Ski Trip Information Evening

An information evening for the school 2026 Ski Trip will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 12th November.

Key Dates for the next Half-Term

- Thursday 6th November Y13 Parent-Teacher Evening
- Thursday 13th November Adventurous Training Awards Evening
- Friday 14th – Friday 21st November Y11 Mock Exams 1
- Thursday 4th December Y7 Parent-Teacher Evening
- Thursday 11th – Wednesday 17th December Y13 Mock Exams 1
- Tuesday 16th December School Carol Service in Sherborne Abbey
- Thursday 18th December Last Day of Term (finish at 2pm)

Yours faithfully,



Jim Gower
Headteacher
The Gryphon School

Headteacher: Mr J. Gower

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