



10/05/24

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is often said that you only get one chance to make a first impression, and while this may be an overused justification for school uniforms, it can't be denied that there are those out there who will judge a school on the way their students are presented. While I could argue that this is a rather superficial reason for having a school uniform, I believe that requiring our students to wear the correct uniform prepares them for a day of work when they put it on and helps to balance out the social differences which become apparent on non-uniform days (when most schools experience a drop in attendance).

We have worked hard with our uniform suppliers to ensure that our uniform expectations are not excessive, and that the quality of the compulsory items is good enough to ensure they last. We have also followed Government guidelines on affordability and have set up a 'Uniform Swap Shop', which has run three times in the past year and a half. In addition to this we have included some adaptations to PE kit expectations to reflect the changing cost of living and the fact that some students have PE twice weekly.

Bearing all of this in mind, I am writing to you with some uniform updates, questions and expectations.

## Summer Uniform

In recent years, during our summer terms we have experienced extended periods of hot weather, with temperatures in the high twenties and low thirties, which have led us to post social media messages giving permission for blazers to stay at home. Instead of fluctuating between blazers on and blazers off, I am proposing a 'Summer Uniform' adaptation to the uniform policy, whereby after the May half term holiday students do not have to wear blazers for the last half term of the summer. This would mean students would be expected to wear their shirt and tie and they may choose to wear their blazer or not. However, a jumper is not a replacement for their blazer at any point in the year. Jumpers may only be worn under blazers and must be V necked knitted sweaters/jumpers, not round necked sweatshirts (these are available with the school logo on from our uniform suppliers or can be completely plain black V necked fine knit jumpers). Students are also only allowed to wear a coat over their blazer, not instead of a blazer. In the summer term, if children choose not to wear a blazer, we do not want to see coats or sports jackets worn instead. Our rule with phones is that they should not be seen or heard in school. Currently students should keep their phones switched off and in the inside pocket of their blazers. Should children choose not to wear a blazer in the summer term, their phone must be kept in their bag and not trousers pockets.



Compulsory items – shirt, tie blazer  
(blazer will become optional in the last half term of the summer)  
Coats can be worn over blazers but NEVER instead of blazers.

V necked knitted (plain or school logo only) can be worn under blazers –  
NEVER instead of blazers.

In addition to uniform adaptations for the warmer summer term weather, it is more important than ever that children bring a refillable water bottle to school. It can become very warm outside and a hat/cap for wearing outside is encouraged and sunscreen would be useful.

## School Shorts for summer term 2

Despite our best efforts to secure a supplier for school shorts, we have been unsuccessful. We have, however, decided to trial for the next half term, school shorts instead of trousers that are readily available from retailers such as Sainsbury and M&S. Links below give examples of suitable shorts; whilst these shorts are described as 'boy's shorts' they can be worn by boys or girls. They MUST be black tailored shorts, not cargo style or sports shorts and not too skinny. They cannot be rolled up or cut offs and should be knee length or just above near knee length. Please be advised that if you wish to purchase shorts for your child for the next half term and are uncertain as to whether they will be allowed, please send your child with them in a bag to school for checking with their head of year and keep the receipt just in case you need to return them.

[Buy Black Classic School Shorts 2 Pack 5 years | School shorts | Tu \(sainsburys.co.uk\)](#)

[Buy Grey Generous Fit Classic Plus Fit Shorts 2 Pack 4 years | School shorts | Tu \(sainsburys.co.uk\)](#)

[Boys 2 Pack Black Classic School Shorts \(3-13yrs\) - Matalan](#)

[Buy 2pk Boys' Slim Leg School Shorts \(2-14 Yrs\) | M&S Collection | M&S \(marksandspencer.com\)](#)

### PE Kit

While we have made some adaptations to our compulsory PE kit to make it more affordable (based on some parent feedback), black mini shorts or Lycra cycling type (as shown in the image below left) are not part of our PE kit and are not to be worn in school.

All students are expected to wear the WHP PE T-shirt and either joggers, leggings, or WHP football shorts.



Compulsory item:  
WHP logoed PE top  
plus ...

Optional items – ¾ zip jumper, WHP joggers, WHP football shorts, WHP Lycra leggings.  
Alternative PE kit items: plain black sweatshirt (NOT hoodie), plain black joggers, plain black leggings. Logos must be smaller than a bank card on any of these alternative items.



PE kit does NOT include mini shorts or short football shorts, hoodies, or items with large brand names / logos on them. Students will receive a sanction if they choose to wear incorrect uniform. All black items.



While school trousers are worn well by the vast majority of students, I would like to remind a very small handful of students that leggings are not an alternative to trousers, especially as shirts are expected to be tucked in at all times and my proposal to make blazers optional as a part of Summer Uniform, would see shirts tucked into leggings which is not a comfortable option.

## Skirts

I would also like to raise the perennial issue of skirt length; skirts must be on, or slightly above the knee at their shortest and it is clear that for some students, whose skirts were long enough in Autumn 2023, Summer 2024 requires a new skirt. I am especially referring to students who are in the habit of holding the sides of their skirts down when they are walking around school because they are so short; it is clearly uncomfortable and impractical for them, especially in the summer when thick tights are no longer worn by many. I appreciate that many parents do purchase skirts of suitable length, but these are being rolled up on arrival to school despite tutors/staff requesting that they be unrolled. We have a large collection of skirts at student support, so any overly short skirts will need to be swapped for one of ours until a longer skirt can be bought (financial support is available if your child has grown out of uniform items and the cost is preventing them from being replaced – please contact your child’s form tutor or head of year).

My final uniform expectation reminder is around hair, nails and make up. This is an expectation that is fairly simple to outline; all should be natural. We do not allow students to dye their hair extreme/unnatural colours and we do not want to see natural beauty replaced by an excessive amount of makeup, false eye lashes, or dangerously long or painted nails. We recognise that there is a lot of pressure heaped on young people from their peers and social media, so our approach ‘frees up’ young people from these demands. Students have 13 weeks of holiday annually in which they can express their personal style through hair colour, makeup, nails lashes and jewellery (which must be kept to one pair of stud earrings only – no rings, bangles or visible necklaces). In terms of jewellery, we have in the past confiscated and issued a 10-minute correction with jewellery returned the same day. Students have been informed that confiscated jewellery will now be kept for 1 week before being returned. We are seeing some smartwatches being worn by pupils in all year groups. Our policy is clear that these should not be brought or used in school.

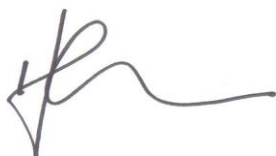
## School Shoes

Having shared a lot of items that students must and must not wear, I wanted to invite your opinions regarding an adjustment to the rules on school footwear. Currently we require students to wear plain black flat leather/imitation leather **shoes** (not trainers) or plain black ankle boots (no visible logos on footwear), however, I am aware that shoe retailers follow the trends and that more shoes are starting to look more like smart trainers, than more traditional school shoes, so I would like to ask if you would support an adjustment which allows students to wear completely plain black trainers as their school shoes.

Please can you review the link below and advise by answering the quiz question if you are in favour or not in favour by Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> May 24. <https://forms.gle/c8283VwcfgbNTVbm7>

In our most recent Ofsted inspection it states that “There are high aspirations for all pupils at Bramcote College” and this is indeed true; I believe that making sure that a relatively small thing, like uniform, is right, is important. Being suitably dressed sets the tone for the working day and gives a sense of equality and community. I am, however, also happy to listen to our community and make adjustments to keep pace with the world we all live in.

Warm regards



Heidi Gale  
Headteacher