

## Uniform Matters...

...and here's five reasons why:

1. First impressions. Whether we like it or not, we are all judged initially on our appearance, on how we look, on how we are dressed. A smart, well dressed student sends out positive messages about being ready to learn. Talking of impressions...
2. Reputation. WCSA's reputation rests in the capable hands of its student population, and this reputation is enhanced when members of the community witness smart, well dressed students on their way to and from school.
3. Uniform is a great leveller. Regardless of social background, all students look the same. Uniform, even.
4. Identity. Uniform creates an identity for a school, and helps generate a feeling of unity, a sense of belonging, and of pride in WCSA and what it stands for in the community.
5. Preparation for life. Well, work life, anyway. Upon entering the world of work there is likely to be a work uniform or dress code to adhere to. Uniform creates a sense of identity in a school and in the workplace beyond school.

## Uniform Matters...

...and here's five matters, for your attention:

1. Year 11. All Year 11 students need to be in uniform for all GCSE exams; in particular, they need to wear a school shirt under their hoodie if they wish to take their hoodie off during their exams.
2. Shoes: Trainers are not shoes. Therefore, they are not uniform. I am aware of ten students across the whole school with genuine medical conditions that require a soft shoe, or trainer, to be worn. 'My shoes are wet', 'I've forgotten my shoes' and 'What difference does it make what I wear on my feet?' are not plausible excuses for wearing trainers. The latter 'argument' is also applied to other aspects of the uniform requirements.
3. Trousers: Leggings and jeans are not trousers. Therefore, they are not uniform.
4. Skirts: Skirts should not be too short; if we deem them to be so, we will provide students with a pair of black tights to be worn under the skirt.
5. Shirts: Should be tucked in at all times.

We are delighted that the vast majority of our students wear their uniform with pride and are a credit to the school. They quickly amend when asked (if a problem) – they have PRIDE in Worle. Most like our traditional blazer and tie approach. A massive 'thank you' to those parents and carers who reinforce the importance of uniform with their children – we know it is tough at times! It's a joy to strike up a conversation with those students that starts with learning matters, not uniform matters.

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