

Dear Parent,

As we begin to prepare for next year, we wanted to take this opportunity to bring a number of issues to your attention that we intend to address from the first day back in September. More specifically, we feel that our policy and expectations in the following areas need to be clarified and tightened up:

1. Uniform
2. Basic Equipment

I would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to read the guidance that follows as this will help us greatly to make a strong start to the new academic year.

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. We are writing to give plenty of advance notice that we will be enforcing the high standards of dress and expect that footwear purchased for school should now be school shoes, not pumps or trainers.

From January 2018, canvas shoes, boots higher than the ankle or trainers (regardless of colour) of any description will not be permitted for years 8 to 11. The new year 7s will be expected to wear the correct footwear, as stated in the Uniform Policy, from September 2017. We feel that this staggered enforcement is a fair compromise, which will 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. When purchasing new school footwear, do not purchase trainers, pumps or boots higher than the ankle.

We do fully appreciate your support in this matter. If necessary, from September to December, reminders will be sent to the minority of parents whose child has yet to meet the expected standard. Sanctions will be applied for refusal to wear the correct school uniform; this may include losing social time, detentions, contact with parents and 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.

Basic Equipment

An increasing minority of our students are routinely arriving to school without the essential equipment needed in lessons. This is causing disruption to lessons as students borrow equipment

from each other or from their teacher. To address this issue, we have listed the absolutely essential equipment that every student must have in school every day. This includes:

1. Two pens (blue or black)
2. Pencil
3. Rubber
4. Ruler
5. Planner
6. Pencil case
7. School bag (large enough to hold an A4 folder)
8. Reading book (years 7, 8 & 9)

We will stock a supply of items 1-6 in school. Students without this equipment will be expected to purchase a replacement immediately from school. Students arriving to school without a school bag will be given until the following Monday to address this issue.

We will speak to all of our students about these issues during our form time and assemblies in the final weeks of term. In this way, we are confident that everyone will be absolutely clear about our expectations and that this will avoid any unnecessary conflict at the start of the new academic year. While these matters are far from the most important issues 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.

With thanks in anticipation of your support in these areas.

Miss A Sillitoe
Assistant Headteacher – Community

Mrs T Offord
Pastoral Lead