

Friday 11th July 2025

Dear parents/carers,

I am not quite sure where the school year has gone! However, it has been another positive year for the students at Great Sankey High School. Year 11 and 13 were outstanding in their approach to their final exams. Our exam invigilators heaped praise on them with one saying, "In every session they have really impressed me with their great work ethic, lovely manners and respect for the invigilation team. It has been a pleasure to support them through this phase of their education." Last week, we welcomed the Year 6 students, who will be joining us in September and they impressed us immensely. Last month, we appointed Jenson and Maya as Head Boy and Head Girl, and Miracle and Ben as their Deputies. We have had several cohorts of students attending various Duke of Edinburgh expeditions as well as our Geography Field Trips. Last week, around 350 of our Year 10 students received excellent feedback from their work experience placements. I would like to thank all the staff for organising so many different trips and experiences for the students, who have been excellent ambassadors for the school. We still have more trips and expeditions out next week and then we have 24 students taking part on the Camps International expedition to Kenya! I hope they all have an amazing time along with Mr Amiri and Miss Miller.

I think it is fair to say that we all deserve a break! The Summer Term will end on Friday 18th July. School will close at 12.10pm. If students want to grab lunch before they leave, they can pre-order one that morning via their tutor and collect from the Main Office or Reception. I hope the students all enjoy a well-deserved break with you.

The end of the school year is always a time for us to say farewell to a number of staff who have a promoted post or new roles to look forward to. We will be saying farewell to the following teachers who have been with us on a temporary basis normally covering for staff on maternity leave: Mr Ford, Miss Haworth, Miss McCabe, Miss Murphy & Miss Smith. The following staff will also be leaving us for new roles elsewhere; Miss Benzie, Mr Fisher, Miss Giles (History), Ms Graves, Mr Hay, Mrs Hudson, Mr Islami, Mr Mahoney, Miss Talbot & Mrs Wilson. They have all been fabulous staff who have worked hard for hundreds of Sankey students. On behalf of the students, Governors, parents, carers, and staff past and present, I would like to thank all these members of staff and wish them the best of luck for the future.

Uniform Expectations

The only branded items for the uniform are the tie, blazer, and skirt. All other items such as shirts, blouses, socks, and trousers can be bought from any supermarket or shop. For PE it is the short sleeve button polo top, short sleeve round neck top, or long sleeve multisport top that are branded. You only need one of these. Please be aware, for PE, students can either wear plain black joggers, leggings, or PE shorts or those with the Great Sankey logo. Please note that cycling shorts or similar are not permitted.

We ask parents to work with us on our uniform & equipment expectations so that our students adhere to the simple rules that we have. By sending your child to this school, you have effectively signed up to our rules, or our 'terms and conditions' if you like. Please support the school by ensuring the footwear you get for September are acceptable school shoes. Often school shoes are much cheaper, and supportive, than the trainers some students wear. We would also be grateful if

you could ensure your child is appropriately dressed for school each morning when they leave with skirts unrolled and shirts tucked in. Finally, students need to bring basic equipment into school. A pencil case containing a couple of pens, pencil, rubber etc is essential. The school's resources are not infinite and we cannot provide items free of charge.

At the end of this letter, I have attached our Uniform Guide which is also available on our website.

Attendance

You may recall this time last year we shared information about the changes to attendance rules introduced nationally. We are pleased to say that our whole school attendance has improved by 2.9% and we are currently 1.7% above the national average. We wish to thank the families that strive to support their child to attend school daily and to those families who seek support when this proves difficult.

We want to remind parents that if a child arrives after 8.50am, this is 30 minutes after the register has opened, so they may be given an unauthorised absence rather than late. This is in line with statutory expectations. We also wish to remind parents and carers of the importance of attending on the first day of school term. Last year, of the students who were absent from school on day one, 54% became categorised as persistently absent.

