BANBRIDGE ACADEMY

ESTABLISHED 1786

Dear Parent/Guardian

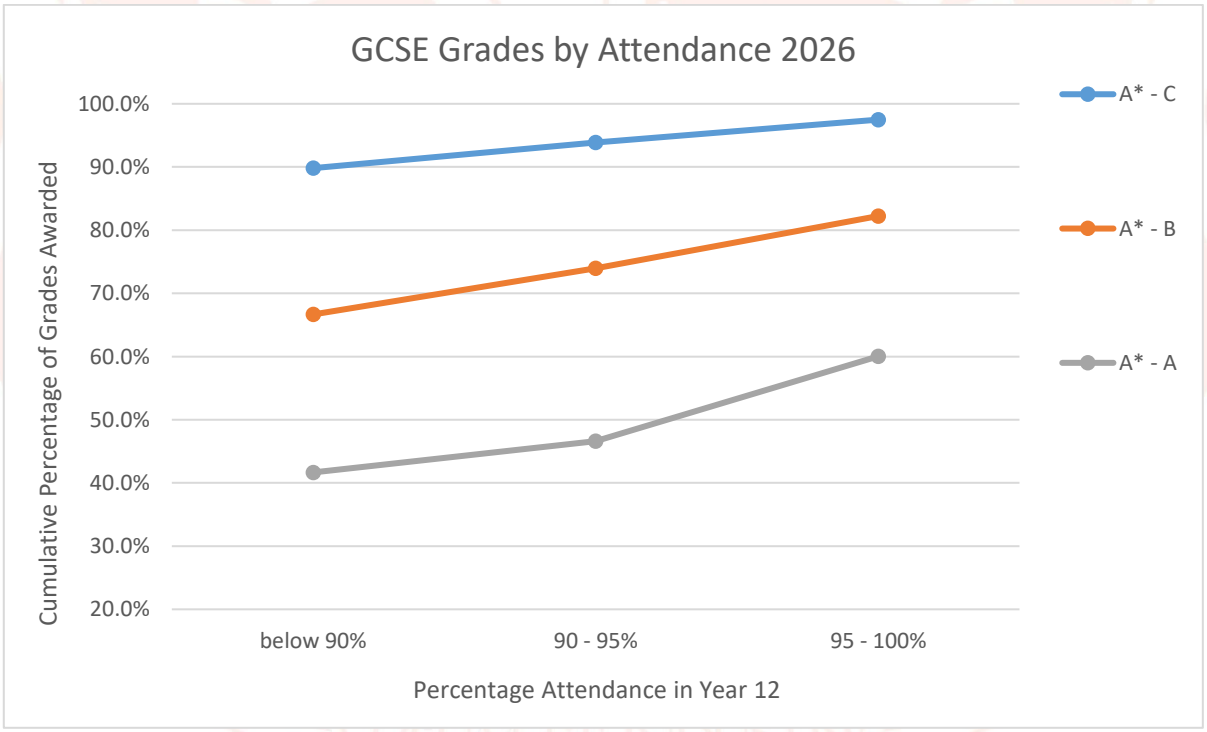
We are all aware that attendance at school is vital to enable a young person to achieve their potential. Good attendance is not only linked to academic achievement but is connected to pupils' emotional health and wellbeing and supports them to thrive as adults in their local community. Whilst at school young people learn, make new friends, experience new things in life, gain qualifications, build confidence and self-esteem which all feed in to giving them the best start in life.

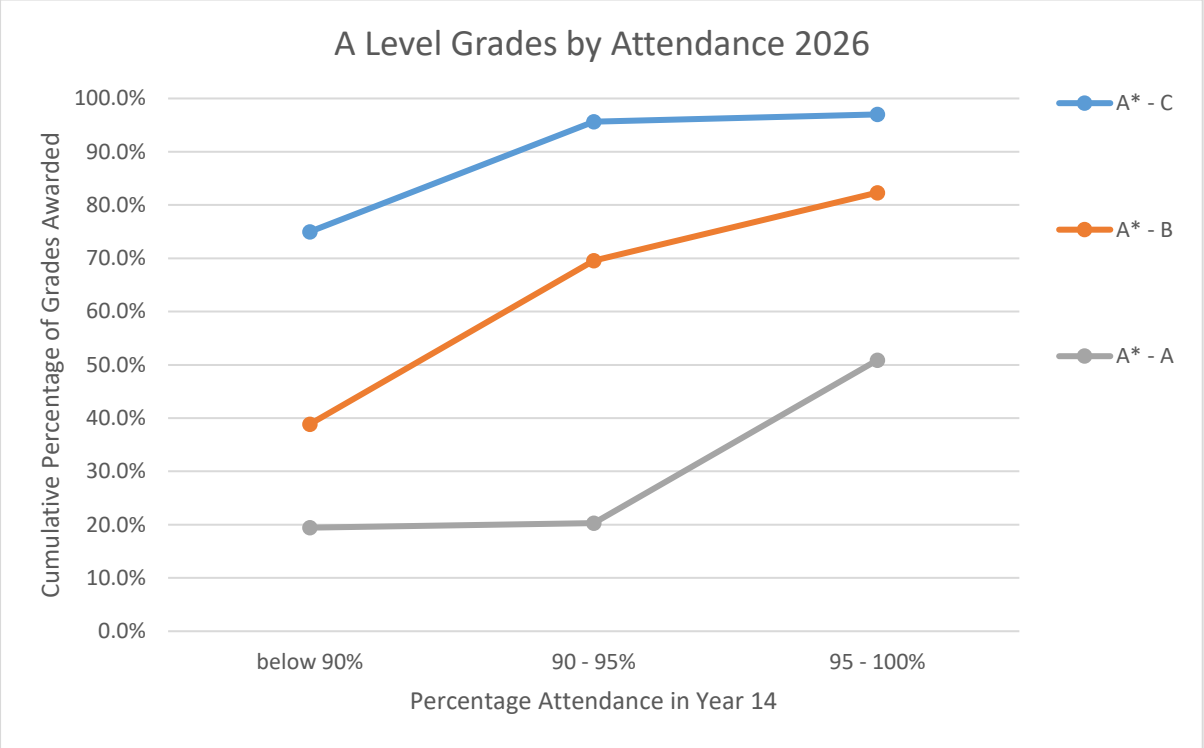
As a school, we monitor attendance very closely and our whole-school attendance figure for 2025-26 was just over 95% and our target for this year is 96%. Attendance percentages can be somewhat misleading, however, and whilst 95% may sound like a high figure, it is important to highlight how even minor absences can have significant impacts on a young person's attainment and personal development.

For example

- ***95% attendance equates to almost two weeks of learning missed during a school year.***
- ***90% attendance is the same as missing one day of school every two weeks, which equates to almost four weeks of teaching missed. This is the equivalent of 120 guided learning hours- the same length of time as allocated to studying one full-time GCSE.***

As a school, we conducted an analysis of our examination results compared to school attendance and the results are outlined below.





We would ask for your support in making sure that your son/daughter is present in school every day by

- avoiding family holidays during term time
- scheduling medical or dental appointment outside school hours where possible
- ensuring your son/daughter has a regular morning routine and arrives in school on time
- communicating with school via attendance200@c2ken.net if your son/daughter is unwell and ensuring they return as soon as they are able
- checking the SIMS Parent App regularly as it gives live updates on your son/daughter's attendance figure

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require support regarding your child's attendance or if issues arise. We are here to help in any way we can.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

R S McLoughlin OBE
Principal