

21/3/19

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the uniform consultation which has been running since November.

Thank you to those of you who took the time to write and express your views. I would also like to express how impressed I have been with a number of mature students who positively engaged with the process and have been invaluable in designing and deciding the new uniform. Not only have they expressed preferences (and objections!) to certain suggestions and options, but they have articulated their ideas in a reasoned, ambitious and intelligent manner. I would like to share some of their thoughts with you below.

“The uniform we have at the moment is a bit scruffy and too simple – we look young like a primary school and it’s impossible to make yourself look smart. The polo tops are poorly fitting and look a mess in no time. We want to look smart. Wearing what we’re wearing at the moment makes us feel inadequate compared to other schools with smarter uniforms. Being allowed to wear trainers I (we) feel pressured to wear my best ones to look good and fit in. You can buy nice school shoes from Primark for just £6 – obviously it’d be better if we all wore them and no-one stood out, but whilst I’m allowed to wear my good trainers I’m obviously going to. The trousers all the girls wear are fashionable and we like wearing them, but when you think about it we don’t look right wearing very tight fitted trousers for school. We want to fit in and look good but when we think about it we’d rather look smart and we’d feel better looking smart. The tailored trousers are actually not that bad at all. When we tested them they look miles better on than on the hanger. Skinny trousers just look stupid and cheap with shirts and ties and we don’t want them anymore. We definitely want shirts and ties and have chosen the best tie to match the logo colours. The blazer is really smart and a nice colour (better than the first options.) We know not everyone will want to wear a blazer and so we have suggested that the uniform be shirt and tie, tailored trousers (black) and either blazer or jumper (both with school logo) – and if you like jumper and blazer together. The final decision was on the skirt some of us preferred pleated, some straight. We think that either would look good so long as they are all black, a respectable length and not tight. We felt really smart dressing up in our new uniform and think that what we have chosen and suggested will make a big difference. Feeling good about what you wear, and having pride in your appearance is important and we feel that what we have suggested will make us do that.”

As such, the Governors and Leadership team have decided that from September 2019 the new school uniform will be:

- Black School Shoes (NOT trainers)
- Tailored Black trousers (NOT tight fitting or leggings)
or Black Skirt (Pleated / Half Pleated / Straight – NOT tight) of respectable length
- White shirt
- School Tie – *available West Cumbria Embroidery*
- Blue School Blazer (with logo) – *available West Cumbria Embroidery*
or School Jumper (with logo) – *available West Cumbria Embroidery*

We understand that uniform costs may be of concern to some parents and as such, the intention is not to expect students to wear the uniform before September. We are also aware that many students are excited about the new uniform and would like to wear it immediately; therefore, we will allow students to wear the new uniform any time from the summer term onwards as it is phased in. Students going into Year 11 are not expected to purchase the new uniform.



We hope that you are as excited and positive about this change as clearly our students are. Should you have any questions relating to the uniform (including prices and stock availability) please feel free to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

J. Schafer

Judith Schafer
Executive Headteacher