



Thursday 11 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As your child approaches the final stage of their GCSE courses, we are writing to seek your support in ensuring strong attendance as they move from Year 10 into Year 11.

We fully recognise the importance of family time and the challenges of aligning parental leave with school holidays, as well as the increased cost of travelling outside of term time. However, taking students out of school during term time, particularly at this crucial stage in their education can have a significant and lasting impact on your child's progress and attainment. There has been considerable national media attention on this issue in recent years, alongside growing concern about the increasing competition young people face when securing further education, training, and employment.

To provide some local context, our partnership work with Leeds College of Building and Leeds City College has highlighted that rising demand for places for school leavers across the city is now outstripping supply. As the number of post-16 students in Leeds increases, course availability has not increased at the same pace. Colleges have made it clear that attendance is a key factor in decision-making and is included as part of the reference process. Additionally, entry requirements are becoming more demanding. For example, electrical courses now require a minimum Grade 5 for entry, whilst other courses, including bricklaying, require at least a Grade 3. Within our own Sixth Form, courses have clear minimum grade requirements that students must meet to be eligible. These expectations will be outlined to students at the Post-16 Open Evening next term.

All of this means that expectations for students are high. Year 11 is a short but highly intensive year, with lessons focused on completing final curriculum content, developing exam technique, and preparing for assessments. Every lesson is therefore important, and missed learning can be difficult to recover, despite additional support and intervention.

National data consistently shows a strong link between attendance and attainment:

- Students with 95%+ attendance (fewer than 10 days absent in an academic year) achieve significantly higher GCSE outcomes than those with lower attendance.
- Missing just 10 days of school is associated with approximately one grade lower per subject, on average.
- Pupils with little to no absence are almost twice as likely to achieve Grade 5 or above in English and Maths compared to those who miss more school.

Temple Moor High School & Sixth Form Field End Grove, Selby Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS15 0PT
☎ 0113 390 0770 ✉ info@tmhs.rklt.co.uk 📘 TempleMoorHigh 📧 @TempleMoorHigh
www.tmhs.co.uk
Principal: Mr M West



Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub

Red Kite Learning Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.
Company number: 7523507. Registered office: Red Kite office, Pannal Ash Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 9PH.
Our Privacy Notices can be found via www.rklt.co.uk/privacy-notices.



- Persistent absence (below 90%) significantly reduces the likelihood of achieving strong passes.

Put simply, every day missed reduces the chances of achieving the grades students are capable of. In line with our Red Kite Learning Trust attendance policy and national guidance, holidays during term time will not be authorised. To be clear, this is not the decision or perspective of a specific member of staff but a collective decision by the Trust.

We therefore strongly ask for your support in avoiding holidays during term time, particularly in Year 11, so that we can give your child the very best chance of success in their GCSEs and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew West'.

Matthew West
Principal

Temple Moor High School & Sixth Form Field End Grove, Selby Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS15 0PT
☎ 0113 390 0770 ✉ info@tmhs.rklt.co.uk 📘 TempleMoorHigh 📧 @TempleMoorHigh
www.tmhs.co.uk
Principal: Mr M West



Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub

Red Kite Learning Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.
Company number: 7523507. Registered office: Red Kite office, Pannal Ash Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 9PH.
Our Privacy Notices can be found via www.rklt.co.uk/privacy-notices.