Term dates for 2025/26

Autumn Term

Open Wednesday 3 September - Close Friday 24 October

Open Monday 3 November - Close Friday 19 December

Spring Term

Open Tuesday 6 January - Close Friday 13 February

Open Monday 23 February - Close Thursday 2 April

Summer Term

Open Monday 20 April - Close Friday 22 May

Open Monday 1 June - Close Friday 17 July

INSET Days – (school closed to students)

Tue 2 Sept 2025, Mon 5 Jan 2026, Mon 20 July 2026, Tues 21 July 2026 & Wed 22 July 2026

The term dates for 2026/27 are on the school website here - <https://greatsankey.org/termdates>

Return to School

School will reopen for each year group next term on the following dates and times:

Year 7 – Wednesday 3rd September 8.20am

Year 11 & 13 – Wednesday 3rd September 9.45am

Year 11/13 students who get the bus earlier will be allowed to enter when they arrive.

Years 8, 9, 10 & 12 – Thursday 4th September 8.20am

Thank you for your continued support this year. I hope you all enjoy a long, relaxing summer break.

Best wishes



Mr G Evans
Headteacher



UNIFORM GUIDE

2025-26

Achieving Greatness Together

GROWTH  RESPECT  EXCELLENCE  ASPIRATION  TEAMWORK

Uniform

Buying a school uniform is a major expense and for this reason the uniform has been carefully chosen and priced so that it is distinctive from those of neighbouring schools, is easily obtainable and keenly priced.

Our uniform creates our school identity and establishes a sense of pride amongst the students. It is expected that all students will come to the school every day in full, neat, clean uniform, giving the message that our students take pride and place in our school community.

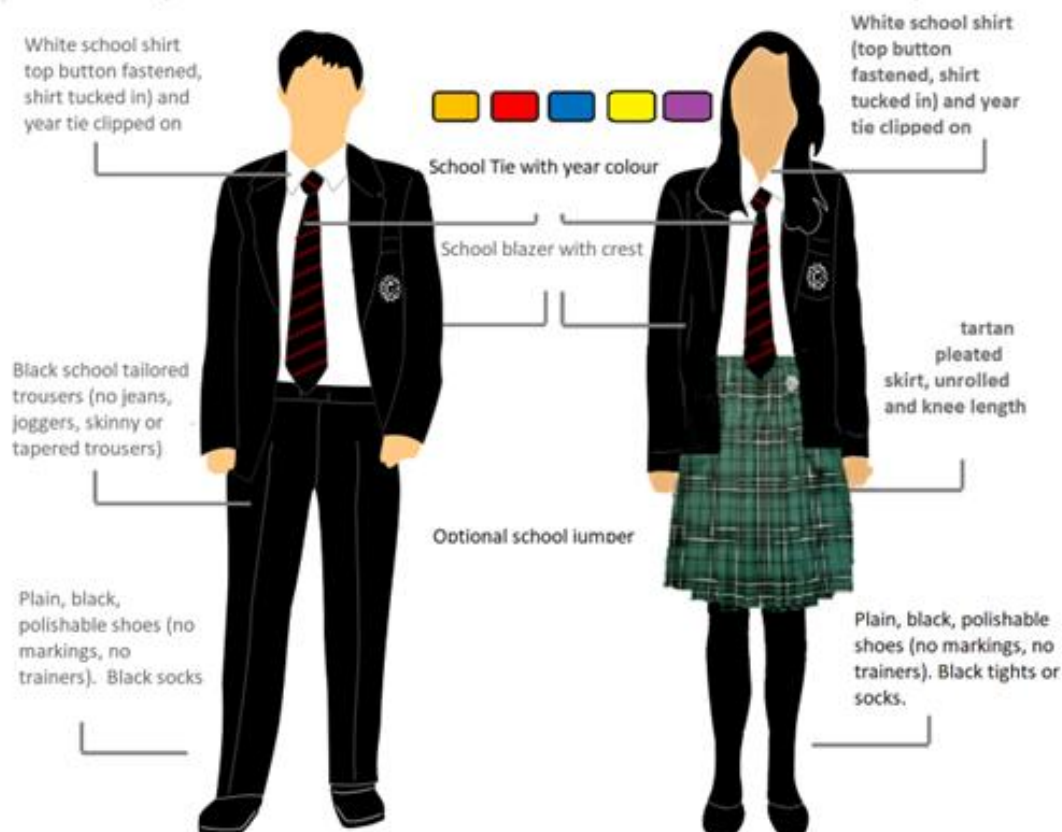
This will continue to be the case until the student leaves the school and will also apply to the public examination period for all students. Year 11 students will attend all examinations and revision sessions in full uniform until their last examination.

