

JEV/SME/AST/RCL/GHA

Monday 17 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Uniform Update for Plume Academy Students (Years' 7-11)

I hope this correspondence finds you and your family well after what we hope has been a wonderful weekend.

New Style of Skirt

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that following extensive feedback from stakeholders regarding issues relating to our current skirt, we are now in a position to offer families the prospect of purchasing an alternative style skirt which should address many of the fitting concerns that have previously been raised.

We have selected a box pleated grey skirt with a fully elasticated waist band which prevents the need for any student to roll their skirts and thereby, damage the integrity of the zip - a frequent issue highlighted to our suppliers, Anglia School & Sportswear Ltd. We have also endeavoured to select a skirt, which is even more affordable, and therefore, we have avoided the far more costly kilts, culottes and skort options.

The new style skirt will be phased in with immediate effect whilst becoming the main skirt of choice from September 2023. **Please note, however, there is no expectation to purchase the new skirt at this time.** It is simply an option for those students who would like to purchase a different style of skirt for the reasons outlined above.

The skirt is currently available via the following link: <https://www.yourschoolwear.co.uk/girls-junior-grey-pleated-skirt-685-p.asp> and costs will vary depending on size. For the small sizes, the skirt is priced at £7.75 and increases to £9.50 for the larger sizes. Irrespective of size, the new style of skirt is considerably more affordable than our current skirt, which is also one of the main reasons we have selected it.

Please be aware that the aged 15-16 sized skirt (70cm waist), which is the largest available in this style, would have to be ordered separately by Anglia School & Sportswear Ltd so may have a 24-48 hour delay on delivery. However, we are aware that a very similar skirt can be purchased via Amazon using the following link: [Luxe Diva Grey Elastic School Skirt.](#)

The use of Student Learning Credits

Pupil Premium funding is aimed at raising the attainment of Free School Meals students or students who have received Free School Meals in the past. Each student who is entitled to Student Learning Credits has £50 allocated to them every Autumn term and these credits can be used to purchase school uniform through our online uniform shop. Student Learning Credits are monitored by our PPG Achievement Coordinator, therefore, should you have any queries about these arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Frost, our PPG Achievement Coordinator, or Mrs Wilks, our Assistant PPG Achievement Coordinator, via 01621 854681.

Uniform supplier arrangements

As an academy, we always seek to ensure our uniform supplier, Anglia School & Sportswear Ltd, give the highest priority to cost and value for money (including the quality and durability of the garment). Anglia School & Sportswear Ltd are the main supplier for the majority of secondary schools in this area and in line with the statutory guidance, our contract is retendered at least every five years to ensure the best value for money is secured.

Plume Academy Uniform Policy

In light of recent changes to our skirt, our Uniform Policy for 2022-2023 is currently being updated, however, our current policy can be located on our website via the following link:

<https://www.plume.essex.sch.uk/uniform-policy>.

If you have any questions relating to the information above, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Assistant Head of Year in the first instance.

Thank you for taking the time to read this academy uniform update letter, as well as in advance of your anticipated support.

Yours sincerely



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Plume, working with:

