



July 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing with regard to some changes to the College uniform which we will be implementing from **September 2019** for all years, including Year 11.

For several years now, the College has attempted to have a uniform which allowed students some choice about the skirts they could wear. Unfortunately, during this time, while some students have continued to wear appropriate skirts, others, often despite the best endeavours of their parents and carers as well as staff, have chosen to continually wear skirts, which are not appropriate for school. This has led to feelings of unfairness for some students, pressure to wear increasingly short skirts for some girls and arguments with parents and carers about which skirts are fashionable in preparation for the school restarting every September.

Last year we piloted college issued pleated skirts for Year 7 students. The feedback from this has been largely positive and we now feel that we are in a position to roll this out to years 9, 10 and 11. I would like to remind parents that students can choose to wear trousers instead of the college issued skirt as long as they are formal, pressed full length, plain black trousers (not clinging nor made from stretch fabric). Any form of denim is also not acceptable.

Following discussions with students, parents and governors we have therefore decided to change our uniform from September 2019 to alleviate these concerns around quality, length and consistency by implementing a uniform policy which requires students to wear a black knee length, **college issued** skirt.

The college issued pleated skirt can be purchased through SWI, our uniform provider.

<https://www.swidtp.co.uk/>

If students decide to **wear trousers they must be long enough to reach their shoes so that socks aren't visible.**

I would also like to remind parents that years 7-9 can only wear our **blue tie** and not the **red and black** tie. The current **year 10 cohort** are the only remaining year group who are permitted to wear the red and black ties.

We believe that this slight change to our uniform policy will mean that there is greater consistency and fairness with regard to the uniform that all students are expected to wear and that both students and their parents and carers will feel under less pressure to choose something which is fashionable rather than practical.

Obviously, we are letting you know about this slight modification as early as possible in

order for you to prepare for this uniform change. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the pastoral team in the first instance. We will be discussing these changes with students in assemblies and tutorials before the summer holidays.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DP Vile', written in a cursive style.

Dan Vile
Deputy Principal