The support of parents in upholding our high standards and expectations of uniform and appearance is crucial. Staff are required to ensure these standards are always maintained and will challenge students who do not uphold our standards.

Our uniform sends a strong message about standards and self-worth. Admission to our school implies acceptance of the uniform code and students whose appearance does not meet our expectations may be sent home to change or be isolated from other students by a senior member of staff until it is rectified. Repeated disregard for school rules could result in further sanctions being levied.

We believe that wearing a uniform does not discriminate and ensures all students have equal opportunities and shared expectations, regardless of background.

Students should always wear their uniform correctly, to, from and in the school. Students may ask permission to remove their blazer when in class



GSHS school uniform 2025/26

Blazer

Black blazer with GSHS logo. Available in two different fits.



Skirt

Compulsory GSHS tartan skirt, *if not opting for tailored trousers.* Skirts should not be worn rolled up



Tie

GSHS Clip on tie in appropriate year colour.



Year 7	Purple
Year 8	Yellow
Year 9	Orange
Year 10	Red
Year 11	Dark Blue

Jumper

(optional, not to be worn in place of blazer)



Apron

An apron is compulsory for Food. Technology lessons, such as the one illustrated below.



Non-branded compulsory items

Shirt/Blouse

Plain white buttoned shirt or blouse with either short or long sleeves

Trousers

The trousers should be plain black, tailored style. Demin, Lycra, cargo style etc. are not permitted.

✓ Acceptable styles ✗ Unacceptable styles



School bag

A plain dark school bag which is sturdy and large enough to hold an A4 folder. It should ideally be a rucksack. Small handbags or crossover bags are not permitted. Students should come with their bag fully equipped for the day.

✓ Acceptable styles ✗ Unacceptable styles



If you are in doubt about whether any item is permitted, please contact the school for advice.

Shoes

Shoes must be black flat shoes with no other colours or marking.

They should be polishable, smart, leather formal type shoe. Suede, canvas, or leather trainers / leisure footwear are not acceptable. Trainers are not permitted.

Do not assume stores that label their stock 'School Shoes' will be an appropriate purchase.

Please use the photographs below as a guide of what is acceptable and what is not acceptable.

✓ Acceptable styles ✗ Unacceptable styles



Socks

Students may choose to wear plain, thick black tights. If socks are worn, these should be black ankle socks only.

GSHS PE Kit 2025/26

Polo/Multisport Top

COMPULSORY – Short sleeved button top OR long sleeve Multisport top with school logo



½ Zip top/hoodie

OPTIONAL long sleeve winter tops



Joggers/Leggings/shorts/skort

Students can wear **either** the Great Sankey logo **OR plain black** joggers, leggings, shorts or skort **of the same style**. Please note that cycling shorts/Lycra shorts or similar styles are not permitted.



PE Jacket **OPTIONAL**



Sports sock

Plain black socks



Trainers/boots

Trainers are required for PE. These can be sports branded or non-branded. They should be inexpensive. If you wish your child to also have a pair of studded boots for the 3G pitch, they need to have soft studs (molded) Metal studded boots are not permitted.

Health & Safety

No jewellery, including watches and earrings, is permitted during PE. Long hair must be tied back.

Uniform & Equipment

Compulsory Uniform ✓

- ☐ Black blazer with school badge in white
- ☐ Plain white school shirt/blouse with collar and top button (no logos) – short or long sleeved
- ☐ Clip on GSHS school tie in appropriate year colour

Choice of: Tartan GSHS school skirt **or** Black, formal tailored trousers

- ☐ Plain, black ankle socks **or** plain black tights
- ☐ Black, flat, polishable, smart, leather formal type shoe

Optional

- ☐ Black V-neck school jumper with school badge only

Compulsory PE kit ✓

- ☐ Short sleeve button polo top **or** long sleeve multisport top with school logo
- ☐ Joggers, leggings, shorts, **or** skort with the school logo **or** plain black but in the same style and no sports branding
- ☐ Plain black sports socks (plain or school logo)
- ☐ Trainers

Optional

- ☐ ½ zip top **or** hoodie with school logo
- ☐ PE jacket with logo
- ☐ Soft studded boots

Please note that if you are representing a school team you will be expected to wear the branded GSHS school PE kit.

