



Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Governing Body uniform update for September 2020

Firstly, and most importantly, I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well during this difficult time of Covid-19 and school closures. I appreciate the many challenges our school community have faced during this testing time and it is heartening to see the support and solidarity from such a positive and committed parent, staff and student body.

In the Autumn Term, in response to concerns raised by parents about the inconsistency of the school uniform, and in particular the variability of the skirt, we held a forum to consult with you our parents. We discussed concerns and shared ideas of how we could move forward positively and following on from this a consultation meeting was held with the Student Leadership Team to seek their views and to share sample materials.

Following this consultation, and mindful of the Department for Education guidance on uniform, we held discussions in the New Year with our long established local uniform supplier, Warrington School Wear, who are a part of Alpha School Wear – supplying over 200 schools in the North West and who have over 35 suppliers who they use to ensure costs are kept as low as possible for families - regarding production and most importantly, proposed costing for families.

As a result of this process, I can now confirm that the Governing Body have taken the decision to make the following amendments to the school uniform policy for September 2020 and this will be reviewed at appropriate intervals:

All students who opt to wear a skirt to school are required to wear either black tights or black ankle socks – knee or shin length socks will no longer be permitted.

In addition, for all new students joining GSHS, the current variable length black skirt will be replaced with a GSHS green tartan skirt, which is available online from Warrington School Wear only at www.alphaschoolwear.com

This will phase through as a compulsory item for each new Year 7 cohort. While it is not compulsory for current Years 7-10 students, they can choose to purchase the new skirt if they wish.

The decision by Governors was confirmed and orders were placed with the supplier in February. Mindful of the current climate, and the potential financial challenges, we discussed the timing of this change and have been exploring how we can best support our families with the potential additional cost. As a result, we have agreed to subsidise 40% of the retail cost for the first skirt purchased, per student, up until 31st August 2020 and this information will be live on the above linked website from Monday 25th May.

As Governors, we know that the school is making significant and sustained improvements and we believe this uniform amendment will play a part in the journey and we value your support in this endeavour.

I wish you and your family good health and, again, thank you for your continued support during this challenging time. We are immensely appreciative of all of your lovely feedback, through social media or directly to the school, which has certainly embodied our school motto of *Great in name, Greatest together*.

Yours sincerely

Mr Michael Platt
Chair of Governors

