

13th January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Change of School Uniform from September 2022

From September 2022 we are changing our school uniform. You may well have been aware of these changes as they have been planned for a significant period of time but were delayed last year because of the pandemic. Stakeholders including students, staff, parental groups and governors have been involved in the decision to introduce a new uniform that is higher quality, better value for money, more environmentally friendly and better reflects our school values. We also want, as a school who achieves high standards and is oversubscribed in all year groups, to ensure our uniform reflects our pride in our students and local community.

The change will impact pupils in Years 7 to 10 (from September 2022) and will be optional for Year 11 students (current Year 10) as we understand that families of pupils who are currently in Year 10 may have invested in uniform that will still fit in September and they can choose to wear this.

Following a rigorous and competitive process, our new school uniform and PE kit will both be supplied by Michael Sehgal and Sons who most of you will be familiar with as our current suppliers for some of our uniform. This will help simplify the ordering process for families. They have worked closely with us to ensure the change benefits our children and your families in the following ways;

- We are maintaining the low cost of our uniform when compared to other local schools. Whilst the overall cost of the uniform increases by £2.48 if a skirt is purchased, it is reduced by 52p if a student chooses to wear black trousers. We have also negotiated a three year price freeze to support families.
- The new blazer is of a significantly higher quality than the current blazer whilst the price remains unchanged. The new blazer will last longer and therefore prove better value for money.
- The new blazer and skirts are made from recycled materials. The current uniform is not. This helps towards our aim to reduce our impact upon the environment.
- We will introduce a second hand uniform option from 2023-24 to support families who would wish to purchase this option.
- We will be supporting low income families in the school through a scheme that is detailed [here](#).

Specific details of the prices of our new uniform are detailed below.

	Blazer	Skirt*	Tie	PE Top	Total
Current Compulsory Uniform Pricing	£26.99	£16.99	£4.50	£11	£59.48
New Compulsory Uniform Pricing	£26.99	£19.99	£4.99	£9.99	£61.96

** compulsory should students choose not to wear trousers*

Details of new uniform

We will communicate, over the coming weeks, the details of how our new uniform can be purchased. However, it is important to note that each year group will still be distinguishable through their unique tie colour and that the school trouser, shirt and shoe requirements will remain unchanged. Images of the new uniform can be accessed [here](#).

Guidance on replacement of current uniform items

We appreciate that this news will mean that families need to consider decisions regarding replacement uniform between now and September. It is important to note that because trousers, shoes and shirts are not changing, families can continue to purchase these items without concern that they will be obsolete in September. That is not the case with blazers, skirts, ties or PE tops. We therefore recommend the following:

Blazers	If a child needs a replacement blazer or skirt between now and July you should contact your child's pastoral leader as we have some stock in school that can be provided.
Skirts	
Tie	When we enter the summer term (May 2022) we will loan ties to students who do not have one.
PE tops	Families should not purchase replacement PE Kit and we will allow students to use appropriate alternative sports wear * until the end of this school year. *Guidance can be accessed here .

We appreciate that changing the school uniform is not always easy and hope you agree that our new uniform both improves the presentation of students whilst also offering higher quality and value for money and also impacting less on the environment.

Yours sincerely



Fraser Turnbull
Headteacher

Registered in England No. 7729766

Whickham School,
Burnthouse Lane, Whickham,
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE16 5AR

T: 0191 496 0026
E: info@whickhamschool.org
www.whickhamschool.org

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

