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08 May 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

RE: Updates to our Uniform

We hope this letter finds you well. We are now approaching the final half term of this academic year and I would like to thank parents and carers for your support in ensuring that Grace Academy Solihull students are 'dressing for success' by wearing their school uniform correctly and with pride. At our Academy we believe that a school uniform gives a sense of belonging, whilst ensuring equality amongst students. In addition, a smart appearance contributes positively to the students' attitude to work and study. This belief is supported by the Department for Education who encourages schools to have a uniform as it *'plays a key role in promoting the ethos of a school, providing a sense of belonging and identity, and setting an appropriate tone for education'*.

Although we have seen a high level of cooperation from the majority of students, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our school uniform policy and also what is expected from the department of education in terms of school uniforms. It is crucial that our students adhere to the uniform policy throughout the school year, whether this is at the start, middle, or end.

On this note, we have been consulting with student and parent representatives, as well as staff and governors, over the appropriateness of all elements of our school uniform. Through this consultation, the appropriateness of skirts for a school setting has been raised. After further consultation, we have decided to make a small change to the skirt element of our uniform.

From September 2024, the only skirts that will be permitted as part of the Grace Academy Solihull uniform will be those brought from 'Mansuri Schoolwear' that clearly display the academy badge. These will be available to purchase before September 2024. We understand that this type of change can sometimes be challenging, but we believe that this adjustment will help maintain a professional and unified appearance for our students as well as alleviate parents/carers and students' concerns.

We appreciate your understanding and support in ensuring that our students adhere to the uniform policy and continue to take pride in their appearance throughout the summer term and beyond. We also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support with these uniform requirements.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year if you feel you need financial support at any time. Please be assured that we are here to support you and your child in any way we can, including being able to lend uniform items for any students who arrive at the academy without the correct uniform.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your continued cooperation in maintaining our school's standards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Gelder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mr Darren Gelder
Executive Principal
For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust