



Saint Paul's Catholic High School

March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Change to uniform for September 2017

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

The current skirt for girls is black, with black tailored school trousers also being an option. As a school we will be replacing this with a black and white kilt from the start of the new academic year i.e. September 2017. Year 7 and Year 8 female students have been shown the kilt and have also been provided with opportunities to try them on. The kilts will come in a range of sizes and leg lengths to suit the varying needs of our students. We expect the kilt to last approximately two years and a suitable length needs to be purchased to ensure this. Girls also continue to have the option of black tailored school trousers. The kilts will retail between £17.50 and £19.50 (depending on size) and will be sold directly from school to avoid any further costs to parents. Suitable times and dates will be given in the summer term for these purchases. School will continue to support families who may struggle to purchase their child's uniform.

Student voice is very important to us, the response on these changes were extremely positive. The comments from students drew attention to the colour of the jumper. Students expressed that this did not suit the new kilt. We have listened to this and are in agreement that the black jumper would be a more suitable alternative. For boys we have also agreed that a black jumper is appropriate as part of their uniform and therefore this will also change from the burgundy colour that is currently worn from September 2017. We understand and appreciate that purchasing a school uniform is expensive, and therefore, in order to ensure that the current school uniform provides value for money, students will be permitted to wear either the 'old' burgundy jumper or the new black jumper in September 2017. However, only the new black jumpers will be available for purchase, which are already on sale in the local uniform supplier shops. It has been agreed with the uniform supplier at Debonair that the material will change to one of a higher standard with no additional costs to what they are currently being sold for. All students will be expected to be in the black jumper by September 2018.

The change is being introduced to improve the current standard of uniform being worn by students at Saint Paul's, particularly by our female students, and to ensure that we have a cost effective, smart uniform that is followed consistently by all of our student body. This change will ensure smarter standards of appearance from our students and crucially will mean that valuable staff time is not spent dealing with issues relating to problems with school uniform.

I hope the advance notice of this new requirement will enable you to plan your uniform purchases for the new academic year. Despite this change, our uniform still remains one of the most comfortable and easy to wear.

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

Mrs S Williams
(Deputy Headteacher)

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Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn.





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