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DRESS CODE

I was asked at our recent Parent Council meeting what the school's position is about dress code/uniform and while I delighted to have the chance to discuss it, the answer is one that I want to share with all parents.

For the last two years we have had to operate under a wide range of measures to keep people safe and keep schools open. This included keeping rooms ventilated even when it was cold. The government guidance stated that pupils should be allowed to wear what they want to stay warm and that school uniform should not be rigidly enforced. We have remained in favour of uniform and hugely appreciate the large number of pupils who have continued to wear it. We do realise that many pupils have moved away from school uniform and due to the government guidance there was not much we could do to challenge that except in extreme cases.

That guidance no longer holds sway and so we are looking for a return to the previous high standards of uniform that our young people wore pre COVID-19. I am aware that most parents refresh uniform over the summer and so wanted you to have the information in good time. In June we will be encouraging this (if your child has uniform that they haven't outgrown please encourage them to wear it) and in August we will be expecting this. Below is an extract from the most recent school handbook with one small addition in italics:

School dress code

Culloden Academy has a dress code which we wear with pride. Amongst the reasons we are strongly in favour of a school dress code which all pupils follow are the facts that:

- It improves school security by making it easier to identify intruders.
- It is better value than clothing pupils may press parents to buy for school.
- It will give greater equality of appearance and discourage remarks about who can or cannot afford designer clothes.
- It gives a sense of community and a simple focus on what matters- learning.
- It encourages better conduct and improves the atmosphere for learning.
- It could help to reduce truancy by identifying pupils when not in school.
- It heightens the reputation of the school in the community- some of whom are future employers of our young people.

The agreed school dress code for Culloden Academy is:

- Girls' Cardigan or V neck Jumper black or purple or Boys' V neck Jumper black. [Can be ordered from this link](#). *Grey is also acceptable*
- Shirt/blouse black or white.
- Trousers/skirt- black only.
- Tie (all pupils are expected to wear the school tie) S5/6 purple, S1-4 striped.

We recognise that many parents find the cost of the official school-wear prohibitive and have decided to buy jumpers and polo shirts from other sources which do not have the Culloden Academy logo on them. This is absolutely fine- so long as they are plain and do not have any other logo on them. For the reasons outlined above, all pupils should be clearly identifiable as a pupil of Culloden Academy and so I would ask that all pupils are wearing the school tie or as a minimum have at least one item with a logo on it or. Please speak to your child's guidance teacher if there are any difficulties with school clothing as discreet help can be provided.

As we return to some previous practices, following dress code will be a requirement for attending school dances or for representing the school at external events- this will be explained in detail to pupils in June at assemblies but we hope that the positive reasons mentioned above will be enough to persuade pupils to help give a great impression of the school in the community.

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance
Rector