



# Ysgol Uwchradd Prestatyn High School

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5<sup>th</sup> December 2017

## Prestatyn High School Uniform Consultation -2017/ 2018

Dear Parent \ Guardian

I would like to make you aware of an exciting development here at Prestatyn High School.

In a meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the Governing Body approved proposals to undertake a review of the current school uniform. A Working Party has since been established to lead a consultation with stakeholders, and this group represents a cross-section of the Prestatyn community, comprising Staff, Parents, Pupils, Governors and local uniform suppliers.

### Background

For some time, many concerns have been raised by a range of stakeholders regarding the current school uniform that has culminated in this decision to undertake a review. The key issues raised are as follows:

### General

Feedback from staff & Governors and pupils indicates a clear desire to retain the traditional maroon/burgundy branding / colour scheme, however:

- The current uniform is not sufficiently aspirational or smart. Concerns have been raised on many occasions by parents and staff regarding the overall appearance of pupils, being particularly evident in school events and most notably during external events when pupils go out into the community. The contrast with other schools was particularly apparent.
- All other local secondary schools now have a traditional uniform and PHS is falling behind.
- Feedback from some pupils indicates that the current uniform is often likened to that of a primary school and is perceived to be insufficiently mature or aspirational. Many pupils and stakeholders have suggested that a secondary uniform should represent a marked transition to adulthood and professional dress e.g. blazer, shirt and tie, rather than the current polo shirt and sweatshirt.
- There is too much variability on a daily basis, in the standard of dress with inconsistencies in style and colour.
- The current uniform specification is open to interpretation. This makes it especially difficult for staff (notably pastoral staff) to secure adherence to the policy which in turn compromises the school's endeavours to secure their 'readiness to learn', promote a positive climate for learning and in turn raise standards. These issues take up valuable teaching and learning time and this can inhibit the progress of pupils.
- It has therefore been suggested that any changes to the uniform should be easy to control and manage to ensure consistency.
- The most significant issues surround inappropriate and increasingly sexualised dress amongst some pupils, which includes skirt length, trouser length, leggings, jeggings and tight jeans as well as the increasing incidence of embellishments such as gold zips etc.
- Whilst many of the concerns listed above have been raised within the Parent Forum, parents have also indicated that the affordability of uniform remains a key consideration, especially for families with siblings attending Prestatyn High School. In addition parents have requested that consideration is also given to the durability of items and their on-going maintenance and care – including the need for washing and ironing.
- The availability of uniform items and the ability to purchase non-branded items (e.g. white shirts) from supermarket chains is also a key consideration.

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"A Community Achieving Together" "Cymuned Yn Llwyddo Fel Un"



**Additional information**

- There will be a review of the 6<sup>th</sup> Form dress code but there are no plans to introduce a formal uniform. Opinions from current 6<sup>th</sup> Formers and Year 11s will be taken into consideration if any future changes are made.
- The PE kit will be reviewed and a recommendation for or against change will be made by the working party. There have been no requests from Parents or pupils to look at changing the PE kit this year.
- Specific arrangements will be explored for the current Year 10 pupils to mitigate any costs for just one year of wearing any new uniform.

**Next Steps**

On the basis of this initial feedback we will consult with pupils across all year groups in the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> December. We hope to ascertain the views of all pupils in order that they are active participants in deciding if there is a need to change, and if so, in shaping the uniform of the future.

We also recognise that the views of parents are critical, and to this end we will be holding a parental event on 14<sup>th</sup> December 7pm – 8pm. Presentations and discussions will provide parents with the opportunities to share their views. During this meeting we will ask for some parents to join the uniform consultation Working Party. Following this event all parents will be invited to complete an on-line survey.

With the great news that Estyn have recently judged our school as having made GOOD progress due to the aspirational work that takes place every day, it is an ideal time to raise standards further and improve how the school presents itself in the community. I believe a new, smart uniform will make a fundamental, positive difference to the pupils and their outcomes.

I do hope you will be able to attend this forthcoming event and I look forward to hearing your views and receiving your contributions.

With Kind Regards

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**Neil Foley - B.Sc. MA.**  
Pennaeth Headteacher