



June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing on behalf of myself, and Mary Higgins, Chair of Governors of Barnwood Park School to inform you of forthcoming changes to our school uniform. Firstly however I would like to extend a warm welcome to our incoming Year 6 students and their families. I am eagerly anticipating meeting you all and beginning this exciting journey together. Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude to the entire school community for the exceptionally warm welcome I have received. Myself and the wider team are committed to making Barnwood Park School outstanding in every way.

The forthcoming changes to our school uniform will be effective from 1st September 2024 but I felt it was important to provide you with advance notice of these changes to avoid any unnecessary purchases, especially considering the current cost of living pressures.

#### **Rationale for Uniform Adjustments:**

1. **Preparation for Later Life:** Smart uniforms help prepare our students for their future professional lives.
2. **Consistency:** Ensuring a consistent uniform helps maintain equality among students.
3. **School Pride:** A unified appearance fosters a sense of pride and belonging among students.

#### **Elements of the Uniform That Will Remain Unchanged:**

- Blazers
- Shirts
- Formal black shoes (no trainers)
- PE kit

#### **Changes to the Uniform:**

- **Trousers:** Students will be allowed to wear **grey** trousers only. Currently, some students wear navy blue. Grey trousers are more accessible and cost-effective from major supermarkets and retailers, and I want to unify students so everyone is wearing the same.
- **Skirts:** I will be introducing a tartan kilt to replace the current skirt option. This will be similar to other Greenshaw Learning Trust schools. Following a consultation with students, the design will be finalised and this will be shared with you as soon as possible.
- **Ties:** I will be introducing a new tie for all students. Each student will wear the same navy and silver tie. Houses will be indicated using an alternative method, to be confirmed, but this is likely to be a shield badge. Each student will be given their new tie, with no charge, either at the end of the Summer term or when we return in September. Parents will not need to purchase a tie.

**Support for Cost of Living:** I remain mindful of the financial impact these changes may have and am committed to supporting our families, therefore:

- A free kilt will be provided for all students, including new Year 6 students. Arrangements for the fitting and collection of these will be shared with you in due course.
- Families experiencing any difficulty in purchasing grey trousers or shoes are encouraged to contact the school directly so we can assist with any concerns. Please contact [admin@barnwood-park.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@barnwood-park.gloucs.sch.uk)

Mr S Derry, Headteacher of Barnwood Park School & Henley Bank High School

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I appreciate your understanding and cooperation as these changes are implemented. My objective is to ensure all students feel confident and take the utmost pride in being part of Barnwood Park School, and I know you will support me in this.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S Derry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stephen Derry  
Interim Headteacher, Barnwood Park School