



16th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your continued support with school uniform this academic year. We have seen a significant improvement in the consistency and standard of uniform across the school, and it's been heartening to see so many of our students wearing it with pride.

This progress has not happened by chance, it has been the result of a shared commitment between school and home, and I want to acknowledge the vital role you have played. The positive impact of these improvements has been clear. Research consistently shows that high standards of uniform contribute to better behaviour, reduced incidents of bullying, a more focused attitude to learning, and ultimately, stronger educational outcomes. Our experience this year reflects exactly that.

Beyond this, we've also been proud to hear so many students speaking positively about our uniform. They have described it as *"inclusive"*, *"represents the school"*, and some have even expressed appreciation for the clarity and fairness that comes with clear expectations, removing social pressures and helping them feel a greater sense of belonging but also self confidence.

Throughout the year, I've worked to keep you informed about uniform expectations and any planned changes. In my January update, I outlined a key change that will take effect from September: plain black trainers will no longer be permitted as part of the uniform. We understand that some students may have specific foot health needs, or medical needs and to support this, we've been working with local NHS Podiatry services and the NHS Federation to ensure students who require specialist footwear can still access appropriate formal shoes.

In rare cases where formal shoes genuinely cannot be worn, a plain black leather or leather-like trainer (without logos or coloured markings) may be accepted. If you need further support with this, please do not hesitate to contact your child's year team.

Summary of Uniform Updates for September 2025:

- **Footwear:** Trainers will no longer be allowed. Students must wear formal black shoes. Please refer to our "Buying with Confidence" guide for assistance.
- **Piercings:** Students may wear a clear nose retainer (based on student feedback). Earrings remain limited to one small stud in each earlobe.
- **Socks:** Must be plain, but no specific colour is required.
- **Incoming Year 7 Uniform:** New Year 7 students will wear the updated *Iceni Uniform*. Current students are not required to change to the new uniform, but if families choose to do so, the full uniform must be worn, mixing elements (e.g. Iceni blazer with previous trousers or skirt) will not be permitted.

A Note on Jumpers:

While our expectations around jumpers have remained the same, we have not actively enforced this aspect during the past year as we focused on embedding other elements. From September, this will change. In all cases, jumpers may only be worn under a blazer as an additional layer. They are not compulsory but are the only additional layer permitted. The expectation is that all students wear their academy blazer over their shirt and tie, but cannot wear a jumper without a blazer. The jumper choices are as follows:

- **Years 8–11: A plain black V-neck jumper (no logos or round necks).**
- **Year 7 (New Intake): The Iceni grey V-neck jumper, available from Birds of Dereham.**

Please find attached the full uniform expectations document for the 2025–2026 academic year.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support this year. It has made a real difference, and we look forward to continuing this partnership as we maintain and build upon our high standards.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Morris
Vice Principal