



BURSCOUGH PRIORY ACADEMY

Burscough Priory Academy,
Trevor Road,
Burscough,
Lancashire L40 7RZ

Telephone: 01704 893259

Email: enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org

Website: www.burscoughprioryacademy.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 1869 LGW/EM

Dear Parent,

17th June 2019

Burscough Priory Academy – Changes for September

This year has been a time of rapid improvement in so many areas of our school. We are not where we will be yet, but we know that the vast majority of our parents, students and staff all agree that we have made huge improvements in so many aspects. The quality of our provision bears no resemblance to the school that Ofsted inspectors judged so harshly.

Any parent who would like to come in for a tour during the school day to see this change in action and to observe the calm, friendly, focused ethos we enjoy around the school, would be more than welcome.

Please contact our school reception to make an appointment at a time to suit you so that we can arrange a guide.

Changes to the School Day

One of the things we have decided to tweak further is the current timings of the school day. The purpose of this particularly is to remove the morning tutor period and to get students into lessons as soon as possible. This is a change we have introduced at our other two secondary schools and these timings have had a really positive impact.

The new timings for Burscough Priory are proposed to be:

- 8.00am Breakfast Club
- 8.40am Movement Bell
- 8.50am Lesson 1 (including registration)
- 9.50am Lesson 2
- 10.50am Break
- 11.10am Lesson 3
- 12.10pm Lesson 4
- 1.10pm Lunch
- 1.50pm Tutor time (assembly once per week)
- 2.15pm Lesson 5
- 3.15pm End of School Day
- 3.15pm – 4.15pm Extra Curricular clubs including Homework club (Library)

We have been in close consultation with the Local Authority regarding bus times. Some of these were changing anyway, as the LA have informed us they are reducing the number of buses they run and they are requiring schools to share contracts more than is currently the case. As soon as we have the final details we will send them to you in a separate communication.



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Change to the School Uniform

You will be aware that earlier in the year we asked for any parents who would be interested in a focused discussion group to consider the possibility of updating our uniform. During this process we met with this parent group and we also consulted our students, our staff and our Local Academy Council (previously our Governing Body).

The outcome of this consultation was a unanimous decision to upgrade our uniform.

Why are we changing?

The reasons for this were particularly around the whole idea of identity and renewal, embracing the new school name and acknowledging that we have now moved into a new era in the development of our school. We also felt that it was an outward reflection of the change and revitalisation that is taking place in school and an opportunity to showcase the positive pride our students feel in their school and as members of our community.

What are the underlying principles of the change?

In our discussions about the potential changes we were keen that any new uniform should not be so different as to be unrecognisable, it should be affordable and in line, if not cheaper, than other local schools and it should have an enduring quality and easy maintenance. We feel that we have achieved all of these things with the uniform we are bringing in.

When will the change take place?

The new Burscough Priory Academy uniform will be introduced for all students from September 2019, the start of the next school year. The arrangements for buying this uniform are outlined in the communication from our suppliers, Whittakers (which is attached to this letter). It will be available for purchase from 1st August.

Burscough Priory Academy Uniform

Our new uniform is now on display on the website <https://www.burscoughprioryacademy.org/parents/school-information/uniform> and we have attached an overview with this letter.

In brief, from 1st September 2019 the uniform will consist of:

- Navy blazer with school badge
- White shirt
- V-necked school jumper in grey with purple trim (non-compulsory)
- Grey trousers with BPA logo



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- OR Grey skirt with BPA badge - knee length only
- School tie (different design for Year 11)
- Plain, long black socks (no higher than the knee) or 40 denier plus tights (no patterns or ribbons)
- Black school shoes

Full details of the school uniform and the way in which it should be worn are outlined in our Uniform and Appearance Policy:

<https://www.burscoughprioryacademy.org/parents/school-information/uniform> .

We have asked the current suppliers not to sell the current Burscough Priory Academy uniform anymore and we would advise you not to buy any more items.

