

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Clyst Vale Uniform Changes for September 2018**

It is proposed to change and clarify our College uniform for September 2018, which will affect only skirts and trousers. The change will apply to all year groups from 7 to 11 inclusive.

### **Rationale**

- It has been five years since the last major review and change in uniform. Most students and parents/carers have observed our requirements, but there are increasing numbers of students who are pushing the boundaries too far, especially in Years 9-11. We originally sought to be flexible by allowing plain black skirts and trousers, but student fashion, peer pressure, and high street designs have combined to produce a plethora of designs, styles and materials.
- There have been two main consequences: considerable time is spent discussing and arguing with students (and sometimes parents) about uniform issues. With education funding cuts, time is more precious than ever, and it should be better spent. Simplifying and clarifying uniform requirements will address this. The second consequence is the general appearance of students and the reputation of the College. Rightly or wrongly, we are judged against local competitor schools, and British culture equates standards in schools with the appearance of students.

### **Requirements**

#### **Skirts**

- From September 2018, there will be just one acceptable style of skirt: “a senior stitch-down pleat tartan skirt” in Taylor tartan. This is manufactured by Trutex, and will be available from Thomas Moore, as well as on-line. Waist sizes are between 20”and 40”, with between 2 and 5 lengths per waist size. To avoid any doubt, it will not be compulsory for girls to wear skirts; they have the choice of plain black trousers if they wish.
- As now, skirts should be worn with black tights, white socks, or bare legs.
- When choosing the length, this should be no more than 5cm/2 inches above the knee.

#### **Trousers**

- There will be two acceptable styles for girls, and two for boys. These will be available from Thomas Moore, and will come with an embossed Clyst Vale stud on the waistband.
- For girls, there will be two slim fit trouser options, "Trutex GTN (2 pocket)" and "DL 965, slim fit" manufactured by David Luke.
- For boys, the slim fit option will be “Slimbridge”, the regular option “Falmouth”, both manufactured by Banner.
- Occasionally, there are individual students, sometimes because of medical conditions, who cannot fit into regular sizes, and naturally we will be sympathetic to such students on a case-by-case basis.
- For both boys and girls, jeans or jean-style designs in trouser fabric are not permitted.
- Properly-tailored shorts in trouser material will be permitted, as they have been for many years.

- Parents of students who already observe the College's dress code should not have to replace perfectly serviceable trousers. So, if your child's existing trousers (both boys and girls) are clearly almost identical to the stated styles above *and* in terms of the trouser material, then for the first year (2018-19) we will allow them. The College will have a rivet gun which will enable us to apply the embossed Clyst Vale stud ourselves, and we will organise a programme during the summer term..

### **Other Uniform**

- There are no other changes to existing uniform, nor the introduction of additional items. The requirements for College jumpers, shirts, clip-on ties and plain black shoes will not change at all; hoodies remain prohibited; despite rumours, blazers are not being introduced.
- Please note that to improve availability and flexibility in "handing down" jumpers, there is no longer a requirement for College jumpers to have the colour flash of the relevant School. Thomas Moore will continue to use up their old stock, and the new jumpers without a flash will gradually roll in when it is time to renew them.

### **Costs and Financial Support**

- In making these changes, we have sought to ensure that the styles chosen are in low- mid cost ranges and represent good value for money. In cases of hardship, please contact the appropriate AtHoS in confidence to discuss what financial support might be available.

### **Queries and Further Information**

- In the first instance, please address enquiries to your child's AtHoS, or to Ann Hopkins, College Manager.