

HRH/CAK

4 May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

In the Spring Term, the school newsletter invited you to take part in a consultation regarding possible changes to our school uniform. We also spoke with students in assemblies and school council meetings as well as seeking the views of our current Year 6 parents and the members of the Parents' Advisory group. We would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to complete the online survey and for sharing your views. Some of the most frequently asked questions regarding changes to uniform have been included at the end of this letter along with our responses. The majority of the responses from our Year 6 parents were in favour of implementing a new school blazer and standard bag. Some of the feedback we received included the following:

Blazer comments

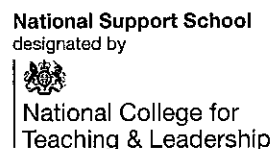
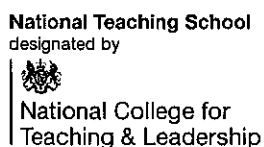
- It will be smart and professional and gives a good impression of the school to the public
- It will prepare students for the world of work
- Other schools which have them look smart and we stand out for not having them
- It would give a clearer identity to the school
- Looking smart gives the students more self-confidence.

Standardised Trouser/Skirt comments

- It would improve consistency
- It would stop students from wearing skinny trousers or leggings
- The current rules for trouser widths/styles does not appear to be adhered to by many students
- It is sometimes difficult to find the right cut of skirt or trouser which is part of the uniform.

Bag comments

- It prevents the use of a bag as status symbol and students are less likely to be bullied
- It ensures students come fully equipped which does not always happen with handbags
- Having the same bag will take away the "Mine's better than yours" pressure.



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The results of the consultation were reviewed in detail at the last meeting of the school's Governing Body on Thursday 6 April 2017. In light of these discussions, the governors have decided to make changes to the school uniform in the belief that this change will increase our students' sense of pride, identity and belonging and ensure equality amongst students. The changes will also support greater consistency. The governors agree that a robust uniform policy is paramount in conveying our school's ethos of high expectations and exacting standards to our wider community, supporting positive behaviour and effective learning.

Although we have not been able to accommodate everyone's preferences, we have listened to all views and made changes accordingly. We were very mindful of parents' comments regarding cost, comfort, quality and sizing, especially for those families with several children at the school. As a consequence, the change in uniform will be implemented through a rolling programme across different year groups. The governors have also chosen a supplier that will provide quality as well as value for money.

The timeline and changes to the new school uniform will be implemented as follows:

September 2017:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
New Compulsory School Blazer	Compulsory Black V-Neck School Jumper	Compulsory Black V-Neck School Jumper	Compulsory Black V-Neck School Jumper	Compulsory Black V-Neck School Jumper
New Standard Black School Trousers or New Standard Black School Skirt	New Standard Black School Trousers or New Standard Black School Skirt	New Standard Black School Trousers or New Standard Black School Skirt	New Standard Black School Trousers or New Standard Black School Skirt	New Standard Black School Trousers or New Standard Black School Skirt
New Standard School bag	New Standard School bag	New Standard School bag	New Standard School bag	New Standard School bag
White Collared shirt	White Collared shirt	White Collared shirt	White Collared shirt	White Collared shirt
School Tie	School Tie	School Tie	School Tie	School Tie
Black Shoes	Black Shoes	Black Shoes	Black Shoes	Black Shoes
Optional Black V-Neck School Jumper	Compulsory Black V-Neck School Jumper	Compulsory Black V-Neck School Jumper	Compulsory Black V-Neck School Jumper	Compulsory Black V-Neck School Jumper

Any student in Year 8-11 has the option to purchase a new school blazer should they wish. The black V-Neck school jumper will then become optional.

September 2018:

Year 7- Year 10	Year 11
New Compulsory School Blazer	Compulsory Black V-Neck School Jumper
New Standard Black School Trousers or New Standard Black School Skirt	New Standard Black School Trousers or New Standard Black School Skirt
New Standard School bag	New Standard School bag
White Collared shirt	White Collared shirt
School Tie	School Tie
Black Shoes	Black Shoes
Optional Black V Neck School Jumper	Compulsory Black V-Neck School Jumper

September 2019:

Year 7- Year 11
New Compulsory School Blazer
New Standard Black School Trousers or New Standard Black School Skirt
New Standard School bag
White Collared shirt
School Tie
Black Shoes
Optional Black V-Neck School Jumper

The school is currently working with suppliers regarding the styles of the new standard schoolbag which will become compulsory for all students in September 2017. We are mindful that parents may feel compelled to purchase a bag for their child that can be seen as a fashion statement. A standard bag will ensure that students arrive at school equipped, organised and well prepared to be effective learners. We will be contacting you with details of acceptable bag styles as soon as possible and would ask that you do not

purchase a new bag for your child until examples of bag styles and associated costs can be provided.

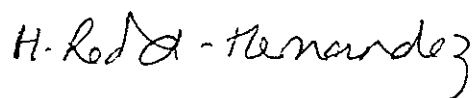
We will endeavour to provide information regarding how to order new items of uniform, price lists, suppliers as soon as possible.

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In the interest of costs, the PE kit will remain unchanged in terms of the compulsory items. There is also the option to purchase additional items of PE kit as shown on the school website.

We are confident that these changes to our school uniform will have a positive impact on the way students present themselves and are organised for learning. We also hope it will take pressure away from parents who sometimes feel obliged to buy the latest fashion garments or find it difficult to source the correct style of uniform. We would like to thank you all for your support in helping us to make this change and for the invaluable feedback which has helped shape our policy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "H. Redford-Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'H' and a long, sweeping underline.

H REDFORD-HERNANDEZ
Headteacher

UNIFORM SURVEY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can coats still be worn?

Coats may be worn to and from school but we ask that coats are not to be worn inside the school buildings. Care must be taken to ensure that coats are the right size to be worn with a blazer.

Do I need to dry clean my child's blazer?

No, the blazers are machine washable and dry quickly.

Will school jumpers still have to be worn with a blazer?

These would become optional if students wear blazers

Do blazers need to be worn in the summer?

We ask that blazers are worn to and from school. Students will be able to take them off in class at the discretion of the teacher.

It could be easy to get your blazer mixed up with another student's. How is this avoided?

As with school jumpers, we would ask that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with the name of your child and their form. On the first school day, form tutors will check for names and also have appropriate pens for students to write names on any garments that do not have them. The blazers will have a specific space to write this on.

Where can students put their blazers in classes like science and technology so that they are not at risk of damage?

We are currently investigating ways that blazers can be stored safely and this will be in place for September.

How will the school ensure the uniform is value for money?

The governors have looked at a number of suppliers and compared both prices and quality. We have been made aware that some parents have been unhappy with the quality of some uniform; so we have ensured the new supplier offers both quality and value for money.

Governors have also been mindful about not inflating costs; therefore, the jumper will be optional for those students wearing blazers. This also addresses some concerns about students having to wear jumpers on warm days.