

Ref: School Uniform

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been delighted to welcome back our students to the academy over the past two weeks as we return to face-to-face teaching after 11 weeks away. It has been a pleasure to see smiles back on the faces of our young people as they come back into the classrooms which have been empty for too long!

We are acutely aware that due to the national lockdown restrictions, non-essential retail outlets remained closed until April 12th. This has meant that a number of our families have not been able to replace uniform which has been outgrown or damaged over the 11 week period away from the academy. As a result of this, some students have been in school without full uniform.

Whilst we appreciate that there are obvious barriers in place currently, our expectations around uniform remain at the same high level as they would at any other time. The uniform is both practical and smart and a high standard of uniform is an important feature of academy life. Students' uniform is important to Airedale Academy because it allows our students to look smart and be proud of being a part of our school community. We notice when people look smart and our students are often praised by visitors, members of the public and the local community for the way that they look. Our uniform is a clear message to everyone that we care about ourselves and each other. Wearing the correct uniform also serves to help prepare our students for a successful professional life outside of education.

To this end, and in-line with the reopening of non-essential retail outlets on Monday, April 12th, we are expecting that all academy students will be able to attend school in full uniform by Monday, April 19th at the very latest. Any uniform-related issues after this date will be dealt with in line with the academy uniform and behaviour policies accordingly. Students who have a medical reason for not being able to wear full uniform, should bring a note in their planner to explain this. Parents/carers are recommended to use our two approved uniform providers Better and Bright (<https://www.betterandbrightschoolwear.co.uk/>) and CWS (<https://www.cwsschoolwear.co.uk>). As an academy, we have also developed a partnership with Airedale Uniform Exchange. This is a locally run service who can be contacted via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/uniformdropin/>).

In addition, we are also asking our families to donate any items of unwanted uniform to the academy after the Easter break so we can support any students or families in need at this time. If you wish to donate any unwanted items of either school uniform or PE kit, please can you ask your child to drop them off into their Year group Hub during the first week back after the Easter break. We will then launder the items ready to loan out to other students as and when is required.

If there are any families who require bespoke support with any uniform queries, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance who will be more than willing to provide assistance with any questions or queries. For avoidance of doubt:

Year 7 – Mr. L. Kilvington

Year 8 – Mrs. B. Jones

Ambition • Bravery • Respect

Year 9 – Miss. K. Eustace
Year 10 – Mrs. C. Parker
Year 11 – Mrs. T. Heptinstall

I would like to personally thank all our families for their continued support at this time as we get #backtobrilliant!

Kind regards,

Mr. J. Podlewski

Assistant Principal

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