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**THE BULWELL
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

27 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Since starting on 4 June, I've looked at and listened to feedback on most aspects of the school and its community.

One of the things I've had the most interesting feedback on has been uniform and students desire to represent themselves whilst also displaying their pride in being part of #TEAMBulwell (85% of students surveyed recognised this). They want to display their individuality and show what is important to them.

In addition to this, we find ourselves in a crazy world when I'm now paying £8 for some cheese, pasta and squash at Tesco. Prices are currently so high and not likely to go down any time soon, and we have to play our part in helping each other through this.

Students have told us that they are fed up with the clip-on ties—this has been overwhelming and almost universal.

To respond to Student Voice and to make uniform more affordable, the Leadership Team want to make the following adaptations to our Uniform Policy:

- We are happy for students to wear a plain black T-shirt for PE (these are about £2 in Primark) BUT it must be plain black with no logo.
- We are reverting to normal ties, not clip-on these—these will be purchased for students ready for September with spare ties being available on ParentPay; each year group will have a different colour (40% of students surveyed wanted this change).
- We are happy for students to wear plain black footwear—there should be no flashes of colour in them at all, not even coloured branding (52% of students surveyed wanted this change).
- We want to clarify that jewellery must be minimal and no hoops—studs are fine, but no nose rings or giant hoops in ears; it's fine to wear a bracelet, but no more than two (over 80% of students wanted this change).
- We have no opinions on hair or colours of headdress, but no caps or hats, and no sunglasses either (although I suspect this won't be an issue after September for a while!)



- We will be having a summer uniform including shorts but we will release details of this when we have spoken again to children.
- The only equipment your child needs to bring will be a pen, pencil, ruler, refillable bottle and a bag, as well as PE kit on PE days.

We will be insisting that shirts are tucked in, blazers are worn and that skirts are appropriate (to the knee), and everything else will remain the same.

I've attached the updated guidance for you and hope that this will:

- A. Make students feel more comfortable and able to express themselves.
- B. Make it cheaper and easier for you!

Many thanks and have a great summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Belshaw
Principal

FURTHER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

The updated Uniform Requirements can be found at the end of this letter. The full Uniform Policy can be found on the Academy website, along with guidance on how to source uniform, both new, recycled and free:

bulwellacademy.org.uk/main/parents/uniform

When sorting out your child's uniform for next year, we would be really grateful if you are able to donate any no-longer-needed good quality uniform for our Recycled Uniform Shop. There is also the option to swap 'like-for-like' from our Recycled Uniform Shop. Perhaps you have a 34 blazer but need a 36? If we have it in stock, come and swap! Pop into school on our drop-in days between **8am and 4pm** on **Tuesday 1 August** (new Year 7 parents) or **Wednesday 2 August** (Years 8 to 11) to view our current stock.

If you have any questions related to this update, please pop into the Academy on our drop-in days or email enquiries@bulwellacademy.org.uk.

We'd like to thank both parents and students for sharing their views which have led to the above changes. We hope you feel that we have listened to you.

Thank you for your continued support.



Branded Uniform

The following branded items are **COMPULSORY**:

- **Academy blazer** (sleeves worn to the wrist - not rolled up)
- **Academy tie**

The following branded items are **OPTIONAL**:

- Black jumper with red piping sold by Just Schoolwear*
- Academy short-sleeve or long-sleeve PE top

*Note: a plain black v-neck woollen jumper may be worn but is not essential. *Cardigans and hoodies are not permitted. School jumpers cannot be used to replace blazers.*



**COMPULSORY
Academy Blazer**

**COMPULSORY
Academy Tie**



**OPTIONAL
Black/Red V-Neck
Jumper**

Non-branded Uniform

The following non-branded items are **COMPULSORY**:

- **White school shirts** buttoned to the top and tucked into trousers or skirt at all times (*any item worn underneath a school shirt must be plain white with sleeves no longer than the sleeves of the shirt*)
- **Black regular fit school trousers** that cover the top of the shoe, or **black pleated school skirt** worn no shorter than 1 inch above the knee (*trousers and skirts should not be tight fitting or made of stretchy fabric; any belts worn should be plain black*); where appropriate, students are permitted to wear a plain black kamiz or a plain black shalwar.
- **Plain black footwear with a black sole**—no flashes of white or colour are permitted. Ankle socks or trainers socks can be any colour. *Any other socks or tights must be black.*
- Equipment should be carried **every day** in a **suitably sized bag that can be worn on the shoulder/s** (ie, large enough to carry A4 size folders and PE kit).
- Students should bring a **refillable bottle** to school **every day** to ensure they stay hydrated.

Student appearance

- Hair should be worn neatly. Long hair should be tied back for all practical sessions.
- Any make-up and/or nail varnish should be lightly applied. *Eyelashes and nails should only be moderate in length.*

Being prepared for all types of weather

- During colder or wet weather, students should wear a waterproof coat with hood. Coats can be of any colour. *Hoodies are not permitted.*
 - During hot weather, students, parents and carers will be informed if an adjustment is to be made to uniform, such as not wearing blazers.
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PE Kit

Essential Items: Plain black short-sleeve T-shirt; plain black jogging bottoms or black stretch pants / leggings; suitable socks and trainers

Optional items: Plain black shorts; Academy PE short-sleeved or long-sleeved zipper top or plain black sweater; plain black long-sleeved base layer

Student Appearance for PE: Long hair must be tied back; all jewellery must be removed for PE with the exception of medical identity tags.



OPTIONAL: Academy short-sleeve PE top



OPTIONAL: Academy long-sleeve zipper PE top

See below for prohibitions that apply to uniform, appearance and technology.

The following are prohibited items that DO NOT form part of the Academy uniform:

- Trousers and skirts that are tight fitting and/or made of stretchy fabric. Belts that are not black.
- Footwear that is not **all** black; boots or shoes that fasten above the ankle; platform shoes; sandals (*Socks that are higher than ankle socks must be black. Tights must be black.*)
- Hoodies, cardigans, branded jumpers, full length knitwear (these will be confiscated if seen).
- Where communication is shared that blazers are not required (ie, for a fixed period during hotter weather), these should not be replaced with any other jacket or non-school jumper.

The following prohibitions apply to student appearance:

- No hats, caps, bandanas, durags or sunglasses (*these items should be removed and put away before entering school premises – if seen on site, items will be confiscated*).
- Any make-up and/or nail varnish should be lightly applied only. Eyelashes and nails should only be moderate in length.
- No hooped jewellery or smartwatches. No more than two bracelets. *All jewellery must be removed before PE with the exception of medical identity tags.*
- No permanent or temporary tattoos (in accordance with Chapter 24 of the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969)

See it, Hear it, Lose it!



Mobile phones, smartwatches, earphones / headphones, iPods, MP3 players and electronic games are not to be seen or heard on school premises. **Mobile phones must be switched off before entering the school gate and placed in bag (not pocket).**

Confiscated items can only be collected by the parent / carer (not the student) between 3pm and 4pm Monday to Thursday or 3pm to 3.30pm on Fridays.