

5th May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware we altered the uniform policy from 1st January to allow greater accessibility and affordability of products for families, instead of being reliant upon a single supplier. We are hopeful these changes have made an impact and provided some necessary relief in both accessibility and affordability.

Unfortunately there seems to be some confusion in the interpretation of the appropriate skirts. The original letter provided images, and these have been provided again below, to further demonstrate the detail of different skirts that can be worn in the Academy. The main concerns we are encountering with inappropriate skirts from the original information sent in December 2022 are highlighted here:

### **Skirts**

- must be plain black and in a tailored formal style, skirts may be A-line, pencil or pleated (twin, knife or box pleat)
- tight-fitting, tube skirts are not acceptable
- must sit on or just above the knee
- must not be made of jersey, stretch or patterned fabric
- must be worn with a minimum of plain black 40 denier tights

To assist parents and carers in their selection of appropriate items to purchase, we reference the images on the attached sheet. There appears to be a misinterpretation of the two boxes in red. The skirt in the red box on the left has vertical pleats which prevent it from gradually shortening with movement. This skirt is appropriate. The skirt in the red box to the right is the “tube” skirt and is often made of the “jersey or stretch” material which results in the gradual shortening of the skirt with movement. This skirt is not appropriate.



The Academy provides a free bundle of uniform for every student who starts in the Academy as a year 7 student. In addition to funding these uniforms, we have spent an additional £5,637 providing uniforms for students who arrive in incorrect or inappropriate items which are subsequently then not returned. This funding could be spent in other ways within the Academy which would have a greater impact on student experience and achievement.

We expect that all students who choose to wear a skirt into the Academy now wear an appropriate skirt. In addition to the aforementioned cost there is also a significant amount of staff time being allocated every day in the Academy addressing this single issue. Please can parents and carers please support the Academy and all students by ensuring your child arrives appropriately dressed in a correct skirt without the need for staff intervention.

Yours faithfully,



Mr W Pratt  
Principal