

6 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carer

I hope you have all had an enjoyable and safe summer and looking forward to the return to school. We have been preparing for the arrival of all students tomorrow where a number of key initiatives and changes have taken place and will be communicated to all students during assemblies and tutor times.

Our expectations of all students are higher than they have ever been this year. We expect the best because we want to be the best and ensure all students get the education they deserve. With parental support, we will reach our aim of creating an exemplary culture where good conduct and excellent learning are consistent across the Academy.

I will be writing to you regularly again as to the improvements taking place at the Academy and the successes of our student body as we go through this academic year but this letter is very specifically about uniform expectations and the use of mobile phones.

We will begin our successful year with ensuring uniform is exemplary, we will have a zero-tolerance approach to incorrect uniform which includes unnatural hair colour, nail extensions, nail varnish (except clear), skirt types (see more below) and no facial piercings of any kind (including gums/tongues) aside from one set of plain gold or silver studs in the ear lobes.

Please see below important information about skirts and phones which are key priorities in terms of student conduct. Please note, we are aware that in the face of the current cost of living crisis many families do not have access to disposable funds and we are of course happy to support and help where possible. We have already provided students with a number of skirts last term and we will offer skirts to students where needed again. If you have any specific concerns and require any assistance funding the correct uniform (skirts, shoes, blazers), as ever, please reach out to the main reception and an allocated staff member will get back to you to support.

Working together on 'sweating the small stuff' means direct impact on the learning culture at the Academy as we embark on a fresh new year and ensure that we build on the foundations laid last term.

Thank you for your support,

Michelle Scott
Headteacher



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E-ACT 'A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales'
Registration number 652 6376
Registered office address: The Orangery, 28 Headlands, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 7HP

Uniform

As you are aware, we have been making every effort to ensure that students in our academy are taking pride in their appearance on a daily basis and are arriving at school adhering fully to our school uniform expectations. Overall, this is successful, however towards the end of term, uniform had still not reached the required standard with all students. We are grateful to those students and their families who have embraced our efforts and support by ensuring your child arrives at school ready for their day of learning.

As you will know from the communication at the end of term and throughout the summer, we have made one adjustment to the uniform to support us in eliminating inconsistencies.

The one adjustment we have made to the uniform list is that we are only going to allow a **traditional full box pleated skirt**. Students will no longer be able to wear the **'pencil skirt'** due to the unacceptable short length and complaints from parents/carers, visitors and members of the public. They are also not allowed to accessorize this with a 'skirt chain'. School uniform improves student performance by helping students focus on learning rather than fashion.

Please ensure that you review the link to the uniform guide prior to your child attending school tomorrow, with specific focus on footwear, facial piercings, nails, hair colouring. Tomorrow, if a student arrives at the academy in unacceptable uniform, key staff will be contacting home and the student will be isolated until it is resolved. There will be a zero-tolerance approach to trainers/fashion pumps e.g. black 'Nike air force one', any form of facial piercings including gum/tongue piercings, acrylic/gel nails or nail varnish and unnatural hair colourings.

[Uniform \(e-act.org.uk\)](https://e-act.org.uk)

Throughout this academic year, uniform will continue to be a top priority for all teachers and failure to adhere to the uniform expectations will result in students being out of circulation until they meet our uniform standards. We are here to offer any support we can to our families, so please do not hesitate to contact the academy to discuss any issues.

Mobile phones/headphones/air pods/earbuds/smart watches

We will no longer be allowing the students to use their mobile phones (including headphones/air pods/earbuds/smart watches) on the academy site. Mobile phones, etc, are a distraction to students. During academy hours, they should be focussing on learning and their relationships with the people around them. There is no need for a child to use a mobile phone for communication purposes during the school day.

Some students also use them to arrange meetings at inappropriate times - for example, some students arrange to meet 'in the toilets' halfway through a lesson.

Predominantly however, education establishments ban the use of mobile phones for safeguarding reasons.



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Unfortunately, mobile phones are often used inappropriately. Students use them to photograph or video, often without the permission of the subject. They are also often the tool used by cyber-bullies and those who target others over social media. We feel that our students should feel safe from this during academy time.

We have thorough filters on our IT systems to prevent students from accessing inappropriate information on the internet. They also filter all internal communications (e.g. student emails) for use of any concerning language e.g. relating to bullying, self-harm, prejudice etc. This is for the safety of all students. Unfortunately, we cannot monitor mobile phones in the same way. Therefore, for the safety of students, mobile phones are banned on academy premises.

We understand that you will want your child to have their mobile phone for the journey to and from the academy, however as soon as your child enters the academy premises, the mobile phone (including headphones/air pods/earbuds/smart watches) must be turned off and placed in their bag.

If the mobile phone, etc is seen or heard, it/they will be confiscated and placed in the academy safe. There will be no discussion or negotiation with the students. See below for the consequences of not adhering to the academy's policy.

MOBILE PHONE/HEADPHONE CONFISCATION		
1ST OFFENCE	2 ND OFFENCE	3 RD OFFENCE
Confiscation & handed in to office	Confiscation & handed in to office	Confiscation & handed in to office
30 minute SD issued by member of staff	60 minute SD issued by member of staff	60 minute SD issued by member of staff
Office to inform parent/carers	Office to inform parent/carers & arrange meeting.	Office to inform parent/carers & arrange meeting.
Phone returned on completion	Parent/Carer to collect & meet with HOY/AHT	If deemed necessary to bring to academy, will be handed into office at start of day
		Repeated behaviour = Reflection Room

We understand that this will be a big change for some of our students. However, we are here to educate our students and will make every effort to limit distractions and ensure our students feel safe whilst in the academy.

We would appreciate your support in this matter so that we are able to start the new academic year in the positive way that we want to.



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