

3rd April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

College Uniform Policy from September 2017

I would like to start by thanking the large number of parents and carers who participated in our recent consultation in to the college's uniform policy from September 2017. The results were published on the college website on Monday 20 March and since then we have been meeting with uniform suppliers to find a solution which addresses the concerns raised in the consultation.

I am now in a position to inform you about the uniform policy from September 2017. The new policy is attached and as you will see there are two key changes from this year's policy. These are:

- All students will be expected to wear the grey striped tie.
- All students are expected to wear uniform trousers or skirts from one of the college's **two** approved suppliers.
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A new style blazer was introduced in September 2016 but the old style blazer will continue to be acceptable in 2017-18.

There are currently two different ties, the older black and gold tie and the new grey striped tie which was introduced in September 2016. We have been phasing out the black and gold tie over this year and in order for all students to wear the same uniform in September 2017, all students are expected to wear the grey striped tie.

In response to the initial concerns raised by parents and carers this year, the uniform working party and the outcome of the uniform consultation, we have decided to introduce a second uniform supplier, Pinders:

- Pinders have two shops, one in Aston and one at Crystal Peaks. The Aston factory shop is a 20 minute drive from Staveley and there are good public transport links to Crystal Peaks.
- Trousers from Pinders will be available in three styles, with the cheapest priced at £10.00 or less.
- Pinders will also stock the college's blazer, tie and PE top to allow parents and carers to purchase all items in one visit.
- Pinders have an online ordering service. There is a charge of £4.99 for home delivery, but items can be delivered to college free of charge. Delivery to college is every Tuesday.

We will also retain our current uniform supplier, Price and Buckland:

- Price and Buckland offer an online ordering service and stock approved trousers along with other college uniform items; blazer, tie and PE top. Home delivery is priced at £3.95 but delivery to college is free of charge. Delivery to college is fortnightly on a Monday.

- There will be two styles of trousers available from Price and Buckland for next year.

The new policy addresses the concerns raised in the consultation in the following ways:

- More choice – There will now be two approved suppliers of all college uniform items, offering at least five styles of trousers compared with only one in 2016-17.
- Affordable – Prices will vary but we can guarantee that there will be one style of trousers available from Pinders for no more than £10, irrespective of size.
- Smart – All students will be dressed smartly for college in approved uniform trousers.
- Identifiable – Trousers from both suppliers will have an external identifying feature to allow for college staff to easily check that students are wearing approved trousers.
- Convenient – Trousers will be available for purchase in Pinders shops in Aston and Crystal Peaks as well as through two online retailers. The college will hold a small number of trousers in stock to loan out in the short term should a student damage his or her trousers and not be able to acquire a new pair quickly.

We have also agreed that trousers purchased this year through Price and Buckland will be classed as approved trousers for next year and we will add an identifying feature to these trousers at no additional cost to parents and carers. Further details on how to do this will be sent out later in the year.

Both Pinders and Price and Buckland are now making arrangements to get all uniform items on sale as quickly as possible. We will inform you when the items are available and also let you know the last date for ordering to ensure delivery in time for the start of the 2017-18 college year.

Thank you again for your valuable contributions in putting the new policy together. If you have any further queries about the new policy please contact the college through the usual means of communication; text message, telephone call or email.

Yours faithfully



Ian Wingfield
Headteacher