

Our ref: PJS/DKP

22 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Like all of us, I am awaiting the Prime Minister's announcement this afternoon with some interest. We will be planning the return to school as soon as we know the details and let you know once we have firmed up the plans. Sometimes parents contact us within hours of an announcement asking what our plans are, when we have had no more notice than the general public – so please be aware that it will take us a few days to confirm our arrangements, depending on what the demands are for testing and when the new guidance is issued.

In the meantime, I have attached a short questionnaire regarding the school uniform. As you will know, we changed the school logo this year in order to freshen up the image of the school and signal our new beginning. I am pleased to report that our applications for places in Year 7 for this year are significantly up on last year, which I think reflects the growing reputation of the school – so thank you to all of you who have 'talked up' Aldworth over the last year. As the logo has changed, we then need to consider the uniform. I understand that uniform can be expensive and let me reassure you that I'm looking to change the uniform when parents buy new or replace and there **will be no requirement for parents to buy a new uniform just for the new logo.**

The basic proposal is to keep the uniform similar but just incorporating the new colours and logos, however it is a perfect opportunity to review what we have. The process involves consulting parents and students and those views will be taken into consideration when we make our final proposal to the governors. What I am interested in is those practical things like how well things wash and wear, that often get overlooked but make a real difference in how effective the uniform is for parents and students.

The link to the survey is as follows:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RDeYj-ydTkeopTEzNBRyUqRhI2HYjWRIsTZZtb7AYEIUQkpLRjk3Q1BZNIVLV1A3OFdPM0RROTNTTC4u>

I hope it should take no more than five minutes to complete. Our aim is to have a uniform that is distinct and practical, but also smart and reflects the ambitions of the school to be seen as one of the top schools in Basingstoke with high aspirations for our students. Another focus has been on trying to minimize the number of 'branded' items to allow parents to shop around for good prices. The current branded and/or compulsory uniform items are in the tables on Page 3.

From a school point of view the biggest challenge is always the length of skirts, hence why we have a standard skirt to help manage that – however girls have the choice of wearing trousers which can be non-branded. We are removing the fleece from the PE kit as it has become increasingly unpopular and replaced it with a PE jumper which serves the same function but is cheaper.

School uniform is a balance between price and smartness, it's one of those decisions where not everybody will be happy, so although we may not go with your preferred choices, I hope you will at least appreciate the option to comment and have your views heard.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



P Jenkins
Headteacher

Uniform Consultation

The balance with uniform is to have something that is smart, but affordable. We aim to have a number of standardized branded items in order to give the sense of a uniform, allow for clear identification of our students in the community and to avoid inappropriate choices. Our branded items are:

Item	Branded	Not Branded
STANDARD UNIFORM		
Jumper/Blazer	X	
Skirt	X	
Tie	X	
Summer polo	X	
Shoes		X
Trousers		X
Shirts		X
Socks		X
Coat		X

We propose to reduce the number of branded school items for the school PE kit from 5 items to 3.

Compulsory Items of PE Kit	Must be purchased from Skoolkit	Can be purchased from <u>any shop</u>
Fleece AND/OR black sports jumper	.	
Black and white shorts	.	
Black and white polo shirt AND/OR black and white rugby shirt	.	
Football boots		.
Mouth guards		.
White or black sports socks		.

Additional Items of PE kit	Must be purchased from Skoolkit	Can be purchased from <u>any shop</u>
Black or white Football socks		.
Black or white upper and lower body thermals/base layers		.
Shin Pads		.
Black tracksuit bottoms		.
Black Sports leggings		.