

2nd October 2020 – Parent / carer update

Autumn 2020 modified uniform rules.

Dear Parents / carers,

Thank you for your continued support of the school and our efforts to keep your children safe during the current situation. I would also like to pass on my personal thanks to you for ensuring your children are dressed correctly each day – no mean feat having to remember which days are full uniform and which days are PE kit. We have tried to avoid challenging students if uniform was wrong in the first month. The priority has been to ensure they are in school and safe. Our attendance figures are incredibly positive so far and once again, I thank you for your support.

As we move into the colder, wetter autumnal season, we need to consider how best to balance keeping the children warm, dry and safe whilst maintaining a smart school appearance, which is consistent and fair. Therefore I have set out below the uniform rules to clarify them for your family. We will be telling children in tutor groups next week about the enforcement of the rules from 12th October. Any queries about the clarification of uniform rules should be addressed to your child's tutor in the first instance.

Lanyards are important for identification and social distancing of different year groups. They must be worn at all times except in PE lessons. Please let your son or daughter's tutor know by email or by writing in the planner if the lanyard or the ID card has been lost. A replacement lanyard can be purchased for £2 and a replacement ID card / holder can be purchased for £2.

UNIFORM DAYS

Testwood full uniform needs to be worn properly on these days. It is sensible for the children to wear a coat to and from school. Coats may be worn in lessons and corridors as windows are open to improve ventilation. Please remind your children that the blazer must be worn next to the shirt / blouse with no additional item between it - i.e. a jumper or sweatshirt. Training vests and running shirts may be worn under shirts and blouses to help keep warm. Coats may be worn OVER the blazer but not instead of the blazer.

PE KIT DAYS

Testwood PE shorts, Testwood house coloured tops, the Testwood fleece, Testwood joggers/ tracksuit bottoms and Testwood leggings (Year 9 and above only) may be worn. As the weather gets colder, from 12th October, students may wear the following additional items to and from school, in lessons and at break and lunch but not in PE lessons:

A plain sweatshirt – preferably black but must be dark coloured

A plain tracksuit bottom – preferably black but must be dark coloured

A plain jumper (knitted, woollen) – preferably black but must be dark coloured

As parents /carers, you have already gone to the expense of kitting out your children for this year and for this, I thank you however if you intend to purchase additional items to keep your child warm this winter, I would ask that you avoid fashion items with designer labels and logos. Expensive items brought into school could get damaged and also could lead to

unkindness between students who wear different brands. For this reason, the plain items are fairer (and cheaper) for all.

A small number of students have started to wear hoodies which have never been allowed at Testwood. From 12th October, we will be asking students to take them off if they are being worn. It would help enormously if you could ensure hoodies are not worn to school.

In addition, a small number of students have worn non-Testwood leggings on PE days. From 12th October, we will be contacting you to ask that the non-Testwood leggings are not worn again and may have to sanction the student if they repeatedly do so. The leggings are not permitted for students in Year 7 and 8.

The standard rules regarding make up and earrings still apply at all times.

If you could write a note in the planner or email the tutor to explain why these rules are not able to be followed it would be appreciated so that the tutor can contact you directly.

I apologise for the length of this update letter however it is important to keep you informed of the adjustments we are making to manage this difficult period of time.

Warm regards

Mrs Pitman