

Dear Parent/Carer,

Changes to School Uniform, September 2018

I am writing to inform you of a change to school uniform that will be introduced from this September, 2018. This letter is to give you advance warning of this change and to ensure that if you are buying items of school uniform between now and the start of the new academic year that you are aware of the new requirements.

The change is being introduced to improve the current standard of uniform being worn by students in the school, particularly by our female students, and to ensure that we have a cost effective, smart uniform that is a representation of the high standards we uphold. We also listen carefully to our parents who have highlighted concerns over skirt lengths and tight trousers. It is a duty of the school to ensure our students are dressed appropriately and with dignity at all times.

There are currently students taking too wide an interpretation of what constitutes acceptable school trousers and school skirts. It is, therefore, one of our aims to eliminate this ambiguity, and we believe that parents will appreciate clarity over what constitutes correct uniform. The changes we are bringing in will ensure that our students look smarter, and will ensure that valuable staff time is not spent dealing with uniform related issues.

There will be further communication over the coming weeks, but it is important that we keep you informed throughout the transition period. The predominant change we are making, is that we are introducing standardised school trousers. These will have the St Benedict's logo embroidered at the pocket and will be available in two styles for boys and two styles for girls – a classic cut and a slimmer leg cut. There will also be a school skirt available to purchase, but this is optional. These trousers and the skirt will **only** be available to buy through the school.

We are keen to minimise expense for our students who only have a limited amount of time left at the school, therefore we are **not** expecting our year 10 and 11 students in September, to change to the new uniform. However, black skirts will no longer be part of our uniform in these years and may no longer be worn. If students in these years wish to wear a skirt, they will need to purchase one of the new school skirts. They may choose to continue to wear an appropriate styled, black school trouser, or purchase the new style school trouser, as they wish.

There is a summary below of the changes we are implementing; these will be covered in more detail later in the year.

- There will be **no change** this year to the upper half of the uniform. Shirts, ties, jumpers and optional blazers remain the same.
- Year 7, 8 and 9 students will move fully into the new uniform in September 2018.
- We will introduce standardised school trousers, embossed with the school logo, which will be available in two fittings and will be available only through the school.
- There will be an optional school skirt available, again, only available through the school.
- Year 10 and 11 students in September do not have to change to the new trousers, but black school skirts may no longer be worn as they will not form part of our uniform.
- Year 10 and 11 students may purchase the new school skirt and trousers if desired.

I hope the advance notice of this new requirement will enable you to plan your uniform purchases for the new academic year. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter and for your support for the standards we wish to uphold as a school.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Walker

Assistant Headteacher