

19 January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

## New School Uniform from September 2018

We believe our uniform should instil a sense of identity, pride and belonging. We want our students to be comfortable in school as well as ensuring high standards and consistency.

“School uniform supports effective teaching and learning and engenders a positive, calm and respectful teaching and learning environment.” (Department for Education)

Since returning in the New Year we have worked with a number of students on the new uniform designs. Students have had opportunity to wear the new uniform, discuss it with members of their tutor group and give feedback. This has been positively received by the students who have said:

*I like it because it looks so much smarter than the old uniform.* *It's nice and comfortable, easy to put on. Quite nice pockets on it as well.*

*I like it because it's elegant and it gives the students a professional aspect.* *Black shoes look better than trainers.*

*It looks really smart and everyone would be uniformed and won't be complaining about other people's shoes.*

*Really like the skirt, I would wear it.*

*I think I would feel smart and intelligent; the skirt has an adjustable waist which is great.*

*It's very smart.*

The new uniform will be for all students in Years 7 to 10 from September 2018. Only next year's Year 11 (the current Year 10) will be able to wear their old uniform for their last year here (although they have the option to wear the complete new uniform). This means all students in Years 7 to 11 from September 2019 will be in the new uniform.

Photos of the new uniform can be found overleaf and the uniform is on display in the main school reception. We will, in the near future, make available opportunities for parents/carers to drop-in and discuss any views or concerns, if needed; this will be communicated to you in due course.

## The new uniform will consist of:

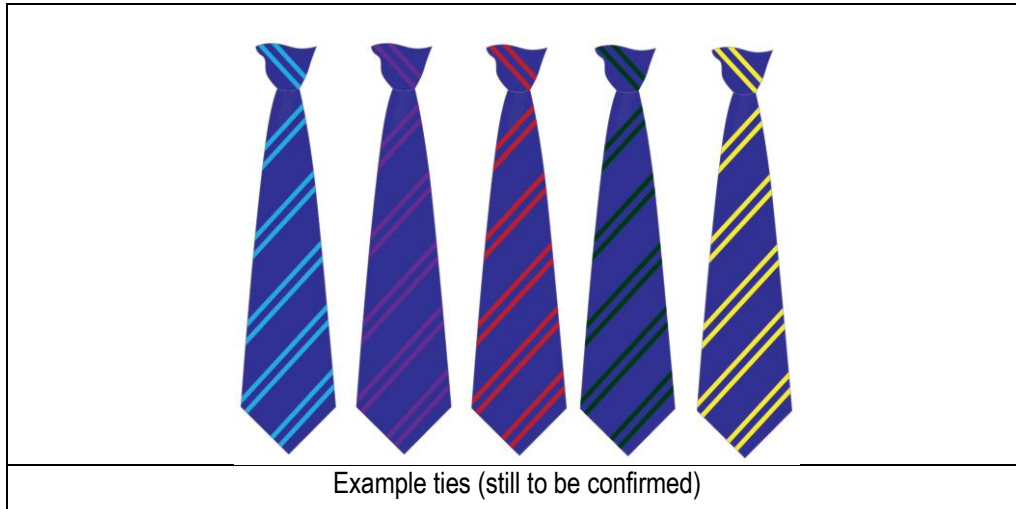
- A black school jacket with a school badge (already embroidered on the jacket) supplied by SWI
- A clip-on tie supplied by SWI
- Mid-grey trousers in an approved style and shade as available from SWI, Tesco and Marks & Spencer (we will specify colours and product codes for local suppliers)
- White shirt/blouse, plain, buttoned, short or long sleeved with standard collar and no logos widely available at Tesco, Marks and Spencer and other retail outlets
- An optional blue tartan skirt (knee length) supplied by SWI
- An optional black V-neck jumper supplied by SWI
- Shoes which must be completely plain black (including laces, uppers and soles) and have a smart appearance suitable to be polished.
- Plain black socks (ankle or below knee length) or plain black tights

Examples of the new uniform

|   |  |
|---|--|
|    |    |
| <p>Girl's Jacket</p>  | <p>Boy's Jacket</p>  |
|   |   |
| <p>Girl's Trousers</p>  | <p>Boy's Trousers</p>  |
|  |  |
| <p>Skirt</p>  | <p>V-neck jumper</p>   |



Headteacher: Mr M Paine, B.Ed MA



Example ties (still to be confirmed)

### Costs

We are conscious that school uniform can seem to be costly. We are working with the suppliers to ensure that the total cost of the new school uniform across the years 7 – 11 are no more, and very likely less than the costs of the current uniform.

For example, typical orders for the current uniform compose of 2 sweatshirts per year, which is 10 sweatshirts over 5 years. With the jacket, which is much harder wearing, you would typically only need 2 or 3 for all 5 years, which may make a saving of over £30. Similarly white shirts and blouses from local retailers are approximately half the price of an embroidered polo shirt.

Our research shows that the cost of plain black shoes are comparable to the currently allowed black trainers and in most instances are more robust and offer better value for money.

We will announce the pricing structures in the very near future, with real life examples of how the new uniform will deliver better value for money.

### PE Kit

Conscious of costs we are not proposing to change the PE kit at this stage, but we may look into this in the future.

### Shoes

They can be leather or leather style shoes, but not trainers, canvas or casual footwear (such as Vans, Converse, Adidas, Nike or other similar brands) and will not have such additions as stripes or ticks; footwear with any logo is not permitted. We will provide examples and suppliers of suitable shoes in due course. Shoes should be low-heeled (maximum 4 cms) and of a style that is safe for the wearer and for others, e.g. no sling-backs, open-toes or high platform soles.

### Ordering and Delivery

We are working with our suppliers to ensure we can have a smooth and trouble free transition to the new uniform for September 2018. We will announce how to order and how to get your uniform delivered in due course.

Yours sincerely

Martin Paine  
Headteacher