

Our ref: TSR/SCR

6th February 2024

Dear parents/carers

Uniform Expectations

After half term we will be tightening up our expectations regarding uniform. This letter clarifies what the expectations are and why they are important.

Why uniform matters

A common question that gets asked about uniform is, 'how does it affect my learning?' I think there are four main reasons why we believe wearing uniform correctly matters:

- 1. Uniform is fair because it does not make students or their parents feel pressure to buy expensive clothing (such as Nike trainers) just to fit in.
- 2. Uniform is fair because it shows that we treat everyone equally and that the expectations are the same for all students.
- 3. Students who do not believe uniform expectations apply to them typically do not believe that other school expectations apply either and it leads to poor behaviour.
- 4. Students who do not pay attention to uniform expectations typically achieve less well. Anyone who has worked in secondary schools for any length of time will know this to be true.

What next?

On Monday 26th February we will be reestablishing uniform standards with students. This is because too many students are not currently meeting expectations regarding uniform in one way or another.

Where students are missing an item of uniform (e.g. correct shoes or tie), this needs to be corrected before Monday 26th February. After that date students will be offered the correct uniform to borrow (where this is possible) or they will be removed from lessons or sent home to correct the issue. Students will not attend lessons without the correct uniform.

Our expectations

Where students are not following uniform expectations in some other way (e.g. nose studs or acrylic nails) they will need to correct the issue before they attend lessons. Where students refuse to wear the correct uniform for any reason, this will be treated as defiance according to the school behaviour policy.

There are other uniform expectations that are much easier to fix, for example, having an untucked shirt or rolling skirts up too short. Students will be asked to correct these issues and receive a behaviour point where they deliberately do not follow these expectations. Three or more behaviour points for any reason in one day results in a detention.

Exceptions

At lunch and break time students will obviously not get behaviour points because they are running around outdoors and their shirts have come untucked, or because they are playing football outdoors wearing trainers. However, the uniform expectations for students in the school building do not change from the beginning to the end of the school day.

If you have any queries regarding the school uniform - full details can be found on the website here.

In summary, please ensure that your daughter/son(s) attend in full correct uniform every day. If you have any concerns or questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Best wishes

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