



Dear Parents/Carers,

Ahead of the half term break, we wanted to write to you to thank you for your support in ensuring that students dress correctly for school and have the right equipment, but also to remind you of our expectations so that all students make a strong start next term.

### Uniform

At the start of this school year, we explained the rationale behind school uniform, and have received a great deal of support from parents, but below is a quick reminder of why we have uniform and what our expectations are:

#### Why do we have a uniform policy?

1. To create social equity/equality
2. To ensure students remain safe during practical lessons
3. To ensure precious/ expensive items are not lost

#### Our expectations

On return from half term, all tutors and the leadership team will be carrying out uniform checks to ensure our high standards are met. Following a school holiday, students sometimes return with artificial nails, trainers, or new piercings that are not permitted. Please can we ask for your support in ensuring that students do not return to school with these items. (Our full uniform list is attached below and is on our website). When checking uniform at school, we hope that any uniform issues can be quickly addressed – **e.g:** skirts rolled down; jewellery removed, so that there is no or limited disruption to learning. However, if a student's uniform cannot be corrected in school, we will be contacting you to ask for your support in rectifying the situation quickly **e.g:** removing gel nails or bringing in correct footwear etc. We ask that if you have issues with an item of uniform you write a note or email your child's Head of Year, so that we are aware.

Footwear, in particular, can cause issues: shoes break and need replacing. If this happens, please write a note in your child's planner. This will be seen by their tutor and the leadership team; we can then allow a reasonable amount of time for school shoes to be purchased. We hope, however, that the half term holiday will give families an opportunity to ensure that all students have the correct footwear for the term ahead.

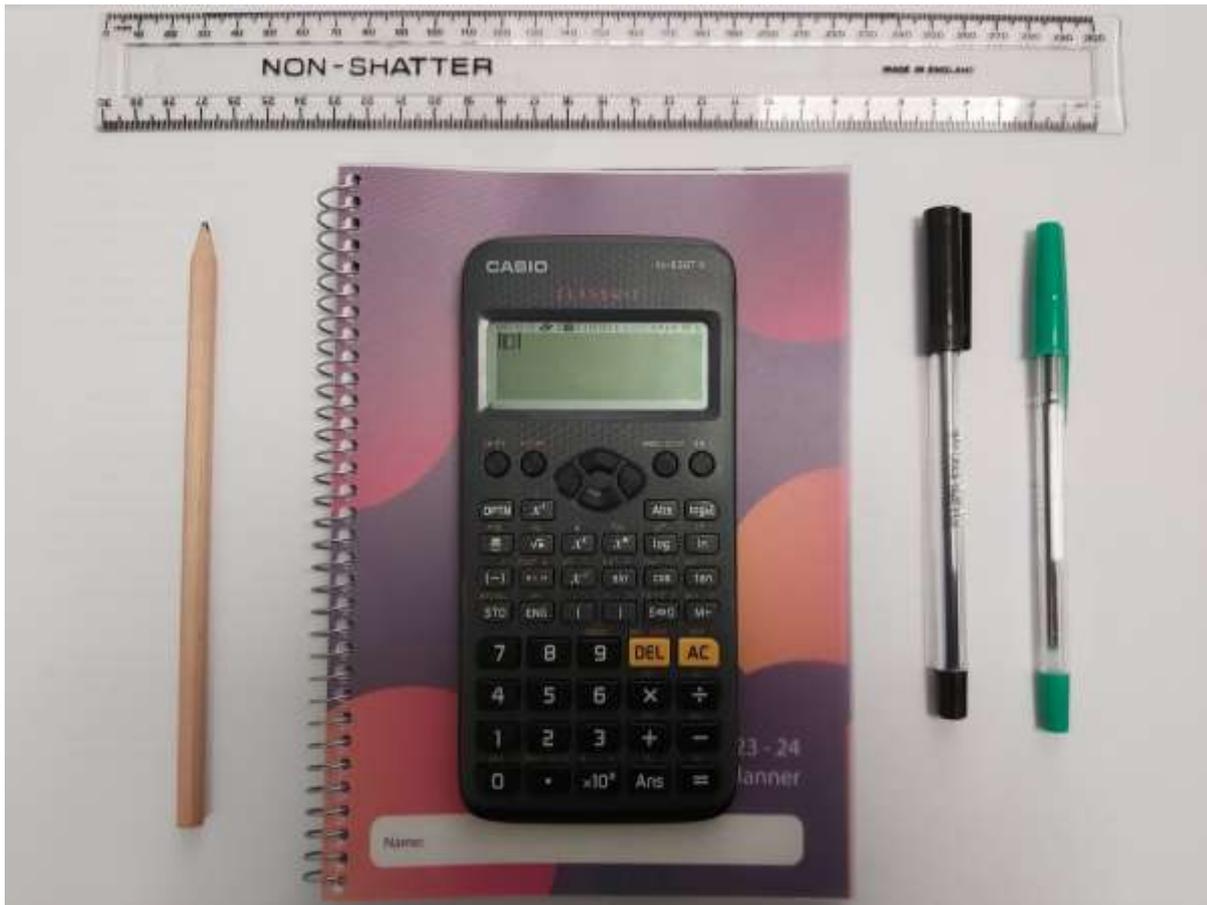
While we do not permit students to wear a nose stud or nose ring in years 7-11 (nose studs are allowed in the Sixth Form), we have changed our uniform policy so that students can wear a **clear retainer** so that the hole does not close. Please note, however, this only applies to a traditional nostril piercing. Septum or other facial piercings are not permitted at Sheldon; this includes the Sixth Form. Year Heads have a stock of clear retainers that we can supply if needed.