Affordability and Quality

In coming to a final decision about the new uniform we had to consider cost, ease of care and quality. After a very detailed process we are happy that we have the very best deal to cover all these areas. It is essential that none of our students feel left out or exposed if they can't afford the best versions of our uniform. It is the main reason we have simplified our uniform to a few key items.

It is also the reason we have opted for branded skirts and trousers. We are aware that these could be bought off the shelf but again this introduces variation on quality. As such we can ensure that all our students have skirts and trousers of a similar high quality and durability. For a cost comparison you can see below:

	New Burscough	Tarleton 18/19	Ormskirk 18/19	St Bede's 18/19
Blazer	From £30	From £28	From £27	From £27
Tie	£5.99	£5.50	£5.99	From £5.99
Skirt	From £19	£18	From £16	N/A**
Trousers	From £17	N/A	From £16	N/A**
Jumper	From £16	From £19	From £16	From £20
PE Top	From £13	From £15	From £13	From £13
PE Shorts	From £9	From £11	From £12	From £16

Skirt Length

For those students who choose to wear a skirt, we have spoken at length to our suppliers to stress that the skirt needs to sit half way over the knee at the start of the school year. They will advise you about this, so please be careful if ordering online. Any student who presents in September with a skirt that is too short will be required to purchase a new skirt of the correct length. This is non-negotiable. This may result in a brand new skirt being surplus to requirements because you will be unable to return it if it has already been worn but is too short.



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We have spoken to the providers about special arrangements where we have girls who are not as tall or who are taller than the average for their age group. If you think this may apply, then we would advise you going into the shop. For a very small number this may still not be appropriate, in which case skirts may need altering, if you would like to claim the cost of this alteration to ensure the skirt is in line with school policy then please contact us.

School Shoes

As with the skirts, it is essential that you do not pay for shoes that cannot be returned once worn if they are unsuitable. Our policy advises: plain, black, smart, sturdy shoes (Boots, trainers, shoes with logos, pumps, flimsy ballet/court shoes, fabric or high heels are not acceptable). If you are unsure of the suitability of footwear, please contact Ms McKinnon in advance of purchase.

Gender specific clothing

You will note that the uniform display board separates items by boy/girl. Please note that whilst these are the recommended fit our students are welcome to purchase and wear any items regardless of gender.

Is the PE kit changing too?

A new Burscough Priory Academy PE kit will also be available for September 2019. This will be compulsory for the new Year 7 students but current students may continue to wear the current kit until it needs replacing if you so wish. Briefly, the PE kit from September is as follows:

- Navy T-shirt, navy shorts and navy/grey socks, all with Burscough Priory Academy badge, for indoor and warm weather activities
- Navy reversible sports top or navy quarter zip top, both with Burscough Priory Academy badge, for outdoor sports
- Optional navy track pants, also with Burscough Priory Academy badge
- Football / rugby boots/ shin pads/ gum shield – staff will notify when these are required

Cost of New Uniform Subsidy

When our school went into special measures it enabled us to apply for a variety of grants to get us back on our feet. This was partly about rebranding (where we have kept the cost to a minimum) but also about improving the faculties around the school, the physical environment, the infrastructure and the curriculum resources (including ClassCharts).

These grants are very specific about what we can spend the money on. One of these grants enables us to subsidise the cost of our new uniforms.



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After careful consideration with our Trustees and our Local Academy Councillors (previously the Governors) we have calculated a subsidy of £30 for each of our current students.

We will be providing our uniform suppliers with the full list of current Year 7 – 10 students (names only, no other data will be shared and will not be shared beyond this function). When you purchase the uniform the total cost will then be discounted by £30. This is in recognition that some uniform items may not have needed replacing had it not been for this change.

If you are a family that is struggling financially, for whom this change will create additional financial pressure beyond the subsidy, please could you contact Ms McKinnon to discuss further.

If you have any other questions about any other aspects of this letter please don't hesitate to email us via enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org

Your sincerely,

Mrs L A Gwinnett

Executive Headteacher



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