

July 2019

Dear parent/carer,

Updates for September 2019

As we come to the end of the academic year we are celebrating both the many successes that students have achieved and planning for further successes next year. Our own Research School team continues to add much to the development of the students' classroom experience and we have a number of other exciting plans for our school site which we will share with you over the coming months.

In relation to uniform, and in response to a number of parental queries, we have made some minor updates to our policy to ensure that our expectations remain as clear as possible. We would ask you to read through the policy statement carefully with your son/daughter. The better our shared understanding of what is/isn't appropriate; the less chance there will be for any difficult situation to emerge (which both wastes staff time and could cause unnecessary embarrassment to your son/daughter).

To highlight a few specific areas

- Jewellery – The school uniform policy allows the wearing of a watch (not including smart watches which are not in our school policy) and one pair of 3mm gold or silver studs in the ear. They are permitted to be worn in the same ear. No rings, hoops, bars or other decorative earrings of any style are permitted. Necklaces, rings of any style and bracelets (excluding medically designated bands) are not permitted.
- Skirts – The school skirt remains the Salsbury Banner A Line skirt. This is the only skirt that is permitted by the school uniform policy. The skirt must be worn on the knee at all times and we ask that all parent / carers purchase skirts allowing for room and length for the growth of the child.
- Trousers must be plain black and straight-legged. Specifically, this means there is no tightening around the upper leg, or calf area and they are not shaped or fitted. Trousers that are skinny fit, or that have any lycra or similar material are not permitted. Further information regarding this including examples, and all elements of the uniform policy, are available on the website.
- PE Kit. In response to requests from parents and Governors, we have clarified that PE shorts for both boys and girls will be **plain navy blue** and with any logo not being bigger than thumb size. From September, black shorts of any description will not be permitted. Any white / coloured bands or stripes are not permitted. Leggings are only permitted for gymnastics and dance. They should be sport-specific leggings that are plain black only,

again with a logo that is no bigger than thumb size. Printed branding, designs / patterns or white stripes of any description are not permitted.

- Shoes should be formal plain black and without any form of coloured logo or detailing on them. Black trainers or boots of any style are not acceptable.

The full list of uniform/uniform expectations can be found on the school website.

<http://durringtonhighschool.co.uk/school-uniform/>. As ever, we would ask that, should you have any queries/questions, you contact the school directly in advance of any decision or purchase being made.

In addition to uniform, we are also updating our expectations in relation to students' use mobile devices (including mobile phones in school). As you may be aware, a number of schools have, over the last few years, put in outright bans on students bringing mobile devices/phones in schools. We are not introducing an outright ban. **From September 2019, students will not be able to have out (or use) their mobile device/phone at any point during the school day /on the school site.** This does not stop a student from bringing a phone/mobile device to school (to aid in safety when travelling to/from school). However, once on the school site it is an expectation that all devices will be switched off and safely secured. There are a number of positives that we expect to see from this change; principally we are keen to encourage students to talk to each other more during social times. Also, through updating our approach, there will be far fewer opportunities for students to use social media in a harmful or upsetting way.

If you do need to get a message to your son/daughter, you can do this via reception. Vice-versa, your son/daughter can contact you from the company office if there is an emergency or urgent issue.

Finally, we are keen too to stress to students and parents/carers our "leave it at the gate" approach. Put simply, this means that we expect any issue that occurs on social media/in the community to be kept away from the school. We will not accept community-related issues being brought into/disrupting the school environment. Inevitably, there may be situations which cause worry to students/parents/carers and we strongly advise, if this does occur, parents/carers to contact the appropriate outside agency (for example the police on 101). This will allow teachers to teach and students to learn in the calmest and safest environment possible. However, if you have a concern / question in relation to schoolwork or your child's well-being, as ever, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. It is very clear to us that, by working together, we will continue to be able to provide the safest and very best learning environment for your son/daughter to achieve well.

Should you have any specific questions in relation to this letter, please contact your son's/daughter's company leader.

Yours faithfully

Mr Woodcock
Head of School