



April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

UPDATE ON UNIFORM CHANGES – IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

Over the past two years we have worked incredibly hard to ensure our uniform remains exceptionally smart whilst remaining functional. It has also been a priority to ensure the number of compulsory branded items remains very low and that alternatives can often be worn/sourced. We have also worked with our School Council last year in changing the uniform policy to allow students some elements of personal expression.

For September 2025 there are some minor updates to our main uniform policy that you need to be aware of:

- **Socks must be plain white, grey or black with no logos** and must be 'formal' in style and **not fluffy**.
- We have removed the need for hair to conform to a particular colour allowing for some personalisation if desired.
- False nails remain banned for health and safety reasons, but furthermore, **ANY nails should be kept shorter in length**.

For September 2025 there are also some key updates to our PE uniform policy that you will need to be aware of:

- We are replacing the old red cotton PE polo shirt with a **new look 'technical' polo shirt**. This new style and material replicates what all other secondary schools wear in Gloucestershire. It looks much smarter; it wicks moisture away from the skin allowing students to feel more comfortable after physical activity; it will be easier to wash and dry at home and last longer. **This new technical top will be compulsory for any students going into Years 7 to 10 from September 2025**. It will remain optional for our new Year 11s in September. The tops are ready to view and pre-order now from Bateman's Sports and can be seen below:



Girls top



Boys top

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- **No jewellery of any kind will be able to be worn on PE days** (with the exception of a watch). This will mean that participation in PE is as safe as it can be; less time is wasted as students remove jewellery for PE and it will also remove the potential for earrings, bracelets, necklaces to get lost on PE days.
- **'Taped' earrings will no longer be acceptable in school.** The taping of an earring/piercing is an ineffective way to prevent earrings snagging and is now recognised as a health and safety issue. The tape also often falls off during physical activity adding litter to our site unnecessarily. **If students wish to get piercings, they MUST get these done during holiday times allowing sufficient times for healing.** Any piercings MUST be removed for PE lessons. Students unable to participate in PE lessons through their inability to remove earrings **will be issued an immediate C3 resulting in a 40-minute detention.**
- **'Bottoms'** including leggings, jogging bottoms and/or shorts/skirts must be **black, plain and with a logo measuring under 5cm.** With changing trends in fashion, we have seen excessively baggy bottoms with large logos being worn which are not fit for purpose.
- **Footwear MUST be appropriate for PE.** Again, with changing trends, we have seen an increase in 'fashion footwear' being worn that provides little ankle support and foot cushioning. Large 'skater/Van' style trainers, hard, flatbottomed 'Converse' style trainers and large 'platform'/wedge style trainers will not be permitted.
- Socks can now be white, grey, black or traditional red PE socks but **must not be fluffy.**
- **'Skins' may be worn** under their technical top but **must be black.**
- We continue to **encourage the use of gumshields and shinpads** as advised by PE staff.

A full revised list of our uniform expectations for September 2025 is attached to this letter. We will conduct a series of audits during the coming months to advise students how these changes will affect them for September and to ensure every student has the opportunity to meet these new standards.

Where students do not meet our uniform expectations:

- Where consent is given and it is practically appropriate, students will be allowed home to return with appropriate correct school uniform.
- Where possible, contact will be made with parents/carers at home for the correct uniform to be brought to school as soon as possible.
- Where possible, the school will loan students uniform for the day. This is not an expectation of the school, and the loan is subject to the availability of spare uniform.
- Students who are unable to meet our uniform expectations will spend their day in our refocus room until school uniform expectations can be met.

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I am exceptionally proud of how far the school has come in the last two years. We continue to develop a culture of high expectations and every day students rise to this challenge. I thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Hunter
Headteacher