

Ref: JEV/SME/AST

25 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Uniform and Attendance Expectations for Plume Academy Students (Years 7-11)

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support with our previous COVID-19 Risk Assessments and encouraging our students to help protect themselves and others. It has been incredibly rewarding and reassuring to see our students adapt to the recent circumstances with continued respect and understanding; they have been a credit to themselves, you and all members of the Plume family.

Uniform

As we continue into the second half of the spring term and following the recent Government announcements, we will now be able to return to our normal expectations for wearing full Plume Academy uniform. Whilst we have shown consideration for parents, carers and students with regards to additional layers in the colder weather conditions, we are now pleased to reinstate the uniform expectations and high standards that we have all worked very hard together to establish. This will be done in a two stepped process that all students will be expected to adhere to with the following deadlines:

- As of **Tuesday 1 March 2022**: The wearing of jumpers/coats inside of the academy building will no longer be permitted as acceptable Plume Academy uniform. If a student wishes to wear a jumper with their blazer, this must be the Plume Academy jumper that is available on our website. Students from Tuesday 1 March 2022, will have the choice of wearing either their full Plume Academy uniform or on the days that they have PE, they may attend in full Plume Academy PE kit. No other jumpers, coats or external layers will be permitted, only Plume Academy attire that is outlined in our Uniform Policy.
- As of **Tuesday 19 April 2022**, all students will be required to attend the academy in full uniform, adhering to each feature as stipulated in our fully ratified Uniform Policy. Please use this link for your convenience: <https://www.plume.essex.sch.uk/uniform-policy> .

This means that students will no longer be permitted to arrive at the academy in their PE kits, but will instead be expected to change for PE lessons and other such practical events, by using the changing facilities within the academy.

The policy highlights the various features of the uniform; however, we have outlined the important points below and would be grateful for your full support as we reinstate the following expectations:

- Footwear should consist of plain black leather (or faux leather) shoes. Canvas and materials other than leather or faux leather are not permitted:
- **No rings, bracelets, necklaces, nose studs/rings are to be worn and no more than one** studded earring per ear.
- The academy graphite skirts should reach the knee area and not be rolled at the waist.
- Top buttons on shirts are to be done up at all times.
- Hair must be a natural colour.
- No nail varnish or false nails to be worn.

Attendance

It has been imperative for us as an academy to work closely with families on crucial matters such as attendance, in these changing and challenging times. However, as all stakeholders will appreciate, attendance is one of the most crucial contributors to student success and achievement. Missing school for just a few days a year can damage students' chances of gaining good GCSEs, therefore it is vital that stakeholders maintain good attendance and follow the clear expectations as outlined in our academy attendance policy. Please see the attached link for your convenience:

https://www.plume.essex.sch.uk/files/ugd/03a94d_d383a3c273c7410086780f25a35f16bc.pdf

If parents or carers would like to discuss any elements of the attendance policy and expectations, please can we ask that you contact your child's Pastoral Team in the first instance.

Punctuality

We would like to remind all stakeholders of the importance of arriving to the academy on time. Whilst we fully appreciate that roadworks and closures can pose some difficulties with punctuality, we reiterate to students that such events should be taken into consideration where possible and it is imperative that students **arrive no later than 8.25am** each morning. The tutor time sessions that students attend have clearly planned programs that not only include the legal requirement of a morning register being taken, but also Personal Development lessons and crucial information that the students will be required to know for their safety and learning.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support and we are all looking forward to reaching that greater sense of 'normality' within the academy. If you have any questions relating to the information above, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of Year or Assistant Head of Year in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



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