

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your families have had an enjoyable summer. At the end of last term I wrote to you with some clarifications and reminders to support your child's successful return to school in September and I repeat these below as a further reminder. In addition, please remember that Wednesday, 31st August is a Professional Development Day and only staff attend. Thursday, 1st September is when Year 7 start, along with those enrolling for the Sixth Form. Students in other years start on Friday, 2nd September. School begins at 8.35am. Pupils arriving after this time will be recorded as late. School ends at 3.05pm. Please avoid driving anywhere near to the School as Lovibonds Avenue can become very congested. Also, park with consideration for local residents and avoid blocking driveways. We recommend students walk or use public transport to get to school where at all possible.

You will be aware that in the past week students in Years 11 and 13 across the country received the results of their public examinations. We were very pleased to welcome these year groups to the School to pick up their results and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the vast majority pleased with their achievements. A summary of the results for Year 13 can be found [here](#) and for Year 11, [here](#). These results compare favourably with our historic results and we are very proud of the progress students made despite the circumstances of the last two years.

I set out below the clarification and reminders I originally sent on 22nd July. Students need to be aware that we will be checking uniform and equipment on arrival, even more than previously. It should be a rare occasion indeed that a child comes into school without the basics required for successful learning. Thank you for your support with this.

Uniform

Our uniform policy can be found on our website here [Uniform Policy 2022](#). This has recently been reviewed and approved by the Governing Body and takes account of the government's latest guidance on school uniform. As stated in the policy, our school uniform and PE kit can be purchased from our suppliers – Graduates in Orpington and Oz in Petts Wood. The PSFA also regularly holds second hand uniform sales at the School.

Clarification and reminders

School shoes

Your child must also wear black leather shoes (not suede, moccasins or trainer-style) with heels no higher than 3cm. Trainers may not be worn to school – trainers should only be worn in PE or Drama lessons. Boots may not be worn. We have noticed an increase recently in students who appear to have chosen to wear trainers to school even though they have school shoes. This is not acceptable and will be followed up with an appropriate sanction.

Jewellery and make-up

As stated in Rule 6 of our School Rules, jewellery is not to be worn, with the exception of one watch and a maximum of one small plain stud in each ear lobe. Other piercings are not allowed. Smart watches are not permitted.

As stated in Rule 5 of our School Rules, make-up, including nail varnish, may not be worn by students below Year 11. Make-up worn by Year 11 must be discreet and lightly applied and nail varnish, if worn, must be clear. False eyelashes and nails are not allowed. Fake tan, tinted eyebrows and the like are considered make-up and are also not allowed.

School equipment

Your child must have a set of equipment to support excellent learning. This must include:

- A pencil case with pens, pencils, ruler, eraser
- A calculator
- A reading book
- A refillable water bottle

Equipment provided by the School

We will provide all students with a new lanyard and their ID badge upon their return to school in September. Students will also be given a new planner. These items are provided for all students at the beginning of term. Replacements will, however, be charged for. It is expected that students will take care of these items – it is their responsibility to look after them.

Wearing the right uniform and having the correct equipment is fundamental to both a student's sense of belonging to the school community and their ability to learn successfully. They are also a sign that students are on track to understanding how they will function successfully in the communities and workplaces they belong to in future. I am grateful for your support and the part you will play in ensuring that your child is ready to learn when they return to school.

I wish you an enjoyable bank holiday weekend and look forward to seeing all our students and staff back at school later next week.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey
Head Teacher