



## Decisions following uniform consultation at Tupton Hall School April 2024

### Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, we recently undertook a consultation in relation to school uniform at Tupton Hall School. We would like to thank all families who contributed to this important process. 361 responses were received which is 28% of the lower school student body.

An update of the consultation was shared with members of the Local Academy Board (LAB) on 13 March 2024, and then a working group of governors and school leaders met on 9 April 2024 to consider in detail the feedback provided by parents and carers. Below are the decisions that have been made by the school and LAB in relation to uniform from September 2024, together with a summary of the outcomes of the consultation.

### Moving forwards:

- Together with the blazer and school tie, a standard trouser and skirt will be introduced for all Y7-11 students to wear from September 2024 available from one of the three suppliers sourced from the local community;

*Your School Uniform, Just School Wear and School Wear Solutions.* Parents will have the choice to use any of these suppliers

- For all students, the first trouser or skirt will be provided *free of charge* by Just School Wear
- School jumpers remain optional, but can be purchased from any of the three local suppliers
- Student's specific SEND sensory needs will be taken into account on an individual basis when discussed with parents and carers
- Cost of Living Support will be made available for all parents who request additional help with the updated uniform arrangements
- Our 'preloved' uniform swap shop will be developed further to provide regular good quality school uniform on a swap basis when students require new sized or replacement items
- Suppliers will undertake fitting and sampling events in school between June and July 2024 with the appropriately sized item being distributed via school to homes prior to the end of the academic year. Any sizing issues will be resolved by school
- Suppliers will be accessible throughout the end of July and August 2024
- A delivery service to the school (in term time only) will be available for children or parents to collect items from school in addition to ordered on-line from stores
- Parents will be able to create an account with school through Parent Pay to make instalment payments for uniform or saved for parents to spend when the need arises
- There will be consistent enforcement of school uniform expectations

continued over page .....

## Provision for children on free school meals (FSM)

Following feedback and discussion with our Local Academy Board, we will be providing a full first set of uniform, including PE kit, for all children who are in receipt of free school meals when they join the school in Year 7. This means that all eligible families of Year 7 children who start with us in September 2024 will have no financial outlay and can swap items moving ahead as part of the swap service provided by the school.

## Preloved Swap Shop

We will work with community organisations who already offer uniform swaps to expand the breadth of this service and to have donation points in the community as well as at school. We are hoping that this will help to further increase donations to the service by making it more flexible and easier to donate. We are also confident that the provision of free uniform to students on free school meals, which at our school is a third of the student body, will provide a significant stimulus to the swap service.

## Actions taken prior to the LAB members meeting following consultation

School held meetings with a number of uniform suppliers and shared our expectations and parents' concerns and requests with them specifically about:

1. Cost of blazers, trousers, skirts and ties
2. Quality of blazers, trousers, skirts and ties
3. Pre-ordering routines – available samples prior to ordering

We are pleased to confirm that we have negotiated reductions in the current prices of all items of school uniform. In addition, the quality of items has been carefully checked to consider material, make quality and washing routines.

## Parents' views shared through the consultation:

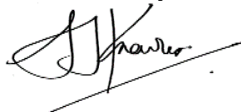
- Vast majority in strong agreement that a school uniform positively promotes the school ethos and promotes a professional learning environment
- Vast majority in strong agreement that having a uniform policy helps to reduce instances of bullying related to clothing choices, brands and costs
- Vast majority in strong agreement that a school uniform simplifies morning routines for both parents and students
- Vast majority in strong agreement that they would like to be able to pass uniform items on to younger siblings or donate to a pre-loved school shop to make uniform costs affordable for all
- Majority in strong agreement that a uniform policy instils a sense of self-discipline and could better prepare our students for future vocational expectations and opportunities
- Majority in agreement that the current school uniform is comfortable to wear for my child(ren)
- Majority in agreement that the current school uniform items are durable and withstand regular wear and tear
- Majority in agreement that the current school uniform policy is effectively enforced
- Majority in agreement that having value for money standardised uniform items could further promote a sense of equality among our students
- Mixed views that the current school uniform is good value for money
- Mixed views that purchasing all of standardised uniform items (blazer, tie, trouser / skirt) from approved suppliers would save time and be easier to manage for parents and carers providing they were good value for money
- Mixed views that a more standardised uniform would contribute to an improved professional and cohesive image for our school

Open text repeated comments related mainly to concerns over the following:

- The cost and quality of school uniform items
- Sensory needs of SEND students
- Reasonable adjustment to the expectations around the wearing of blazers in summer months
- Enforcement of uniform expectations

Many thanks to those who completed the consultation process and for your engagement and contributions. More detailed plans will follow during this term as we begin to plan for these changes with our student body and staff.

Yours faithfully



Mr A J Knowles  
Headteacher



Mrs L Lovell  
Chair of Governors