March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

School Uniform Review

I wrote to you in November 2017 about our review of the school uniform. As I said in my letter, the students' school uniform is generally of a high standard. However, there have been some issues and with this in mind, the school and the Governors have spent the last few months reviewing the uniform. Thank you to all parents and carers who replied to that letter and the overwhelmingly positive support of the changes that were proposed. That review has now been completed and I am in a position to tell you about the changes that have been agreed by Governors and will be introduced in September 2018. These changes will be for the current Year 7, 8 and 9, along with those students who will be joining us who are currently in Year 6.

School Blazer
We will be introducing a blazer from September 2018 and this is to be worn by **all students** in the current Year 7, 8 and 9, and those students who will be joining Year 7 in September. This academic year we have seen a large number of students choosing to wear the optional school blazer instead of a school jumper. This not only looks smart but has proved to be more practical. In warmer months students have found it is more comfortable to wear than a jumper and they do not need to bring a coat. The school jumper will be optional.

The school blazer will be available from The Uniform Shop and is priced in line with the cost of blazers for other local schools.

- Size 28-36 - £33.50
- Size 38-40 - £38.50

School Jumpers
These will now be optional.

School Skirts
In my letter in November I explained that we were continuing to have issues with school skirts. The current rules are that they should be "black, at least knee length, A-line or pleated style. No Lycra tube skirts are allowed." Unfortunately there are increasing numbers of students who are choosing to wear Lycra tube skirts and many roll up the waistbands to make them shorter. Despite speaking to students and contacting home this is still an issue.

We have considered introducing a Caldew school skirt to overcome this, in line with other local schools. Due to the additional cost for parents and carers we have decided that we will not be changing the school skirt. However, if we continue to have an issue with students wearing Lycra skirts we may introduce a Caldew school skirt in the future. I would ask parents and carers to support us on this issue and ensure students wear the correct skirts.

School Shoes
There will be no changes to shoes. However I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that these should be black, proper formal shoes with no colour or logos. They are not to be black trainers. We advise you not to purchase any footwear manufactured by sportswear companies as these may not meet our uniform policy and students may be required to change them.

Clothing vouchers are available form Cumbria County Council to support parents and carers with the cost of uniform if in receipt of one of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- An income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that as of April 2012 does not exceed £ 16,190. Note: From 1st May 2009 where you are entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment ceases, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week, your children are entitled to Free School Meals, this may be extended.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- Universal Credit

You can apply on line at:

https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Vicki Jackson
Headteacher