



14th May 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Change of School Uniform

You will be aware that we have just completed a consultation process on whether or not to change our school uniform, and I am writing to inform you of the outcome of that consultation, and the rationale behind the decision.

As you know, Marriotts moved to a brand new school building in January 2013, and as part of that move, changed its uniform to compliment the new school branding. Key priorities for the uniform were to ensure that it was affordable, easy for parents to purchase and complimented the ethos of the school.

However, there has been considerable change in the ethos of the school over the past two years with much emphasis being placed on aspiration, self-awareness and self-esteem. This has already had a huge impact on achievement which in turn has raised the profile of the school within the local community.

We are now in a very strong position to compete with all the schools in Stevenage, and in so doing we need to promote and market a higher profile image of the school.

Over the course of the last two years, we have been asked by numerous students and parents why we don't have a blazer as part of our school uniform. These comments together with our new raised profile prompted a full parent and student consultation. The results of the survey indicated that the introduction of a blazer, shirt and tie would be appropriate uniform for the 'New Marriotts'. We subsequently obtained some samples of blazers and ties, and our students have had an opportunity to view these and give their feedback.

Based on this feedback, and with Governor approval, we have decided to introduce a blazer, shirt and tie as part of our uniform with effect from September 2015.

The key reasons for the change are:

- To be comparable in our dress code to other Stevenage schools.
- To raise the profile of the school within the community.
- To be competitive with all Stevenage schools.
- To ensure our dress code is fit for purpose and appropriate for our school motto;

Aim high. Work Hard. Be kind.

The key priorities for the new uniform are that:

- It fits with the school vision.
- It is clear and consistent in design.
- It is smart and practical.
- It is affordable for parents.

The key changes to the uniform are:

- Remove the polo shirts with embroidered logo.
- Introduce a blazer for boys and girls.
- Introduce a tie for boys and girls.
- Introduce plain white shirt for boys and girls.



- Remove the embroidered cardigan.
- Retain the grey v neck jumper to include red trim, but without the embroidered logo.

The proposed uniform for both boys and girls including approximate costs will be:

- Girls - Black skirt or trousers - £10
- Boys - Black trousers - £10
- Black blazer with embroidered school logo - £26 - £30 (depending on size).
- White Shirt – 2 pack £8
- Striped School Tie - £5
- Grey V neck jumper with red trim (no logo) - £16 - £18

Estimated cost: £65

Current approximate cost for both boys and girls including two polo shirts is £46.

The blazer, tie and jumper will still be ordered through our current supplier, and the shirts, trousers and skirts can be purchased from any stockist. The blazer chosen is machine washable and very hard wearing.

There will be no change to our PE kit.

Clearly we appreciate that some parents may have recently purchased our current school uniform, therefore the introduction of the new uniform will be phased over the next 2 years for existing pupils as follows:

- **Polo shirts will not be part of the uniform from September 2015.**
- The new uniform will be compulsory for all Year 7 students from September 2015.
- The introduction of shirt and tie for boys and girls will be compulsory for all students from September 2015.
- The blazer will be compulsory for all students from September 2016.
- Students will be allowed to continue to wear their existing jumpers/cardigans until September 2017.

There will be an opportunity to purchase our existing school jumpers at very much reduced prices, and these will be acceptable as part of our uniform until September 2017. Further information about this and photos of our new uniform will be posted on the website.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support with the change of uniform. If you have any queries or concerns would you please direct these to our Business Manager, Mrs Anne Evans.

Yours sincerely

Ms Bethany Honnor
Headteacher