If unsure, parents are advised to contact school, via their year office, for clarification before purchasing an item.

Compulsory Equipment ✓

Compulsory Equipment ✓

- ☐ A plain dark school bag
- ☐ Pencil case
- ☐ Pen x2 (black is required for examinations), pencil, rubber, ruler, pencil sharpener, green pen, compass, protractor, two highlighters (glue stick and pencil crayons – optional)

Calculator

Apron

Reading book at KS3



Personal appearance

Hair

Hair must be worn in an appropriate style. Hair styles must be such that they can easily be kept neat and do not prevent students from participating effectively and safely in all school activities. All long hair **MUST** be tied back for Health and Safety purposes during practical subjects, such as (but not exclusively so) PE, Science, DT.

Heads must not be fully shaved and should be no shorter than a grade 2, nor should there be any style which the school believes would undermine the ethos or discipline of the school. Inappropriate extreme haircuts are not permitted.

The dying, high or low lighting of hair in natural colours is acceptable – other colours are not permitted. Students will be required to re-dye their hair in the event of failing to adhere to this rule.

Eyebrows should also look natural. Please see make up section for information about eye lashes.

Make-up

Make-up should be minimal and discreet for students in Year 10 and 11 only. False nails (including acrylics, BIAB or similar styles) for health and safety reasons. Coloured nail varnish, false eyelashes, lash extensions, false tan and excessive make-up must not be worn.

Students will be provided with hypo-allergenic make up remover and requested to remove their make-up should it be deemed excessive.

Jewellery

Students are permitted to wear **one pair of small, plain gold or silver stud earrings only**. Facial and body piercings such as nose, eyebrow, lip, and tongue are not permitted. Multiple piercings are not permitted.

All other jewellery, except for a watch, is not permitted.

Earrings and watches **MUST** be removed before PE lessons, without exception, and this includes smart watches.

All watches, including smart watches, are not permitted in examination settings.

Any items not worn in the manner described above will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. Form tutors are responsible for daily uniform checks, Students who wear jewellery, beyond those identified as acceptable, will be asked to hand this into a member of staff who will place it in a labelled envelope and left securely in the Year office for collection at the end of the day. Students who persist in wearing jewellery will have these items confiscated and parents will be contacted to arrange collection. Any jewellery confiscated will result in a negative uniform point.

School is not responsible for any jewellery which is brought into school. This includes it being stolen, lost or damaged.

Outdoor coats

Outdoor coats are recommended for students getting to school in poor weather conditions. They should be removed upon entering the school building.

Hoodies and non-uniform jumpers are not permitted. These items must be removed and should not be seen throughout the school day. If seen, they may be removed and kept in the year office until the end of the school day.

Uniform changes due to weather

Should there be any uniform changes due to weather, school will communicate this to families and students.

Parental Support

Parental support is crucial in upholding our high standard of uniform and appearance at our school. Parents are asked to note that we do not accept responsibility for loss of, or damage to personal property on, or left on, the premises.

The school retains the right to act as the final authority in the interpretation of the dress code and any student who fails to adhere to our uniform guidelines will risk being isolated or other sanctions as per the school's Behaviour Policy.

Uniform purchase and help

All uniform is available from: **Warrington Schoolwear** 50-54 Buttermarket Street, Warrington, WA1 2NN or via www.alphaschoolwear.com

Pre-loved uniform is also available from:

School Uniform Network – located at: Warrington Foodbank, Golden Square Shopping Centre, Bewsey and Dallam Hub and St Elphin's Pavilion

School uniform grants are available from: **Fashion and Textile Children's Trust**

If you are having any financial difficulty, please speak to your child's year team for further information and support.



