

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had a lovely summer.

I am writing to outline our PE expectations for the new academic year. Please familiarise yourself with the information below to help ensure that all students can participate safely and positively in their PE lessons.

PE Uniform

The Academy PE uniform is as follows:

- Academy PE top
- Black football socks
- Plain black shorts
- Academy outdoor PE top (optional)
- Plain black sports leggings (optional)
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms (optional)
- Suitable sports trainers

Students are expected to bring the correct PE uniform to every lesson.

PE trainers must be different from students' normal school footwear and suitable for physical activity, providing appropriate grip, support and protection. Casual or fashion footwear is not suitable for PE. This includes Converse-style canvas shoes, Vans-style fashion trainers, Crocs, sliders and sandals, or other footwear that does not provide appropriate grip, support and security around the foot.

Period 5 PE lessons – new for this academic year

Students who have PE during Period 5 will now be permitted to leave the Academy at the end of the school day wearing their PE uniform, provided they are wearing the correct Academy PE uniform outlined above.

Students choosing to do this must take all items of their school uniform and personal belongings home with them so that they have everything required for school the following day. Students who would prefer to change back into their school uniform before leaving will still be given the opportunity to do so.

PE footwear and the 4G pitch

We are extremely fortunate to have an excellent 4G artificial grass pitch and want to maintain the playing surface to a high standard for our students and the wider community.

Students may wear suitable sports trainers or astro trainers; however, astro trainers are our preferred footwear for the 4G pitch as they provide appropriate grip and help to protect the playing surface.

Therefore, if you are purchasing new trainers for your child at any point, for example, when they outgrow their current trainers, we recommend purchasing astro trainers where possible. There is no requirement to replace suitable sports trainers that your child already owns.

Astro trainers and non-marking sports trainers are also suitable for use inside the sports hall, meaning students do not need separate indoor and outdoor PE footwear.

Shin pads

Football forms part of our PE curriculum in Years 8 to 11. Students who own shin pads are expected to bring and wear them for these lessons. The PE department also has a limited number of pairs available to borrow for students who do not own them.

Injuries and illnesses

PE is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum and students are expected to participate wherever possible. Therefore, students should still bring their PE uniform and get changed if an illness or injury prevents them from participating fully.

For this reason, parents/carers are not required to provide a written note to excuse their child from PE. Students should bring their PE uniform to all lessons and inform their PE teacher of any illness or injury at the start of the lesson. The teacher will then adapt their involvement appropriately according to their individual circumstances. This may include an adapted physical role or an alternative role such as coaching or officiating.

Students are only exempt from changing where an injury means they are physically unable to change independently, for example, due to a fractured arm or leg. In these circumstances, an appropriate alternative role will be provided.

For significant or longer-term medical circumstances that may affect your child's participation over a period of time, we ask parents/carers to communicate this with the school so that appropriate arrangements and reasonable adaptations can be made.

Cold weather and outdoor PE

PE lessons will continue outdoors during colder weather. Students may wear plain black sports leggings, plain black tracksuit bottoms and/or the optional Academy outdoor PE top, which can be purchased from SMART Uniform. They are also allowed to wear a long sleeved t shirt or base layer under their Academy t shirt.

Academy blazers and hooded tops must not be worn during practical PE lessons. We strongly encourage students to bring appropriate optional layers during colder weather.

Failure to bring PE kit

Students are expected to bring their full PE uniform to every lesson. We recognise that kit may occasionally be forgotten; however, repeated instances will be managed through the following progressive system across the academic year. The following system will come into play from Monday 7th September:

- **1st occasion:** Message home via Arbor – no negative behaviour points issued.

- **2nd occasion:** Message home via Arbor and negative behaviour points issued.
- **3rd occasion:** Telephone call home from the PE teacher.
- **4th occasion:** After-school detention.
- **5th occasion:** Parental meeting with the Head of Faculty.
- **6th occasion:** Parental meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

All instances will be recorded to allow us to monitor repeated concerns consistently.

Forgotten kit and loan PE uniform

Forgetting PE kit does not mean that a student will miss their PE lesson. Students who have not brought the correct uniform will be provided with spare PE uniform by their teacher so that they can still participate. All spare PE uniform is clean, washed between uses and in line with the Academy PE uniform requirements.

Students are expected to wear the spare PE uniform provided and participate in the lesson as appropriate. If a student refuses to wear the PE uniform provided without a legitimate reason, this will be treated as defiance of a reasonable instruction and an after-school detention will be issued in line with the Academy Behaviour Policy.

Continued or persistent refusal will result in further sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy, including further after-school detentions and, where appropriate, removal to another teacher / class within the faculty for persistent defiance.

Our aim is to ensure that forgetting PE kit does not become a barrier to learning, while supporting students to develop the organisation and responsibility expected across the Academy.

If you require support in providing PE uniform, footwear or equipment for your child, or have any questions regarding these expectations, please contact your child's PE teacher, form tutor or Head of Year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Kaminskas

Wellbeing Subject Hub Leader