

19th July 2018

Uniform

Dear Parent or Carer,

There are many good reasons for wearing uniform; uniform creates an identity, it encourages a feeling of belonging and of having pride in the school and in appearance; it minimises differences and is by far the most sensible, smart and equitable way to dress during school time.

The change to the Abbey College uniform in 2016 has been a real success, however, I am sure that you will also recognise that there is a variation in how skirts and trousers are worn by students at the school. This is something that we have listened to carefully in terms of parental and student voice feedback this year and as a response are introducing a new skirt, with year 7, that will be rolled out over the next 5 years. Other year groups are welcome to purchase the skirt too if they wish.

We are very grateful for parental and student support on this matter. We involved a broad cross-section of parents and students in the initial consultation, and have been delighted with the positive response. The common message has been that our school uniform policy should be consistently and fairly applied. This year, inconsistency has led to some students feeling aggrieved, and indeed some parents have suggested that this has led to disagreements at home.

As a result we want to be clear, particularly prior to any purchases of new school uniform over the summer holidays about the expectations.

Uniform List	
School Blazer & Tie	Blue with school badge and appropriate year colour tie. <i>These items must be purchased from the school's uniform supplier.</i>
School jumper	Navy blue knitted jumper with embroidered school badge and appropriate year colour stripe. <i>This item must be purchased from the school's uniform supplier.</i>
Trousers	Formal, black trousers, tailored style only. <i>The school's uniform supplier stocks school trousers. Trousers must be tailored in style and loose fitting. We do not allow denim, canvas or chino styled trousers. No leggings, jeggings, very narrow leg or tight fitting items. No zips, studs or rolled-up styles.</i>
Skirt	Year 7: School tartan patterned skirt, knee-length. Years 8-11: Black Skirt knee length or the new school skirt. <i>These items must be purchased from the school's uniform supplier.</i>
Tights	Black tights only

Shoes	Sensible, plain black, flat shoes of a design that can be polished. <i>Trainers and canvas shoes are not permitted. No boots and no high heels.</i>
Jewellery	Only watches are allowed. Maximum of one pair of earrings (stud or sleeper). <i>No other facial piercings, spacer-style or spiked earrings are allowed. Students will be asked to remove any other form of piercing.</i>
Nail varnish	Only clear nail varnish is allowed and students will be asked to remove coloured nail varnish or false nails.
Make-up	Make-up is only allowed if it is applied discreetly; heavy make-up is not permitted and students will be asked to remove this.

A child wearing tight fitting trousers or a skirt which is not at knee length, will have to change into the correct uniform from available stock or we will ask parents to intervene by coming to the school with a replacement garment.

We understand, of course, that teenagers often attempt to adapt their uniform but if your child is told about incorrect uniform, we would be glad if you would help us reinforce the school uniform regulations. In doing so, no parent feels isolated and all students are treated equally. We are then able to create an entire school of well turned out students who are also prepared for life in the workplace, when similar or equivalent regulations may apply.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

 Mr R Askoolum Assistant Headteacher	<i>Mrs K Wibberley</i> Mrs K Wibberley Student Council	<i>Mrs L Gregory</i> Mrs L Gregory Head of Hawking House
<i>Mrs C Peattie</i> Mrs C Peattie Head of Da Vinci House	<i>Mrs S Duncan</i> Mrs S Duncan Head of Churchill House	<i>Miss L Kendrick</i> Miss L Kendrick Head of Woolf House