Uniform FAQs

Q: When will we start wearing uniform?

A: At the start of next session, August 2018. This was agreed with the Parent Council.

Q: Will uniform be the same for all year groups?

A: Yes, although, in time, we may look at badges or braid to represent pupil leaders (e.g. Pupil Council, Charities Group, House reps.) within the school.

Q: What about shoes - do these have to be black? What about trainers?

A: Yes, shoes must be black. Trainers may be worn, but again, these should be plain black (as plain as possible – i.e. black logos would be fine).

Q: I’m not sure I’ll be comfortable.

A: Both Options have been designed to allow for the inclusion of items which have soft seams, easy fastenings, etc. If you are at all concerned about this, please see your PT Guidance in the first instance.

Q: If we choose Option 2, will we have to wear blazers in classes?

A: No. The blazer is optional, and does not have to be worn in class, although you may, of course, wear it if you wish. There may be times when your teacher requires you to remove your blazer in class, i.e. if you need to wear an apron or lab coat.

Q: I can’t tie a tie! What will I do?

A: If Option 2 is chosen, we will run ‘tie tutorials’ to help with this ☺.

Q: May girls wear trousers?

A: Of course. Our uniform will be gender neutral.

Q: Will there be changes to what’s allowed regarding hair and make up?

A: No, this will remain the same.

Q: May I wear black jeans?

A: No, denim does not form part of either uniform option.

Q: May I wear leggings or shorts?

A: No. Neither of these items features in the two Options designed by the school community.

Q: What about House colours – how will these be included in the uniform?

A: Guidance teachers will be working with their groups between now and Summer to develop our House system, and decide which badge colour will represent each House. In time, we will look to incorporate these into the uniform, for example braid around the collar of the sweatshirt (if Option A) or blazer (Option B).

Q: Isn’t this going to be expensive?

A: We have a responsibility to source items which are cost-effective for families. We are confident that the supplier chosen for our badges and badged items offers value for money, and generic items such as shirts, trousers and skirts can be bought from any retailer. If preferred, and depending on the Option chosen, plain black jumpers can also be bought from any retailer, and our badge sewn or ironed on to these. Some families may be entitled to a school clothing grant of £50 per year. More information about this can be found at:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/assistance/school-clothing-grants/>

Q: Where, when and how do we get our uniforms?

A: Our supplier will visit the Academy between Easter and Summer to display items and to help pupils (including P7/new S1) get the right sizes. Orders can be delivered to school or to your home address (delivery charge for this option) year round.

Q: What will happen if we don’t wear uniform?

A: Given that significant percentages of the school community opted for a uniform, it would be disappointing and surprising if the wearing of it presented challenges. However, where this does happen, pupils will be discreetly spoken to in the first instance by their registration Tutor, to ascertain if there are any barriers to their wearing uniform that we can help reduce. Persistent failure or refusal to wear uniform will be addressed by the PT Guidance or Year Head as appropriate. We recognise that many parents/carers will be leaving in the mornings before young people, therefore unable to monitor dress, so we will work to support them in this – i.e. texts, discussions of how we can help.

On a more positive note, we would prefer to recognise and reward pupils who are working with us to shape our school identity through the wearing of uniform. Linked to this, our House system is an important aspect of developing school identity and pupil leadership, and we plan to issue House points to those sustaining uniform over a given period.

All of this – sanctions, recognition – is part of where we are going together as a school community. We do not have all the answers yet, but by working through things together, we will develop systems that are fair and reasonable for everyone.

Q: What happens to S4/5s who are not sure they are returning? Will they be able to buy a uniform after Summer?

A: Yes, this should be fine – sizing can be done before the holidays, and orders placed after as needed.

Q: Can black trainers have a white sole?

A: Yes.

Q: Do tights always have to be worn with a skirt?

A: No, tights do not have to be worn.

Q: What colour socks or tights?

A: We would imagine that most pupils will opt for black or white socks, and black or flesh-coloured tights. We would discourage the wearing of brightly-coloured or patterned tights.

Q: Can we wear knee socks with a skirt in the Summer?

A: Yes, but as with the earlier answer re socks/tights, we would ask that these are plain, not patterned/brightly-coloured.

Q: Will there be any new rules about bags?

A: No changes here.

Q: If pupils choose not to have a blazer, do we have to have a jumper? Where would the badge go if we don’t have a blazer or a jumper?

A: Given the variable temperatures around the school building, we would recommend that pupils are equipped with layers to mitigate against this! Further to this, we recognise that warm temperatures might mean pupils are more comfortable sometimes in shirts/blouses – in which case, if Option B is chosen, the tie would become the uniform identifier.

Q: If we are buying our own blazer, are there specifications to what it needs to have? Buttons/pockets etc.

A: No, but we would recommend taking a look at the blazer available through our agreed supplier, to ensure you get a close match. Any blazer would be expected to be a recognised ‘school blazer’ style, and not simply a jacket. This blazer (and indeed the supplier) have been chosen in part because of their value-for-money, so this is worth considering before sourcing elsewhere.

Q: Is there an option for wearing a tie with a polo shirt? Is there an option for an amalgamation of both uniform options?

A: There will not be any amalgamation of the two Options, however, collared shirts/blouses which are made from softer, jersey-style fabric will be permitted.

Q: Do we have to wear uniform if we have P.E. p1?

A: Yes, because the day begins with Registration at 9am.

Q: Can we go home in P.E. clothes if we have P.E. p4?

A: Yes, pupils may go home in P.E. kit from p.4 classes if they wish.

Q: Is P.E. going to have a specific uniform?

A: A P.E. uniform might be a good idea as we move to Houses, and indeed for Interhouse events! P.E. staff support the idea of house kit (t-shirt) but it is not crucial at this point.

Q: Can we still wear leggings in PE?

A: Yes, leggings may still be worn as part of P.E. kit but, as currently, it needs to be sportswear leggings due to certain leggings becoming transparent when stretched. Additionally, they should be in line with our kit/H&S requirements.

Q: What will be considered "non-branded shoes"?

A: All brands of footwear will be allowed, but we’d just want these to be as plain as possible.

Q: What would the tie look like?

A: Our supplier is currently working on designs featuring either a striped or checked pattern. The tie would include the four main colours in our school badge – light blue, dark blue, green and purple, and these will each be allocated to one of the guidance Houses, too.

Q: Will children from the same family be allocated to the same guidance Houses so that items can be re-used?

A: Yes - this is always the aim in secondary schools. Historically, we may have ended up with different allocations due to our reduction from 5-4 guidance groups, and there is always the slight chance that a pupil might have to move class for some reason, but generally, yes.

Q: Will parents/carers be contacted if pupils are not in uniform?

A: Parental approval for uniform was very strong (86%). However, we appreciate that monitoring children’s attire may be challenging, since many parents/carers may leave earlier in the morning than their children. We want to support you in this, so plan to contact parents/carers when pupils are persistently not wearing uniform, so that we can work together to improve this.