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Chetwynde School

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28th May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Changes to the Chetwynde School Uniform

The Chetwynde School Board of Trustees have concluded a review of the school uniform following calls for an assessment of the associated costs and quality of the uniform. A common theme through feedback received focussed on value for money.

We would like to thank all of the parents/guardians who took the time to complete the recent uniform survey. The results from this survey have guided us during negotiations with the local supplier (Identity Ltd) which has resulted in cost savings to the purchase of the whole uniform and also specific individual garments.

Regarding quality, we have taken the decision to remove some garments from the uniform code due to high survey responses on these garments.

Overall, we received a total of 154 responses to the survey across all year groups. These results delivered the following highlights:

- Nearly 75% of you felt that the blazer should not be changed to a unisex blazer, voting in favour of the current unique blazer design.
- A majority in favour that the uniform provides value of money.
- The results show that highest importance is cost, followed by quality, then appearance and so on.
- The majority of parents/guardians don't buy uniform garments from a single supplier.
- A high proportion of comments centred around reducing the cost of the girl's blazer.
- The PE kit design is popular with parents/guardians stating that the design stands out and is durable.

Through negotiations with Identity Ltd we were informed that a factor in the cost of the girl's blazers is down to the uniqueness of the pattern and quality of the materials used in the UK manufacturing of the fabric. We will therefore be keeping the distinct blazers for boys and girls.

We were able to identify from the survey that there are certain garments to the uniform which are costly. With this in mind the following items have been changed and should now be more affordable to all parents.

We have also focused on a whole school uniform, reducing the need to buy new uniform when our pupils transition from the Primary to the Secondary school.

Items removed and changed in the uniform code:

- 1) We will keep the same tie design for all year groups – no change from Primary to Secondary.
- 2) The backpack has been reduced to £10.99 (from £39.99)
 - a. The capacity of this revised backpack has been trialled and shown to be sufficient.
- 3) For Year 3 and onwards the briefcase has been removed (saving parents £22.99) – the backpacks can be used through all year groups in place of the briefcase.

- 4) Switching to a grey knitted jumper across all year groups, these can be purchased through Identity Ltd or an alternative supplier.
 - a. Note: jumpers purchased through Identity will have the Chetwynde logo embroidered on them at no extra cost (this is not a compulsory design).
- 5) We have agreed to have one shirt colour for boys and girls, with the collar, reverse for girls, being the distinguishing difference – moving from white to light blue colour.
 - a. Girls shirts are now £10.99, they were £18.50, boys' shirts are still £18.50. However, should you wish to source these light blue shirts from an alternative supplier then please do so.

There is an overall saving of circa. £51.00 through the removal and changes to the uniform code. This follows previous savings made to the sports kit and an overall reduction in the number of items of uniform that are now optional as opposed to compulsory.

Several questions were posed in the survey whether the girls summer dress is being removed from the uniform code, the decision agreed is to keep this summer dress as optional and it can be purchased from Identity or another supplier.

The school uniform standard will be revised and published on the school website along with photographs of students modelling the different uniform wear.

Trustees are aware that we currently have a single source supplier and will be pursuing alternative suppliers to further enable reducing uniform costs, but not compromising on quality.

The school has a uniform shop which has both gifted and used uniform garments. Trustees have agreed to provide a variety of uniform garments by providing some funding to ensure that there is a reasonable selection of garments available to those using the shop. Should you wish to access the uniform shop then please contact the school office or your child's teacher.

There will be no changes to the Kindergarten uniform design or code.

Yours sincerely_



Mr J. Burgess



Mrs S. Hannan

Co-Chair of Trustees