

Dear Parent/Carer

Regular School Attendance

We are writing to advise all parents that Thomas Clarkson Community College is involved in the “Fast-Track to Attendance” scheme which has been launched by the Dfe. Fast-Track is intended to apply only to that small minority of parents who persistently fail to ensure that their children attend school regularly.

Cambridgeshire County Council, together with other local education authorities, has been advised to operate this scheme in its schools as part of a national drive to reduce truancy and improve levels of school attendance. According to the Fast-Track scheme parents whose children fail to attend school regularly and who are unable to provide a satisfactory explanation for their child’s absences are given 12 weeks in which to improve their child’s attendance. Should they fail to do this the County Council may, without further delay, prosecute them in the local magistrates court where if convicted they could be fined up to £2,500 and/or, in extreme cases, sentenced to up to 3 months in prison.

Should your child for any reason be unable to attend school/college we would ask that you make every effort to notify the school/college on the first morning of any absence so that staff can record the absence appropriately. Should we fail to hear from you we may have no option other than to record such absences as unauthorised and this could result in a referral to the Education Welfare Officer.

Many thanks for your support and cooperation in this matter.