

July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of the strangest of academic years, we would like to thank you once again for your support throughout the year. Never has it been more important to pull together as a community, and as such, we have appreciated all the messages of support, the dialogue and the working together to enable us to keep the year as normal as possible for our students.

After we bid a fond farewell to our Class of 2021, we were pleased to be able to welcome the Class of 2026 to Marple Hall for their Taster Day. We know that this year's leavers have set the highest of standards for others to follow but our new intake rose to that challenge and we are looking forward to seeing them become active members of our school community in September.

We appreciate that some parents will be purchasing uniform before September and we would like to bring the following to your attention regarding our school uniform.

Marple Hall School Uniform and Appearance Code.

All students are expected to wear full school uniform in order to promote a sense of personal pride and pride in belonging to Marple Hall School. Our high standards require all students to wear their full uniform correctly at all times and we ask all parents and carers to support this. By wearing the uniform, we aim to engender a sense of community amongst students. The wearing of uniform creates equality amongst students in terms of appearance and removes peer pressure to dress in "designer" fashions. We believe that the uniform is good value for money.

School is not a fashion show and students can feel under peer pressure to wear their uniform in a certain way. Although we realise that since the beginning of time rules have been broken in order to personalise uniform, we are proud of our uniform and expect students to wear it well. To this end, we are making some further changes for September 2021 with particular regards to how the uniform should be worn.

Students responded well to the sports shoe ban which was implemented a few years ago and their footwear looks smart and appropriate for school. This is an example of why we believe that by explaining our reasoning behind our decisions and gaining the support of parents and carers, we will be able to work together to succeed in tightening up our expectations.

- **Shirts must be tucked in when inside the building, from when students arrive until the end of the day.** The only exception to this is during their break and lunch. As we continue to raise standards across the school, students will be issued with a uniform sanction if their shirt is untucked during the school day except for during break or lunch
- **The wearing of fake tan to school will not be allowed with effect from the Autumn Term 2021.** Fake tan is already banned in many schools. Fake tan is something that students may choose to wear out of school, when they are going out or socialising. It is not necessary in school, (in the same way piercings and heavy makeup are unnecessary), it detracts from uniformity and is therefore not allowed. As fake tan cannot be removed by make-up wipes, from September, students will be sent home to wash it off and then return to school.
- **Students who choose to wear the skirt uniform must wear black or navy opaque tights from the Autumn Term.** We have too much variety in that students are wearing opaque tights, sheer tights, knee length socks or ankle socks of varying colours which together detracts from the smart, business-like image we aspire to. Students who cannot wear tights for medical reasons should wear the trouser uniform or contact the Medical Needs Officer or Head of Year to discuss any issues

A place of excellence where learners are proud of their school and confident of success

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- **Finally, students who wear the skirt uniform must wear the specific school skirt at no shorter than mid-thigh length** and look appropriately business-like for school.

If a student's skirt is shorter than mid-thigh length or the student does not look appropriately business-like for school, the student will:

- a) Be sent to the pastoral offices if the skirt cannot be lengthened. Students will be sent home to change into appropriate uniform and return to school after contact with parents.
- b) Receive a uniform sanction if the skirt is too short due to being rolled up or made shorter using hair bobbles or any other means.

Students must wear black or navy opaque tights with skirts from the start of the Autumn Term until a date in the summer term as identified at the time by MHS when, in hotter weather, plain black or white ankle socks may be worn. This is in line with current rules around the wearing of blazers and ties in very hot weather and will be communicated by the school at the appropriate time.

Students who do not wear black or navy opaque tights with the skirt uniform will be lent a pair of tights the first time and given a uniform sanction but will subsequently be sent home to change and return to school wearing appropriate uniform. Students should not wear tights with holes in or which are ripped.

The skirt must be navy blue with large box pleats and should be an appropriate length of just above the knee and no shorter than mid-thigh without being rolled up. We ask parents and carers to ensure that the skirt fits properly on the waistband and that skirts are not being purchased to fit around the rib cage.

These four factors will be instrumental in enabling us to work together to smarten up the aspects of uniform that are currently a concern. This in turn will help our school community to have a collective smarter and more uniform appearance.

Our main school uniform is as follows:

- Navy single breasted blazer with school badge **purchased from Monkhouses or Warrens** (blazers must be worn at all times in the building)
- Plain white traditional school shirt with a collar, tucked in to waistband (not polo type), either long sleeved or short sleeved but not 3/4 length
- School tie **purchased from Monkhouses or Warrens or Marple Hall School Finance Office**
- Navy skirt of the exact style purchased from **Monkhouses or Warrens** (please ask for the MHS skirt)
- Black formal and tailored full length trousers (not cropped or short)
- Navy pullover with a V-neck and school logo (this item is optional)
- Plain black or navy opaque tights worn with skirt
- Formal black leather or leather look shoes (not Converse, training shoes, boots or any other colour)

The uniform is a gender-neutral uniform and not specific to boys or girls making it more inclusive and in keeping with our ethos.

Trousers which are not formal or which are tight fitting or cropped are not permitted. They must be black, formal, tailored and full length. Any other style, such as skinny or flared trousers will not be accepted, even if high street stores are marketing them as school wear.

The school uniform suppliers are listed below for purchase of skirts, blazers and the optional jumper.

[Monkhouse Schoolwear](#), [Monkhouse Intersport](#), [F.R.Monkhouse Ltd](#), [Top Form Schoolwear](#)
[MWarrens Online Store](#)

All shoes must be smart, formal and all black. No boots, canvas shoes, trainer style or Airforce 1 style are acceptable.

Make Up and Jewellery.

No make-up is allowed in Years 7-9. Students in Years 10 and 11 may wear natural, discreet make up but will be asked to remove heavy make-up. Nails for all students must be natural and without varnish.

Permitted jewellery is one small pair of gold or silver studs in each ear and a watch. No other jewellery of any kind will be allowed. Hair must be of a natural colour and no extreme hairstyles will be allowed.
Fake tan is not permitted and students will be sent home to wash this off if it is worn to school.

One small gold or silver stud earring may be worn in each ear and extreme hairstyles such a shaved heads or unnatural colours are not permitted.

Students may be sent home to change or will be isolated if they come to school wearing inappropriate uniform. This way all parents and carers will know that we are implementing the uniform policy very seriously and should hopefully relieve some of this family pressure. If parents and carers have any doubt about whether the item being purchased is appropriate for school, please contact the school first for advice.

The summer term ends for students on Friday 16th July at 12.30pm and students will be informed if their school bus is not running. The new school year begins for Years 7 and 11 on Thursday 2nd September at 8.35am and for all other year groups on Friday 3rd September at 8.35am. At the time of writing, there is no further update from the Government regarding testing, face coverings and social distancing from September but we will update you with any necessary guidance towards the end of the holiday, as this information becomes available.

On behalf of the Marple Hall community, we would like to wish you a more normal, enjoyable summer break and we all look forward to continuing our relationship with families in September.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Gregory.
Deputy Headteacher