

9th January 2023

Dear Parents,

As we begin a new calendar year, I am writing with some specific reminders regarding elements of the school uniform that began to slip towards the end of last term and which need to be reinforced:

Hoodies

Some students have chosen to wear hoodies instead of (or as well as) wearing a coat. Except in the Sixth Form, hoodies are not permitted and we ask that these be kept at home. This includes zipped hoodies.

Nose studs

These are not permitted, except in the Sixth Form.

Nails

Except in the Sixth Form, nail varnish is not permitted; neither are acrylic nails.

Footwear

Only plain black robust, sturdy shoes or plain black flat-soled ankle boots are permitted. Trainers are not allowed.

Socks

The trend of wearing white socks over black tights has reappeared. Students can wear white socks and they can wear black tights, but they can't wear them together.

Skirts

Students will be reminded that they should not roll up their skirts. Skirts should always be worn to an acceptable length, just above the knee and no shorter than mid-thigh.

Jumpers

These should always be worn. We relax the rule on the wearing of jumpers during hot weather and inform students when this is the case. At all other times, jumpers should be worn in school; students can still ask to take them off, but should start and finish each lesson wearing them.

The rationale for insisting on this is very simple. Uniform is designed to ensure that there is no difference between students whilst they are in school. We insist that uniform is worn smartly, we believe that it is important in setting the appropriate tone for learning, and as ambassadors for the school, our students' attire has to be viewed positively. Some parents have suggested that we should be concentrating on other things; I would prefer that we didn't have to have conversations about how students dress (and in what), but if they choose to ignore the school rules, then this needs to be picked up.

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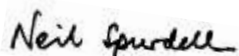


During this week, all students will be reminded of our expectations, which are easy to follow. In the remainder of this week, any student not following these rules will be reminded of what they should and shouldn't be wearing.

From next Monday, 16th January, any student seen with a hoodie, socks worn inappropriately, or a nose stud will have them confiscated for the remainder of the day; students with nail varnish will be sent to Student Services to have it removed; and students wearing trainers will be asked to swap for daps at Reception or a parent phoned to see if they can bring in their child's shoes.

The vast majority of our students adhere perfectly to the uniform guidance but it is our intention that this is the case 100% of the time and we are very grateful to you in supporting us in helping us maintain our high standards. If there are any issues in terms of accessing the correct items for whatever reason, for example personal finance, then please contact the relevant Year Head and we can look at how we might sort the problem together.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Spurdell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Neil Spurdell
Headteacher