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Executive Principal: Ms R Hindocha
Principal: Mr I Patel

18th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Re. Academy uniform – updates and reminders

Thank you to parents/carers for their support of our academy school uniform, almost all students have returned to school after the summer dressed very smartly in line with our expectations. As you know, we have high expectations for our young people, and our academy uniform is an obvious symbol that students share these values and have a pride in belonging to our academy community.

However, a small number of students will need to address outstanding uniform issues to ensure that they are in line with the rest of the school. Please see below for reminders about key uniform items:

In September 2019 we updated our academy blazer to feature the Orchard Mead logo. In line with a roll out plan which was communicated at that time, **students in Year 7 and 8 must wear the Orchard Mead Academy logo blazer**. In addition, we would like **all students in Years 7-10 to wear this blazer by January 2021**, giving extended time to support families. Students in Year 11 may continue to wear the old logo blazer as they have a very limited time left in school.

Students can choose to wear either the academy tartan school skirt or academy graphite grey trousers. In February we wrote to you to let you know that trousers **must be graphite grey business trousers**, these are available from **Uniform Direct**. These should be loose from hip to ankle and must not be leggings, jeggings or jeans. Students who are not currently wearing appropriate trousers must ensure that they are by **Monday 5th October 2020**.

Students **must wear plain, all black footwear**. Our policy states that there must be no coloured laces, stitching, logos or patterns. Heels must not be higher than 3cm. Students who are not currently wearing appropriate footwear must ensure that they are by **Monday 5th October 2020**. As advance notice, we wish to inform parents that we will move towards a footwear policy which does not allow trainers to be worn to school. We will communicate a timescale for this with you in readiness for next academic year.

Students are able to wear the grey and blue academy jumper underneath their blazer. This is available from **Uniform Direct**. **No other jumpers, hoodies or tracksuit tops are permitted in school.**

In line with our risk assessment for Covid-19, from Monday 21st September, students will be able to change for PE once again. **Students in Yrs7-10 must wear the Academy PE top**, available from Uniform Direct. Students in Yr11 may continue to wear the pale blue polo shirt if preferred but **no other t-shirt or top is permitted.**

If you are in financial hardship and require any support, please contact the school for an assessment into your eligibility for support.

We always attempt to work with our parents to find solutions together and we welcome the opportunity to discuss any questions you may have. Please note, the Academy reserves the right to decide what is deemed acceptable in all matters connected to uniform. Additionally, the Academy has the right to send students home to rectify uniform issues. This is not an exclusion.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Patel', written over a horizontal line.

Mr I Patel