

21 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support with the incredibly high standards of appearance that we have achieved throughout this school year. This letter includes important information regarding reminders of our uniform expectations and other important details that will allow you to prepare for September, and will again ensure high standards are achieved in the new school year. Your help and support with ensuring our high standards are achieved is greatly appreciated.

School Uniform

We now have a new online uniform supplier called Stevensons. The website address is www.stevensons.co.uk please use the "find your school" facility on the Stevensons website to purchase uniform.

There is a reminder in the table below of our school uniform, plus other important information below the table that we would like to remind you of.

Item	Colour and Design
Blazer	Grey with badge (<i>supplier only</i>).
Shirt	White shirt with a collar, long or short sleeved.
Tie	Light grey and burgundy stripe (<i>supplier only</i>).
Trousers	Plain black - Not denim or denim-style jeans & no large flares. No very tight trousers or leggings. No fashion trousers with decorative buttons, belts or pockets.
Skirt	Black knee-length box pleat skirt (<i>supplier only</i>).
Shorts	Tailored black shorts (<i>supplier only</i>). Must be worn with black or white ankle or knee high socks and black school shoes.
Shoes	Plain black polishable shoes with a sensible heel. Black trainers, trainers of any type or sport shoes are not allowed (i.e Air Force 1). Boots should only be worn under trousers. Shoes with high or stiletto heels are not allowed. No canvas, casual shoes.
Socks	Plain black or white ankle or knee high. Over the knee or mid-thigh socks are not allowed.
Tights	Plain black or tan – recommended with a skirt.
Jumper (optional additional item)	Burgundy v-neck with school badge (<i>supplier only</i>). Only to be worn under the blazer.

PE Uniform

Item	Colour and Design
PE Shirt	Burgundy shirt with school logo (<i>supplier only</i>). Black shirt with school logo - BTEC Sport Students only in Years 9, 10 & 11 (<i>supplier only</i>).
Black Shorts and Skort	Black compulsory (<i>supplier only</i>).
Socks	Black or white socks. Long black socks required for fixtures.
PE Zip Top (<i>optional</i>)	With school logo (<i>supplier only</i>). Burgundy for Years 7 & 8 and Core PE in Years 9, 10 & 11. Black for BTEC Sport Students in Years 9, 10 & 11.
Black Tracksuit bottoms/Sport leggings (<i>optional</i>)	Please ensure that leggings are sport specific and not fashion leggings. Both tracksuit bottoms and leggings must be plain black.
Trainers	For all students black soled trainers cannot be worn in the Activity/Dance Studio or Sports Hall unless "non-marking". Gymnastics is performed in bare feet.
Shin pads and gum shield	

Skirts and Socks

Please can I remind you that the school skirt must be a box pleat style and of **knee-length**. Any socks must be ankle socks or knee high in length and not over knee/mid-thigh socks. Over knee/mid-thigh socks are not permitted.

Jewellery

Please remember that the only jewellery permitted is one small pair of stud earrings and a wrist watch. Other forms of jewellery (e.g. rings, necklaces, bracelets, fashion bands, nose studs/rings, tongue studs, lip studs or rings, eyebrow studs or rings) are not allowed. Any such items will be confiscated from students.

Students who decide to have body piercing carried out during term time will be expected to remove the stud/ring etc. Clear studs or plasters covering such items will not be permitted as an alternative. Students who do not follow these rules can expect to be sanctioned until these items are removed and the matter is resolved.

Top Coats and Sweaters

Coats must be waterproof and predominantly of a plain colour without excessive patterns or designs. We particularly insist that hoodies, cardigans or sweatshirts must not be worn as a top coat as they are not waterproof and detract from the appearance of the uniform. Please be aware that students wearing items which are not compliant with our uniform policy will have these items confiscated, and the item returned at the end of the school day.

Please note that the burgundy Oakmoor jumper is available from the uniform supplier as an optional item and can be worn under the blazer as an extra layer. Other jumpers, sweatshirts, cardigans, hooded tops etc apart from this jumper are not allowed.

What do you do if your child is unavoidably unable to wear full correct uniform?

In these circumstances please provide your child with a note explaining the problem and when you expect this to be resolved. This can be written in the student planner. Please be aware that the school reserves the position to decide if this is an acceptable reason. If this is the case, your child will be issued with a uniform slip/short exemption until the matter can be resolved.

Please be aware that if a child persistently arrives to school not wearing full correct uniform without a note explaining a valid reason, they will be sanctioned until the uniform issue is resolved.

Hairstyles

As written in the student planner, please can all hairstyles be moderate and appropriate for school. Please avoid lines being cut into the hair and shaving hair any shorter than a grade 2. Please avoid hair dyes of extreme, unnatural bright colours.

Nail Polish and False/Acrylic Nails

Nail varnish is not permitted, nor are false/acrylic nails. Students who decide to paint their nails or apply acrylic/false nails during term time will be expected to remove the polish or the acrylic/false nails.

Punctuality and Attendance

Good habits around punctuality and attendance are an important part of educational success and an essential preparation for later life at college, university or work. Our benchmark attendance figure is 98%. We ask that all students aim for 100% attendance and no less than 98%. Parents/carers will be notified if your child's attendance falls to a critical level.

