

AST/SEL/GHA

Monday 21 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Uniform Updates 2024-2025

I am delighted to inform you of the positive approach we have witnessed from our students since our return in September 2024. Furthermore, as part of the letter that was shared at the end of the academic year about skirts, I wanted to bring you up to date and inform you of the next steps we are taking regarding uniform at Plume Academy.

Skirts

Since September 2024, we have worked with all stakeholders to improve how skirts are worn across the academy. Students have responded positively to the non-rolling of skirts and adapted on the most part. However, with those students persisting to roll or fold their skirts, they are now having an increased sanction that will see them placed in our academy Reflection Room for a day, depending on the nature of their persistence.

As agreed, I have also ordered in three versions of a skirt that Mrs Clark, Mrs D'Arcy-Smith and Mrs Rhodes will be supporting students to trial and to receive feedback from them as we look towards September 2025 for a potential additional option for any student struggling with the current skirt options. I will be updating all parents and carers by the summer term of 2025 and highlighting the new uniform purchases that maybe available for September 2025.

Shoes

As mentioned previously the academy is continuing to review its Uniform Policy and to ensure a fair, balanced and affordable uniform is offered we are reviewing the wearing of trainers, in particular, Nike Air Force Ones and looking at potentially removing trainers from the academy Uniform Policy periodically from September 2025.

The proposal would look like the following;

September 2025

- Year 7 – no trainers only black leather school shoes are permitted
- Year 8 – no trainers only black leather school shoes are permitted
- Year 9 - no trainers only black leather school shoes are permitted
- Year 10 - no trainers only black leather school shoes are permitted
- Year 11 – can still wear trainers but aware that replacement shoes should be black leather school shoes

September 2026

- Whole Academy will be expected to wear black leather school shoes (trainers will not be permitted)

With the following proposal, we would welcome the feedback of our parents/carers as we look decide on whether this will move forward come September 2025. Therefore, all parents and carers can voice their view via one of two methods;

1. Parent Voice – Wednesday 20 November 2024 – if you would like to attend this event and require more information please email s.ellis@plume.essex.sch.uk, Mrs Ellis will then update you accordingly regarding the timings and location.
2. Microsoft Forms feedback - <https://forms.office.com/e/aL6Y7S5mU7> to be completed by Friday 29 November 2024.

Once all input has been received the academy will relay and share the information with all parents and carers and update any changes to our uniform policies ahead of the scheduled dates proposed.

January 2025

Additionally, the uniform policy will have some amendments to it for January 2025 to ensure we continue to drive expectations and standards, and these come in the form of;

1. No false eyelashes will be permitted, only light eye make-up can be worn
2. Only one ring on each hand and these must be removable to permit accessibility to lessons and their education
3. Necklaces can be worn but not seen and removed for all lessons that it may impact their safety and wellbeing.

These changes will be added to the policy, shared accordingly with all stakeholders and implemented from students return in January 2025 after the Christmas break.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the changes but appreciate your support and input regarding the amendments made.

Yours faithfully,



Mr A Stoneman
**Deputy Headteacher and
Designated Safeguarding Lead**

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Plume, working with:

