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12<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Uniform, appearance and equipment

Uniform is an important part of our school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps allow students to feel pride in our school. It also ensures students are not put under any pressure because of the type of clothes they wear and all are treated equally. In addition, it helps to prepare students for life after school, where many will have to dress smartly for work.

We are aware that a number of parents/carers found sourcing a blazer difficult last year and therefore we have arranged for Lads & Lasses to stock our uniform. If your child has an existing blazer, that still fits them, we are happy for you to retain it this year, along with any grey sweatshirts you may have. However, moving forward parents have requested students to wear jumpers, particularly as we approach the colder weather on our return to school in September. Therefore, you will also be able to purchase black v-neck jumpers with the school logo on from our suppliers. In addition, skirts must be knee length and footwear must be **plain black leather shoes (Sports brands such as Converse or Nike Air Force 1 etc will not be allowed.)** I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that a full uniform list is on our website along with images. By informing you of these slight changes now, it enables parents/carers to be fully prepared before the new term. **From September, in order to maintain our high standards, if your child is not wearing correct uniform they will be sent home to change.**

Students often want to express individuality and/or enhance their attractiveness and feel that nail varnish, false nails, eyelashes, heavy eye make-up and piercings are the way to do this. This is not appropriate for the working environment in school. We do not want to encourage an environment where students are competing in terms of their appearance or how "fashionable" they look. We are aware that for students undertaking practical work in certain subjects e.g. PE, Resistant Materials and Food Technology nail varnish or extensions can pose risks. Long false nails can be trapped or ripped moving round the school through doors and corridors, causing considerable pain and upset. They can cause harm to others and these situations can easily be avoided. Again, nails must be natural in colour and **false nails, facial piercings and heavy make-up are not allowed.** If a student comes to school with nail extensions, they will be isolated during break and lunch time to minimize risk until the extensions are removed and students will be sent to their Head of Year to remove brightly coloured nail varnish.

We are mindful that make-up could provide a distraction during lesson time given that students may be tempted to remove items from their bags to 'top up' or 're-apply'. This would affect the learning and concentration of others and therefore make up should be "natural". Students may be asked to remove excessive makeup.



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Along with uniform, our expectations of student's basic equipment has changed. Students are now required to carry a **pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, red pen, scientific calculator- Casio fx-85GTX and a reading book**. These items will be checked alongside uniform on a daily basis to ensure that students are prepared for learning. This will prevent wasted learning time in lesson and maximise the time spent on engaging learning opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us raise standards at Smestow.

Yours faithfully,

J. Till

Mr J. Till  
Head of School