



28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: 'Uniformity and social influencers'**

I hope you had a restful half-term break.

As you are aware, we are spending a lot of time talking with our pupils about the need to nurture and develop a sense of belonging; a sense of shared ownership. This is not just for the environment, but for the wider aspects of living in a community with others. With your gratefully received support, we have seen a vast improvement in students arriving promptly to school in the morning by 8:40am, with them ready and settled in mentor time at 8:45am.

School uniforms are there to do precisely that; to enable pupils to develop **identity, loyalty, fellowship, pride** and **belonging** as well as creating high **standards** of appearance during the school day. As you can imagine, and has always been the case, schools often mirror trends in wider society, especially when it comes to the dress and the appearance of young people. Perhaps this is even more prevalent today in a world often dominated by influences and trends seen in the media and on social media. A school uniform, and equally how it is worn, is an important form of identity linking students to a school and ours, we hope, provides a sense of pride in being at Finham Park School. Equally important is the fact that it serves as a great 'leveler' in terms of affordability where one student does not stand out from another simply because of what they can afford to wear or how they present when wearing their uniform.

We will continue to focus on all infringements to our dress code. We are currently witnessing a minority of students arriving at school, and sometimes observed throughout the day without blazers, their shirts untucked or skirts having been rolled up. This is against the school dress code. As with all items from our dress code, and according to our Home-School Agreement that all families sign before enrolling at Finham, we do ask for your support in ensuring that students arrive to school appropriately dressed and are encouraged to keep that level of appropriateness throughout the school day. Please find below a link to our school dress code: <https://finhampark.com/uniform/>. We will be carrying out a review of the dress code for September and consulting with parents/carers. As you know, where students do not come to school appropriately dressed, we are contacting home and are also providing the correct uniform for that day including providing blazers and ties for students who arrive without them and trousers if necessary to a student who is not wearing their skirt at an appropriate length.

You may be aware that there has been some talk on social media recently about how much influence others can have on children when they are online. We have therefore been providing all students and staff with some training from the 'Raising Awareness and Prevention' program on how to understand the dangers of online influencers. It was a very positive experience and led to some useful discussions which we are now following up in PSHRE lessons and mentor time. I would encourage you to talk with your child/ren about this at home as we continue to work in partnership to provide the best learning experiences for all in our care.

Following the recent parent voice questionnaire, look out for our revamped newsletter due to come out soon which will keep you up to date with various activities taking place in the school as well as providing a platform for celebrating the achievements of our students with you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Bishop (Headteacher)