

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Uniform Update – September 2026

Following recent consultation with parents, staff and students, we are introducing **some small but important changes to our uniform from September 2026**. These changes reflect a shared view that our uniform should be **practical, comfortable and cost-conscious**, while still maintaining the high standards expected at the Academy.

What is changing from September 2026

- Students may wear either:
 - **Academy blazer**, or
 - **Academy jumper with logo** (new option)
- **Footwear expectations are being relaxed:**
 - Students may now wear **plain black footwear, including black trainers**
 - Footwear must be **fully black with no visible branding**
- **Jewellery, make-up and nails expectations have been slightly relaxed**, with clear age-appropriate guidance:
 - **KS3 (Years 7–9):**
 - Minimal, natural make-up only
 - **Short, natural false nails permitted (no embellishments)**
 - One pair of stud earrings; no facial piercings
 - **KS4 (Years 10–11):**
 - Light make-up permitted
 - **Short, natural false nails permitted**
 - **Single nose stud allowed**, alongside earrings and a watch

What is staying the same

- Shirts and ties remain compulsory
- Trousers and skirts remain unchanged
- PE kit and Forest School clothing remain unchanged

Why are we making these changes?

Consultation showed strong agreement across our community to **reduce formality and improve comfort and affordability**, while still keeping clear expectations that are easy to apply consistently in school.

We are therefore taking a **phased approach**

- **2026–27:** Small, manageable changes (outlined above)
- **Autumn 2026:** Further consultation on future options
- **September 2027:** Implementation of a fully updated uniform model

We believe this approach supports families, reflects student voice, and maintains the standards that underpin a positive learning environment.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Annabel Stoddart

Headteacher

Uniform Changes – Frequently Asked Questions (September 2026)

1. Do students still have to wear a blazer?

No. From September 2026, students can choose to wear either:

- An **Academy blazer**, or
- An **Academy logo jumper**

Both options are equally acceptable.

2. Can my child wear trainers to school?

Yes. Students can now wear:

- **Plain black trainers** or
- **Black shoes**

All footwear must be:

- Fully black
- Free from visible logos or branding

3. Do students still need to wear a shirt and tie?

Yes. There is **no change for 2026–27**:

- White shirt/blouse and Academy tie remain compulsory

4. Has the PE kit changed?

No. There are **no changes to PE kit or Forest School uniform**.

5. Why are these changes being made?

Feedback from parents, students and staff showed strong support for:

- Greater comfort
- Reduced cost
- Less formality

These changes are a **first step in a phased approach**, with further consultation planned.

6. Will the uniform change again in the future?

Yes. This is a **transitional year**:

- **Autumn 2026**: Further consultation
- **September 2027**: Full updated uniform introduced

Jewellery, Make-up and Nails

7. What are the rules for jewellery?

- **KS3 (Years 7–9):**
 - One pair of stud earrings and a watch
 - No facial piercings
- **KS4 (Years 10–11):**
 - Earrings (studs or small hoops) and a watch
 - **One nose stud permitted**
 - Discreet additional jewellery allowed

8. Are false nails allowed?

Yes, with clear expectations:

- **KS3 and KS4:**
 - **False nails are allowed if they are short, natural and without embellishments**

9. What make-up is allowed?

- **KS3**: Minimal, natural make-up only
- **KS4**: Light make-up permitted

Make-up should always be **subtle and appropriate for school**.

10. Are there still expectations around appearance?

Yes. All students are expected to:

- Maintain a **neat and appropriate appearance**
- Avoid extreme styles or colours
- Follow staff guidance where something is unsafe or inappropriate

11. What happens if a student does not meet the expectations?

Staff will support students to meet expectations and may:

- Ask students to adjust or remove items
- Provide temporary replacements where appropriate

Parents will be contacted if there are ongoing concerns.

12. Who can I contact if I have questions or need support?

Please contact the school office if you need:

- Clarification on expectations
- Support with uniform costs or sourcing items

We are always happy to help.