

# Wellfield High School

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19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

## Uniform Update

We wrote to all parents in the summer term of the 2019/2020 academic year and engaged in consultation with our governors, staff, parents and students about a potential rebrand of the school. Despite deciding against a full rebrand, we felt that our school badge would benefit from a fresh design, without losing any of our historic identity. We worked with a design agency who created a fantastic badge for us (see below). The change of badge and new school tie obviously had a knock on effect on some changes regarding our school uniform, particularly in relation to our school ties.



### Initial Plans from September 2020

As we are still a Local Authority maintained school but one working in very close partnership with Endeavour Learning Trust, we were hopeful of gaining academy status and officially joining the Trust at some point during this academic year. We felt that the academy conversion would be a perfect opportunity to launch our new badge hence the decision for blazers to be sold without the current school badge.

We were hopeful of completing the academy conversion during this school year and, once completed, we had made the decision to provide all students currently wearing an unbranded blazer, with a new badge (either sewn or ironed onto the pocket) as well as a new tie with any cost covered by the school.

The COVID-19 pandemic has unsurprisingly further pushed back our plans and, despite continuing our work for academy status, there is still some work to be done. Therefore, we currently anticipate that this may not take place during this academic year and that the current school badge will continue to be used, thus meaning any new items remain unbranded and no significant changes this year.

### Current status

Previous updates to parents have informed you of our work to identify a new uniform supplier following the change in status from our previous supplier, Delta Wool. As part of Endeavour Learning Trust, we were keen to identify one supplier across the Trust of schools which initially took a little more time. However, we have now started to work closely with our new supplier, Monkhouse, and we are delighted with their work so far.

Despite students looking extremely smart on their return to school last week, we know that some students have outgrown their uniform and parents are uncertain about where they can purchase replacements. As a short term solution, we are proposing:

- Blazers and skirts- Parents liaise with us at the school ([enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk)) and we will work with the new supplier to provide a plain black blazer without red trimming or a badge. Similarly, we will work with Monkhouse to organise an order for skirts should they be required.
- Ties- we have purchased plain black ties with a thin red stripe which can be provided to students. Although these are slightly different to our current tie, they will help to ensure students look smart at school and in the local community.
- PE kit- any student who has outgrown their PE shirt will be given permission to wear a plain, dark coloured t shirt if a parental letter is provided to the PE department. Parents can continue to purchase sports shorts and socks from a range of shops, including local supermarkets.
- Shoes- whilst we have made some allowances for slightly different footwear since the return to school as we appreciated some parents have struggled to buy new school shoes, we do expect all students to be in school shoes. This should be black, sturdy shoes. Please be aware that, despite some supermarkets selling shoes in their school wear section, many of these are not acceptable in line with our policy. If unsure, please check with us so you do not waste any money. Likewise, if your son/daughter does not currently have school shoes and you do not anticipate this being resolved, please do not hesitate to get in touch so we can look at what support we can provide.

Further details will be provided in due course to all parents once we have finalised plans with Monkhouse regarding the supply of uniform in the coming weeks and months but, in the meantime, we would ask any parent who is struggling to purchase school uniform to liaise with us directly so we can support. We appreciate that our uniform is undergoing a small transitional phase but we continue to insist on the highest standards so all students look smart.

Please be reassured that, as we undergo a period of change and to reduce costs to parents, students will be allowed to wear any current PE kit and, for students who may still wear their current blazer from September, a sewn on/iron on badge will still be provided.

### **Uniform Support**

We have always been committed to supporting our families and we appreciate that the pandemic may have also created further financial challenges. If purchasing uniform or school resources is an issue for any parent, please contact us ([enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk)) so we can look at how we may be able to help.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,

*Mr J Lewis*

Head of School