

26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all parents, carers and students who took part in our school uniform consultation. Your feedback has been extremely valuable in helping us review our current arrangements.

As you may be aware, the Government has instructed schools to review their uniform policies and reduce the number of compulsory branded items in order to make uniforms more affordable for families. As part of this process, we invited views from our school community.

A key message from the consultation was concern about the number of branded items currently required. In addition, **58% of parents told us that they felt the overall cost of the uniform was too high.**

The area that generated the most feedback was the **school skirt**. As the skirt is unbranded, a wide range of different shades, lengths and styles are currently worn, which has led to inconsistency in the appearance of the uniform.

Following the consultation and Government guidance, we will be introducing some changes to the school uniform from **September 2026**.

### **Why we are making these changes**

These changes will:

- Make our uniform smarter
- Improve consistency in the appearance of the uniform
- Reduce the number of compulsory branded items
- Help lower the overall cost of the uniform for families

### **What will change**

The **school tie and skirt will be updated**. These items will be made from improved quality, more durable materials. The new design reflects the professional image of **Knutsford Academy** and will provide greater consistency in the appearance of the uniform.

All students will be provided with the **new tie free of charge** for September 2026. The skirt will be optional, and students may choose to wear tailored black trousers if they wish.

The new uniform arrangements will apply to **all students from September 2026, with the exception of Year 11**. Year 11 students will be expected to wear the new tie (provided free of charge), but we will not require families to purchase the new skirt as they will not be in school for a full academic year.

As one of the highest achieving schools nationally, we want our students to take pride in their uniform. We believe the new tie and skirt will provide a smarter and more professional look whilst ensuring better quality for families.

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### Summary of the main changes

- A **new design tie** (provided free of charge for September 2026) and a **matching new design skirt** (or black trousers if preferred).
- The **blazer remains unchanged and compulsory**
- For PE, **only two items of branded clothing will be required**: a short-sleeved top and a longer-sleeved item for warmth (for both girls and boys).
- **Plain black shorts, plain black sports leggings or plain black tracksuit bottoms** may be worn for PE.
- All other **current branded items** will remain available and may still be purchased if families wish.

Thank you again for your feedback and support as we ensure our school uniform remains smart, practical and affordable for all families.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Key, Headteacher.



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