

Dear Parents/Carers,

## UNIFORM

Ahead of the new school year, we wanted to write to you with some reminders about our uniform and to explain to you why we have a uniform policy at Sheldon School. It is very important to us that our students look smart and this will be a real drive for us in September with some changes to how we respond to students who do not have the correct uniform.

### 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

A uniform policy allows all students to be '*uniform*' and been seen in the same way, despite coming from different social economic backgrounds. By looking the same, students cannot be singled out for bullying or name calling. When students or parents ignore the policy and allow or wear expensive jewellery or branded trainers, this creates inequality of the "haves" and the "have nots". We don't want parents or students to experience this peer pressure and be almost forced to buy branded footwear or jewellery, just to fit in. This is particularly prevalent at the moment when we are living through a cost of living crisis.

The second reason we have a uniform policy is to ensure our students remain safe whilst they are participating in practical lessons. Students take part in practical lessons like dance, drama, design technology and physical education on a daily basis; they also spend time engaging in play and break and lunchtimes. When they wear rings or bracelets, this increases the risk of them catching on objects and causing injury. Therefore, to mitigate this risk, we ask students to keep jewellery to a minimum.

The third reason is loss. If a student wears something expensive or sentimental and they misplace or lose it, it is upsetting. Therefore, items like this need to be kept at home.

### Our expectations

We are very fortunate that the vast majority of our students dress smartly in the correct uniform and wear it with pride. However, as we reach the end of the year, we notice a decline and are keen to rectify this before the students return in September 2023. During the first day and every few weeks, we will be carrying out whole year group uniform checks to ensure our high standards are met and remain throughout the year. We hope that many of these uniform issues can be rectified quickly– **e.g:** skirts rolled down; jewellery removed; students given black daps whilst they sort out appropriate shoes, so 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.

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We will be purchasing a stock of black daps over the summer to issue to students if they cannot change their footwear immediately, but we hope this letter will give parents as much notice as possible so that these won't be needed and that we start the new year on the right note.

### **The uniform policy**

**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.

**A reminder:** students will be required to change into black school daps if they arrive wearing trainers.

**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. **A reminder:** students will be asked to roll down their skirts if they are rolled up.

**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.

**A reminder:** facial piercings, including tongue or nose piercings, are not allowed. Any students arriving with these or with additional jewellery will be required to remove them and hand them over to their tutor.

**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. **A reminder:** students will be asked to remove any socks that are not allowed and hand these over to their tutor.

**MAKE-UP:** Noticeable make-up is not allowed. **A reminder:** false eyelashes are not allowed and students wearing noticeable make-up will be instructed to remove it/tone it down.

**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 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. Students wearing these will be asked to remove them and hand them over to their tutors.

**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.

### **Financial help or support**

If you are struggling with finances or need support with uniform, please let your Head of Year know. However, we hope that reinforcing the expectation now, we avoid parents buying items that are prohibited for September and risk purchasing items twice.

We hope all students and their families have a fantastic summer and we look forward to welcoming them back in September.

Yours faithfully

The Leadership Team