

24 September 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced important amendments to legislation surrounding holidays in term time.

From the 1st September 2013, **the new law gives no entitlement to parent/carers to take their child on holiday during term time.** Any application for leave must only be in **exceptional** circumstances and the Attendance Manager at All Saints Academy must be satisfied that the circumstances are **exceptional** and warrant the granting of leave. **The Attendance Manager would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional.** Parent/carers can receive a Penalty Notice from the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the Academy. From September 2013 these Notices now cost £60 per child per parent/carer if paid within 21 days and £120 if paid between 22 and 28 days maximum.

In the academic year 2011 to 2012, **9.7% of all absences in England were due to parent/carers taking their children out of school during term time.** This high level of absence has led the Government to make this important change to legislation.

All Saints Academy fully appreciate the challenges that some parent/carers face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays. All time in school is precious, however, so we are carrying on with our firm policies and will continue to carry out stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the number of absences during term time. The Academy will be monitoring all school absences during term time and speaking with the Local Authority about challenging parent/carers who do not adhere to the new legislation. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of All Saints Academy to thank you for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time.

This new legislation will bring about increased attendance and improving standards at All Saints Academy Dunstable.

Further information can be obtained from www.dfe.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Emma Gaskell
Attendance Manager