



Dear all,

Uniform Standards: Updated Policy and Uniform Assistance

We are very aware of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the lives and jobs of many of our community. We understand the financial hardship which is being suffered by some and the difficult situation many of our families find themselves in.

As such, we have worked hard to find a way of supporting our students and their families over the coming months. For this year, we have managed to part-fund (10%) the uniform of all of our students in preparation for September. We have also spent time discussing a way of parents ordering uniform which can all be collected in one trip to school. This will hopefully ease the pressure of visiting numerous shops to find the correct uniform, waiting in long queues and possibly failing to find the right sizes for your children. We hope that the work we have done will provide a cheaper, easier and safer process for buying uniform this year.

Whilst we understand that the start of the new academic year is still uncertain, it is our hope and expectation that all students will receive provision in school for at least part of the week in September. As such, our students will need to have full uniform ready and, in the vast majority of cases, parents purchase uniform as part of the preparation for returning to school in September. Our plans for the start of the next academic year will be shared with you as soon as we have more of an idea of the national guidance and the situation regarding Covid-19 in our local area.

If you would like to use our offer of 10% subsidised uniform for next year, please follow the instructions below:

- Please complete the form for each child you have at Whitstone School. The offer is available for all students in Year 7-11 in September 2020. The form can be found by clicking the appropriate link:
 - Boys: <https://bit.ly/3eenX1p>
 - Girls: <https://bit.ly/3fvVWm8>
- Once you have completed the form, please send cash or cheque (made payable to Whitstone School by 10th July for the uniform you have purchased).
- Your uniform will be available to collect in one go between 17th August and 2nd September. We will organise the collection of uniform so that we maintain social distancing at all times.
- If the size of uniform is incorrect, please do not remove the tags from the clothes and unfortunately they will have to be returned to the store directly.

As I am sure you appreciate, it is important that we work with our students to return to normality safely. In September, we will expect all of our students to be wearing the correct uniform before attending lessons. I have included our uniform policy, which has been updated in light of the changes outlined above, with this letter. We have made changes to our uniform policy to make our uniform cheaper for all parents and to bring boys and girls into line in terms of their uniform. For example, we have made the decision not to include the House-specific blouse for girls which is considerably more expensive than a standard plain shirt. We have also made the same decision with the optional black V-neck pullover. We have included different uniform choices for skirts and trousers as we are very aware that children grow and develop at different rates and require a range of fits and sizes.

Please ensure that only those items listed on the attached document are purchased to ensure fairness and consistency amongst students.

Please note that our uniform policy currently states that all students should wear black shoes. I have included a photograph sheet to display which shoes are suitable for school. Please ensure that students do not attend school wearing trainers. They are, of course, able to bring trainers to play sport at lunchtimes.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support in helping us to ensure high standards in all aspects of school life, including uniform, and making sure that we have a calm, safe start to the next academic year which is not delayed with uniform issues.

We are always happy to help clarify any uniform queries before uniform is bought, however I am hopeful that the documents included with this letter and our subsidising of uniform this year, helps make this process simple and straightforward.

If you would like to ask any questions or check any aspect of your child's uniform, please contact your House Leader, Miss Flower or myself. We would be happy to talk to you.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Guy Swallow
Headteacher