



25th July 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

Good afternoon, this will be my second to last message before the summer break and after my last message looking back on Activities Week, Work Experience and Warlstock, I want to do some looking forward.

As we approach the end of the school year, the uniform and equipment for the students can be a little frayed at the edges, as parents hold off buying new items until any summer growing! My sons have started some school years with shirts that drown them and by this time of the year it is a genuine struggle for them to tuck them in as they have grown so much, not to mention the pristine shoes that have become a scuffed and tatty shadow of their former selves. I wanted to clarify a few things this side of the summer so that your child is able to start the new school year without any uniform or equipment issues.

Firstly, skirt length – I don't have daughters, but the same applies with skirt length as shirt length. At a time when children are going through a time when they grow a lot. Every year there are media headlines of schools and parents in conflict over uniform. But, I have had a significant number of parents of existing students and students joining the school in September who have commented on the skirt length of a number of our students. So I want to make it clear that from September, we will be addressing any student whose skirt length is not in line with our uniform policy of no more than 15cm above the knee. It is important for your support in making sure that skirts meet the policy, but also discouraging the rolling up and pinning of skirts that some of our students have made a habit of doing.

Secondly, can I also take this moment to ask you not to put off getting any new piercings until the end of the holidays. Every year, we have entirely avoidable issues, with students infringing the jewellery policy and claiming that they cannot remove piercings as they will close up. Please don't set up for a difficult start to the school year with conflict over something so easy to avoid, getting in the way of positive relationships and the focus on learning. Similarly, please don't spend a large sum on sets of expensive nails that will only have to be removed when students come into school in September.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to bring to your attention our slightly amended uniform policy in relation to footwear. **From September 2024**, the following will apply:

- Plain black smart leather or leather-look shoes that are polishable.
- No logo (due the nature of the Kickers' logo, Kickers are permitted). Shoes must be flat - no platforms, boots, sling-backs, open-toe shoes or canvas shoes are allowed.
- No high boots or boots above the ankle line.

No other footwear will be permitted.

As you are aware, we are in the process of changing to a new supplier for our PE Kit to Kukri Sports. The new kit provides a modern look, whilst being practical, flexible and easier to keep clean! For September 2024, the new PE Kit will be compulsory for the new **Year 7 ONLY**.

Students and siblings in Year 8 or upwards have the option to **either** purchase the new PE Kit via Kukri **or** to continue to use the PE Kit as supplied by Hewitts at this time, with a transition period as already advised.

If, when sorting through items of uniform you find items that you no longer require, that are in good condition, please consider donating these to our student services team, so that we may offer this uniform out to students as part of our preloved uniform service. This enables us to offer items of compulsory uniform, at a discounted price to parents/carers/students. If you are able to donate, please bring your preloved uniform to main reception.

Finally, in this message, I would like to make an early plea for parents to ensure that your child starts the school year with a ruler and a number of pens and pencils as a bare minimum for the start of the new school year. It is quite remarkable the number of students who have been arriving at school in the last few weeks without any equipment to record their learning. We are looking to set up a school shop, to sell these items in the Autumn term, but please use the holiday time to stock up ready for the start of the new school year to minimise these barriers to learning.

Apologies if this message has come across a little more negative than my usual messages, I just wanted to try and get ahead of common issues we face in the new year and engage your support in avoiding these so that every child can have a really positive start to the new school year.

Thanks, as ever for your continued support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Foster', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mr P Foster

Headteacher