

16 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: End of Year 10**

I find myself in an emotional situation where this is the last July 'end of year' note I will put out to this year group! This past year has proven to be a mixed bag of emotions for all students, ranging from happiness, frustration, overwhelmed, excited and nervous. These are all completely what we would expect in the last few years of High School, and some that I must admit, I have felt myself! As a Head of Year, we feel what they are feeling most of the time; if they are upset, we feel upset, if they are happy, you can bet we feel so proud of them too!

Going into the main hall and seeing the exam desks and all of their little faces look up at me ready to take their mock exams did pull on the heart strings, but I know they will be ready and will conquer any challenge that comes their way. However, I find comfort in seeing how much they have grown and just how mature they have become.

The next year will be a tough one, a lot of hard work and focus is needed and this may become quite gruelling, but I have every faith that they will all show resilience and do the work they need to in order to feel completely ready for next May when the fun begins (I mean that in the loosest terms as I actually mean exams!)

Next year is a fresh start again, one that promises to welcome new and improved outlooks on the year to come, with this in mind, can I remind all students that uniform expectations still apply and we will monitor this as we have this year in the hope that we prepare students well for life after High School. The expectations are as follows for September and moving forward:

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

- **Trousers**  
Should be plain black, tailored trousers. They may be slim fit, if this is a preference, but must not be leggings. They cannot be jeans, track suit bottoms, have studded pockets or be 'figure hugging'. Please be aware that some shops are pushing legging style trousers with pockets and classifying these as school trousers. They are not acceptable in our school.
- **Shoes**  
Must be plain black and polishable. If you are not sure, please ask.



Healthy School

- **Piercings**

must be simple studs (*students wearing hoops, or any other type of piercing will be asked to remove them*). Additionally, all students must be able to take part in the full curriculum. This means that, for example, piercings must be removeable for PE lessons. Please therefore ensure that your child/ward only has piercings at times when there is enough healing time so they can be taken out for lessons. This is likely to be the start of the Summer holiday.

- **Hoodies**

These are not acceptable items of outerwear in our school. Please support us by ensuring your child/ward has an appropriate coat if they are cold. Do not let them come to school in a hoodie.

If, for whatever reason, your child/ward does not have the proper uniform, please ensure they have a signed note explaining why and when this will be corrected. Any exceptions will not be accepted for longer than one week.

If your child/ward has a permanent exemption, it would be really helpful if this was accompanied by medical evidence. However, if this is not possible, please contact me in the first week of term to discuss this and your child/ward may be issued with an exception card which they should expect to politely produce each time they are questioned about their uniform. This applies to toilet cards as well, although these will all need medical evidence to support them. If your child/ward comes to school in September in the incorrect uniform and without a note, they may be sent home again until they return in the correct uniform, please support us and them by ensuring that this isn't necessary.

Please know that your child/ward is at the very forefront of our thinking, and we will do everything we can to get them over the last hurdle!

One more year to go... Year 11... let's be having you!!

Yours faithfully



Miss D Birkin  
Head of Year 8