

The introduction of uniform trousers from September 2016

Introduction

From September, all students will be expected to wear trousers purchased from our uniform supplier, Price & Buckland. The following information explains the college's reasons for this decision and its response to some of the concerns which have been raised by parents/carers.

While a new blazer and tie will be introduced for the new Year 7, **there is no requirement for students in next year's Years 8 to 11 to purchase these items.**

Our rationale

- A uniform pair of school trousers for boys and girls
- Trousers that are good quality
- Trousers that are competitively priced
- Focus on teaching and learning as opposed to uniform

Background

Over recent years the style of formal school trousers has altered drastically. Where previously there was a choice of either straight leg or boot-cut, there are now in excess of 8 styles of trousers that are marketed under the 'school uniform' label. This has created a number of problems for the college and parents/carers in terms of acceptable trouser wear and consistency.

We have made small alterations to the uniform and appearance policy each year; being more specific about what is expected however each year a number of parents/carers purchase trousers that are not acceptable to the college.

Each year has presented new challenges in terms of addressing the issue of consistency of uniform, however all challenges require a great deal of staff time.

A number of weeks in September each year are spent addressing the issue of uniform and acceptable trousers/footwear. This is undertaken by senior staff and student progress leaders to ensure consistency. This time would be better spent focussing on our core business of teaching and learning.

Many parents/carers purchase unacceptable trousers and whilst, historically, these parents/carers have been dealt with on an individual basis the numbers are increasing. It is difficult and time consuming given the trousers purchased have been marketed as 'back to school' and 'school uniform trousers'.

Why a uniform supplier?

During the September Parents' Forum meeting uniform was discussed and the idea of uniform providers suggested by parents/carers themselves. These meetings are open to all parents/carers and are advertised via the website and text message. For those unable to attend, minutes are available on the website.

Why Price & Buckland?

Research was carried out in order to secure competitively priced, good quality uniform providers. Please see the additional price comparison list. Supermarkets do offer a cheaper alternative but do not meet the requirement of the college for a standard pair of acceptable trousers.

Why now?

By informing parents/carers in May we are providing a three month time frame in which to budget for the new uniform requirements. From an academic point of view September is an ideal time to introduce new expectations in terms of uniform.

Response to parent/carer concerns

Cost Implications

In response to some concerns raised by a small number of parents/carers via email, telephone calls and attendance at Parents Forum (7th June) we have agreed to investigate a savings element of Parent Pay.

Alterations

An agreement has also been made with local company 'Stich and Save' for those parents wishing to purchase the unfinished trousers.

Sizing

The sizing event available in July is not compulsory and will be with parental permission.

Price & Buckland offer different trouser lengths; long, regular, short and unfinished to enable the most appropriate fit.