#### Financial help or support

If you are struggling with finances or need support with uniform, please let your child's Head of Year know. However, we hope that by reinforcing the expectations now, we avoid parents buying items that are prohibited, and ensure a disruption free start to a short but very busy term. Our uniform is at the end of this letter and on our website.

## Equipment

You may or may not be aware that this term we have had a big push on equipment checks in morning tutor time. In every tutor time, equipment mats like this:



are placed on the desk of every student and students are asked to place their corresponding equipment on the mat for tutors to check. Up until now, if a student has not had the correct equipment, the tutor has endeavoured to provide the student with the equipment to avoid learning time being lost in lessons throughout the day; however, sadly, we do not have an endless supply and sometimes that borrowed equipment has then been lost.

One of our goals at Sheldon is to encourage students to be independent, responsible and organised. These equipment checks that happen every day in the same way are designed to help build those skills. However, from the start of next term (19<sup>th</sup> February) we will still continue to support students with missing equipment by having pencil cases that they can borrow for the day in exchange for their mobile phone; however, a lunchtime detention will be issued to students who are persistently without equipment without a valid reason.

We understand that for some of our students, organisation is a challenge, and so we are asking parents to support us if they know that is an area of difficulty for your child by checking they have what they need for the school day.

In the case of calculators, we ask that all students have a scientific calculator. These will be used regularly in maths lessons as well as science, geography and a number of other subjects. Many lessons require the use of the various functions the calculators provide and all students having the same model allows us to demonstrate and support students to use their calculators most effectively. Our preferred model is the Casio FX83GT-CW scientific calculator. These can be purchased via ParentPay. We encourage you to label the back of the calculator with your child's name and Tutor Group so it can be returned should it be mis-placed.

In the case of planners, all students were issued with a planner at the start of the year. If a student has misplaced their planner, we will issue them with a small red exercise book to use instead. Students will need to place this on their equipment mat each day in place of the planner.

Many thanks for your ongoing support

The Leadership Team

#### Uniform List

**SHOES:** These must be robust, sturdy school shoes. Plain black ankle boots are also permitted.

**Trainers of any sort are not allowed.** Sometimes certain brands and retailers will advertise their shoes as school shoes; however, if they are of a trainer style then these are not allowed. Nike Air Force 1s are a popular shoe marketed as school shoes but are **not allowed at Sheldon.**

**SKIRTS:** These must be mid-grey, allow free movement and be no shorter than mid-thigh in length; knee-length or just above the knee is preferable. Skirts must not be rolled up. The following are all not allowed: light grey skirts, black skirts, straight skirts, skirts with slits or decorations – including buttons and zips as decoration.

**JEWELLERY:** Students are allowed to wear a watch and one stud per ear. All other items are not permitted.

Hooped earrings, facial piercing etc represent a health and safety risk by being caught or ripped during practical lessons. Students will be asked to remove any other items like bracelets (including friendship but not medical) and these can be collected at the end of the school day. Persistent offenders will have them confiscated for a term.

**A reminder:** facial piercings, including tongue or nose piercings, are not allowed.

**NAIL VARNISH, ARTIFICIAL or GEL nails** are not permitted. **A reminder:** students who arrive with these will be asked to remove their nail varnish or cut or remove gel nails.

**SOCKS:** These must be white, black, navy or grey. No visible socks are to be worn over tights. (*Plain black socks without a logo can be worn over tights if they are not highly visible*). Fluffy socks are not allowed.

**MAKE-UP:** Noticeable make-up is not allowed. **A reminder:** false eyelashes are not allowed.

**HAIR:** Extreme hairstyles are not allowed; this includes any shaved lines or unnatural hair colours. Hair must be all one natural colour. **However,** head wraps, braids and other cultural appropriate hairstyles are allowed, but should be in school colours.

**SHIRT/BLOUSE:** These must be plain white. They can be long or short sleeved without motifs or other decoration. Shirts must have a proper collar, suitable for wearing with a tie. **A reminder:** shirts must be worn with the top button done up and must be tucked in.

**SCHOOL TIE:** These are obtainable from the school office or Scholars. **A reminder:** ties must be worn with the wide end out and be of waist length.

**SWEATSHIRTS:** This must be a V-neck, long sleeved sweatshirt with the school logo. These must be worn over the skirt or trousers and not tucked in. **A reminder:** hoodies or other jumpers/cardigans cannot be worn over school jumpers.

**TROUSERS:** These must be mid-grey (not black) and of school trouser material only. **A reminder:** leggings, jeans and skinny style trousers are not allowed.

**SHORTS:** These must be mid-grey (not black), tailored shorts made from school trouser material only.