Please also be aware that students arriving late to school and lessons can cause significant disruption. Good punctuality is an important life skill to master. For this reason, we take punctuality seriously as you would expect. **Any child arriving late to school will be issued with an after school detention, starting with 30 minutes and escalating to an hour in cases where lateness is repeated/not improved. In addition, arriving late to lessons will also include the loss of break.**

The school offers several rewards for excellent attendance and punctuality and we encourage all students to embrace these.

Equipment

It is important for each student to be fully equipped for every day at school. Please ensure that your child has their own equipment as listed below.

Essential and expected please

A bag big enough for A4 books/folders

Pencil case

Black pens (more than 1)

Pencils (more than 1)

Ruler

Rubber

Pencil sharpener

Colouring pencils

Scientific calculator

A reading book

Oakmoor student planner

Desirable items

Glue stick
Protractor
Compass
Green pen
Highlighters

Your support is appreciated to ensure your child is fully equipped for a day at school. It is obviously very disruptive to learning if a child arrives unable to take part in the learning activities for the lesson because they do not have the necessary equipment.

Mobile Phones

Your child is permitted to bring their mobile phone to school for the purpose of the journey to and from school only, as we recognise and understand this is an important safety measure.

At 8.30am, when students enter the school premises, they will be expected to switch off their mobile phones and place it in a school bag or pocket. The phone must remain switched off and out of sight for the whole of the school day. Students are not permitted to use their mobile phone for any activity, including to see what the time is.

Phones must not be seen or heard. If a student decides to have their phone on display (i.e – carrying it in their hand) or decides to use their phone, they will be asked to hand it to a member of staff and it will be labelled and locked away safely in the school reception. The phone will then be collected at the end of the school day by the student. We will encourage students to comply with our expectations and to not place staff in the position of needing to confiscate a phone. If a phone is not seen or heard, confiscation will not be necessary.

The only exception to this policy will be the rare occasion when a phone can be used for a learning purpose, for example as a stopwatch in a PE lesson. Any use in lesson time will be the decision of the teacher and students will be expected to comply with teacher expectations in these circumstances too. **Mobile phones or electronic devices must never be taken into exam rooms.**

Personal Items

All personal items are brought into the school at the students/parents/carers own risk. The school cannot accept any liability for any loss or damage of any item, for example, a mobile phone, music player, money, electronic devices or any item of personal or monetary value.

Cameras

To respect the privacy of all students and staff, students must not take photographs or record video during the school day unless this is directed by a member of staff as part of a lesson. This includes the use of camera phones. Students must also ensure they do not receive, share, publish or send any images taken without the school's knowledge and consent, and the permission and consent of the subject.

Water Bottles

We encourage students to drink plenty of water during the day as this has been shown to have a positive effect on brain function. Students may drink water during lessons provided it is in a clear plastic bottle with a non-spill sports cap. There are several water dispensers around the school site. Please note that **water only** is allowed during lessons. Special rules apply in some lessons regarding drinking e.g. science lessons.

Please also be aware that carbonated drinks of all kinds are not allowed in school, including so called 'sports drinks'. Staff will confiscate any such drinks and keep them until the end of the day. We also ask for parental support in trying to ensure that such drinks are not consumed on the way to school. Parents/carers should be particularly vigilant for various high energy or caffeine containing drinks as these often have a seriously detrimental effect on behaviour and concentration.

Please ensure your child has a refillable water bottle with them each day.

Sweets, Chocolate and Chewing Gum

Students are not allowed to eat sweets, chocolate or chewing gum of any kind during the school day. Please do not send your child into school with sweets, chocolate or chewing gum. If a student is found to have any of these items they will be confiscated until the end of the school day.

Cycling or Using a Scooter to Travel to School

We have a small number of students who cycle or use a scooter to travel to school. Please may I remind you that a permit must be obtained from the pastoral team to gain permission for this to happen, students can collect one if needed. A road worthy cycle or scooter is essential as of course is a protective helmet which must be worn when travelling. If a helmet is not worn, we will ask and expect students and parents/carers to rectify this and will remove the right to cycle/scooter to school if a helmet is not worn. As you will understand, this is purely due to the fact that we want and need our students to be safe when travelling. Students will also need a lock to secure their cycle or scooter to the shelter during the school day. Please can we also ask for your assistance in reminding students that they must be responsible and ride safely, thinking about their own safety as well as that of others in the community.

Rewards

Epraise - All students can be awarded Epraise points instantly in the classroom. Points will be awarded for various categories e.g. class learning, home learning, teamwork and attendance. Attending clubs and out of school activities can also be recognised. Points can be saved and spent in the online shop. Students also have the opportunity to donate points to house charities.

As a parent/carer you are able to access Epraise through the website or via an App available for both Android and iOS users, where you can view your child's profile. The system will use your email that is on the school SIMS system. If you would like to change the one the school currently uses, please phone/email the school office to get this amended.

Along with our Epraise system we will continue to reward good attendance and student of the week will also continue.

Many thanks for your support with these matters which are so important in setting our students up with a purposeful, business-like attitude, which will support their achievement. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful summer holiday and we look forward to seeing all of our students return in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Moral
Deputy Headteacher