

July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to revisit the uniform expectations. Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and fosters a sense of pride that students feel of their school. Uniform also helps to prepare students for life after school where many of our students will be required to dress smartly for work.

Recently, we have experienced students with a different of interpretation of what is and is not acceptable uniform and as such, we want to clarify our expectations for students and parents. We listened to students, parents and governors and have made some minor adjustments to uniform expectations. The updated uniform policy is on our website – <u>link</u>. We would like to encourage you to read this before purchasing new items ready for your child in September.

Where feasible, if there is an issue with a child's uniform, we will endeavour to provide uniform for that particular day. In every instance, the uniform will be clean. Failure to wear the offered uniform will lead to phone calls home and in extreme persistent cases, the student will be removed from their normal lessons for a short period. We are fair, but we have to remain clear in our expectations in order to support the school's drive on standards.

There are also a few other points of note that I would like to make you aware of:

- Trousers need to be tailored straight legged, not tight fitting. They need to be brushing the top of the school shoe.
- The PE kit needs to be the Pembroke kit. No variations are allowed. See link for full details.
- Acrylic or painted nails of any sort are not permitted on the school site.
- Hair colour must be natural.
- Any make up worn should be discrete; if we can tell that a child is wearing it, it is too much.
- Students may only wear one stud earring in each ear. Any additional jewellery that is seen may be confiscated. No other jewellery is allowed with the exception of a watch, however, these should not be a smart watch as they have proven to be disruptive to school life.
- As with any issue on standards and behaviours, the Headteacher will make the final decision.



Finally, I would like to write to you about your child's attendance. There has recently been a significant amount of research undertaken regarding the effects of poor attendance on achievement. For example, research undertaken by the Department for Education showed that of pupils with absences over 50%, only 3% manage to achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades 9-4 including maths and English. This is in contrast to the 73% of pupils who have over 95% attendance; they achieve on average 5 or more GCSEs at grades 9-4.

There will be a big drive nationally on school attendance from September 2022. Schools are being directed to a stricter set of attendance standards. We will update you with further information in the new academic year.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Evans Headteacher