



LEIGHTON PARK

FOUNDED 1890

17th June 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you with information regarding our School 'uniform', commonly known as Collect Dress. This follows my previous letter about Collect Dress on 31st January.

Over the course of the Autumn Term, representatives from across the Leighton Park community discussed the issue of Collect Dress. Following focus groups and meetings we decided to make some changes to the appearance of our student body, starting in September 2020. Our ultimate aim is to create a smart and aspirational environment in which our students can look well dressed, whilst at the same time preserving their individuality. We also want to ensure they are smart and impressive when representing the School away from the Park.

From September 2020 there will be subtle changes to the Collect Dress worn by our Middle School students, currently in Year 8 moving to Year 9. As they make the transition from Fryer House into the senior houses, they will begin to experience a greater degree of independence and responsibility in many areas of their school life. Slightly more freedom in terms of what they wear for school is just one area in which we work with our students to help them mature and develop into adulthood.

Therefore, from September, the Collect Dress worn by Year 9 will be:

- **Jacket** – black or navy blue, formal, tailored and buttoned.
- **LP Pin** - enamel pin to be issued to all students to be worn on the lapel of the jacket (lost pins to be recharged).
- **Skirt** – black or navy blue plain skirt (suitable, business length so sits just above the knee and covers 3/4 of the measurement from hip to knee at least). Avoid Lycra based garments unless it is guaranteed to stay the right length.
- **Trousers** – black or navy blue, tailored, formal, trousers (not low slung). Skin tight trousers should not be worn (no jeans, denim, jeggings or other casual styles. Chinos should not be worn).
- **Shirt/ Blouse** - white, plain (to be tucked in unless fitted). Shirts/ Blouses should have sleeves. They should not be see-through, where underwear is clearly visible. Please help girls to choose appropriate underwear colours to be worn at school (e.g not black/ illuminous colours). The shirt, top button should be done up and tucked in when wearing Collect Dress with a tie.
- **Jumper** – v-neck with a tie, smart, woollen, long sleeved; plain dark colours (no pattern); e.g. black, navy. Sweatshirts should not be worn.
- **Tie** – any colours (own choice), properly tied with top button done up.
- **School shoes** – sensible, dark leather style, no trainers, no boots, plimsolls or any type of canvas shoe. Dark coloured flat plain ankle boots are allowed (no studs/ straps) but trousers should not be tucked inside the boot. Low or no heel. Dr Martens are not to be worn.

- **Socks/tights** – plain dark socks or plain tights (natural, black or blue). A spare pair of tights to be kept in school in case of rips or ladders. Socks can be trainer/ cuff socks if appropriate for the style of shoe/ trouser (white is not permitted) but generally they should be full, not sport/ ankle/ trainer – any colour/ pattern.
- Students are expected to be clean-shaven of facial hair.

Additional information:

- A Leighton Park bag and Leighton Park coat are available via Schoolblazer Ltd, our school wear suppliers if required.
- Belts should be of discreet size and colour.
- Hats should not be worn unless the weather is very cold. Baseball caps, with Leighton Park branding, should only be worn when playing sport if needed.
- Years 9 to 11 may wear modest jewellery e.g. a fine chain necklace, a ring and stud earrings, with a maximum of two in each ear. Spacer style earrings should not be worn. Students with more than two piercings will be asked to remove additional earrings, even if they have been recently purchased. Jewellery may have to be removed if it is thought to pose a health and safety risk. (e.g. when playing sports/ in the lab/ workshop).
- A modest amount of subtle (as in not noticeable) make-up is allowed. A clear or plain, single coloured nail varnish is acceptable. False nails should not be worn. Students will be asked to remove make-up should we feel that too much is being worn.
- Students should not wear the following as Collect Dress: jeans (they have studs on the pockets), denim jackets/ shirts/ trousers or corduroy trousers, shirts without collars.
- Headphones should not be worn at any point in the school day with Collect Dress, but may be worn with own clothes/ games kit after school if appropriate.
- Coats may be worn to and from school and during the day but not inside any buildings. Coats should not be taken into the Oakview dining area.

In terms of sports kit, the School will also be phasing in new garments with the new logo and colours. This will be phased in over a period of two years, allowing families who have recently purchased kit to continue to get the wear from it.

Due to global supply chain issues, there may be a delay in the supply of some new sportswear items. We are working closely with Schoolblazer on this, so please bear with us. If any items are not available by the start of term then the School will provide students with the old versions at no additional cost. Any remaining stock of old uniform items will then be donated to our charity partners.

I hope you can see how the School is trying to move towards a smarter look for the student body. Please do let us know if you have any comments regarding the above.

Best wishes,



Eddie Falshaw
Deputy Head