

Dear Parent,

I wrote to you recently to outline our expectation that all pupils will wear black leather or leather effect shoes and would like to remind you of our standards. As you are aware, our recent drive to improve uniform has been very successful and I would like to thank those parents of pupils who have already purchased the correct footwear. Our pupils have never looked smarter!

Uniform

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity; it reinforces who we are as a community, helps students to take a pride in their school and appearance and prepares students for a life after school, where dressing smartly for work and interviews is essential.

Whilst our policy has always been plain black shoes, some students have worn trainers or pumps as footwear. However, in a recent review and in consultation with staff, pupils and parents, we feel it is necessary to reinforce our standards.

In July I wrote to inform all parents that from January 2018, canvas shoes, boots higher than the ankle or trainers (regardless of colour) of any description will not be permitted. The new year 7s were expected to wear the correct footwear, as stated in the Uniform Policy, from September 2017 and the rest of the school are expected to follow suit from January 2018. We felt that this staggered enforcement was a fair compromise, which would allow parents of pupils currently attending the school, to have adequate notice and prepare for the enforcement of our long existing policy.

From January 2018, all footwear needs to be plain black leather or leather effect shoes.

We do fully appreciate your support in this matter. Reminders have been issued to the minority of pupils who have yet to meet the expected standard. We have purchased appropriate school shoes for any pupil who arrives in January in trainers and sanctions will be applied for refusal to wear the correct school uniform; this may include losing social time, detentions, contact with parents with the expectation that the correct uniform is brought into school and isolation with Pastoral staff. If you did not get an opportunity to contribute to the consultation and have a strong view either way, please contact Jo Derbyshire in writing so your views can be considered.

While this matter is far from the most important issue that we address in school, we need to ensure that our basic expectations are clearly communicated and respected by all the students in our community.

We will continue to make progress next year as our expectations for our school community are extremely high.

Can I just remind you that we finish for Christmas on Wednesday 20th December 2017 at 12.00. Staff & pupils return on Thursday 4th January 2018.

Finally, on behalf of myself and all the staff at Buile Hill I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

With thanks in anticipation of your support in these areas.

Mrs T Offord
Pastoral Lead

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