



HELENA ROMANES SCHOOL

19th October 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to update you on school uniform.

As the weather turns colder the school, like many households, needs to be mindful of the rising cost of utility bills and do all we can to reduce energy use. Therefore, to ensure students remain warm and smart, we are giving students the option of wearing a **base-layer** under their shirts. This base layer must be **white** and **plain**. This could be a plain, white t-shirt but it could also be a thermal top, with many options available at a reasonable price from a range of retailers. A base layer, in addition to the white shirt, school jumper (optional) and school blazer should ensure multiple layers keep in the warmth.

As a school, we are also mindful of the need to ensure the cost of school uniform is affordable for our parents / carers. You may have heard that the Department of Education issued guidance to schools on this issue. Several parents have also, quite rightly, raised this matter with us. Therefore, we have been revising our uniform requirements for 2023 onwards.

When considering changes, we have been guided by the following principles:

- Upholding high standards of uniform to ensure all students are smart and well-presented
- Ensuring that the overall cost of uniform is reasonable and affordable and that parents/carers have more choice over where to buy some items from the school uniform list
- Ensuring uniform is practical, comfortable, value for money, long-wearing and takes into account the impact on the environment

Below, you will find our revised uniform list for 2023 onwards. I am pleased to tell you that the changes we have made ensure a significant reduction in the total cost of school uniform (PE kit and school uniform).

You will notice that we have removed the HRS branding from some items to reduce cost and open up the option of parents / carers buying trousers from Marks and Spencer. Marks and Spencer are not only an ethical company but we have found their school clothing to be hard-wearing and it is possible to buy trousers in packs of two (reducing costs further).

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Executive Headteacher: Ms Catherine Davis BA(Hons)

We have also made some changes to our school uniform which will now be unisex. All students (boys and girls) will wear unbranded shorts. Allowing girls to wear shorts is very much in keeping with changes being made in female sporting organisations such as England Hockey. Shorts are comfortable and practical for PE. We have also changed the top and overall colour of the kit. We have chosen a more practical colour (black with maroon stripes) and a top that is specifically designed for physical activity. As you will see, we have slimmed down the PE kit requirements to make this aspect of uniform more affordable. Students playing for school sporting teams will be given a different school PE kit when they play fixtures against other schools.

School uniform will continue to be available from Jacks of Dunmow or direct from Trutex. In addition, the school will continue to promote its 'Pre-loved Uniform' service to help parents and carers reduce the environmental impact of uniforms and also reduce cost to individual households.

SCHOOL UNIFORM 2023 ONWARDS

For students in all year groups as and when they need to change their uniform because they have grown out of it.

Compulsory	Optional	Choose
<p>Burgundy blazer with embroidered badge</p> <p>White shirt</p> <p>HRS school tie</p> <p>Black formal shoes</p> <p><i>Low heeled and sensibly styled in the interests of safety - leather or leather effect (heels no higher than 4cm) – no trainers, plimsolls open-toed or boots. No trainers, particularly Nike Air Force 1s.</i></p> <p>Plain black/navy socks / ankle socks</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Plain black/navy or natural tights</p>	<p>HRS School Jumper</p> <p>Outdoor coat</p> <p><i>An anorak is recommended as it can be worn over the blazer. Denim, leather jackets, sweatshirts of any kind, and hoodies must <u>not</u> be worn</i></p>	<p>Grey trousers from the following approved retailers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Boys/Girls grey trousers from Jacks/Trutex</i> - <i>Boys/Girls grey trousers in regular or slim fit from Marks and Spencer</i> <p>OR</p> <p>HRS plaid kilt</p>

PE UNIFORM - 2023/2024 ONWARDS

For students starting in Year 7

For students in Years 8-11 needing to replace PE uniform when they have grown out of it.

Compulsory	Optional
<p>HRS technical Sports Polo (maroon/black)</p> <p>Plain black shorts from the following approved retailers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacks/Trutex • Marks and Spencer unisex sports school shorts <p>HRS maroon sports socks / white sports socks</p> <p>Trainers (not converse)</p> <p>Swimming shorts/trunks/swimsuit - any colour</p>	<p>HRS mid-layer</p> <p>HRS track pant</p> <p>HRS legging</p> <p><i>Please note that only badged HRS tops/track pants and leggings are allowed. No other un-logo items are permitted.</i></p> <p>Football boots (especially if your son/daughter is going to come to extra-curricular clubs and wants to play football/rugby for the school).</p> <p>Astro-turf football boots</p>

I hope you feel that the changes we have made are useful to parents and carers.

Best wishes,



Ms C Davis
Executive Headteacher