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6th July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: End of Term Letter

May I thank you once again for all your support this year. It has been very busy and I am sure you are all looking forward to the summer break.

Students will finish for the summer break on Tuesday 25th July at 12.15pm.

Years 7 and 12 will start the new school year on Tuesday 5th September 2023 at the start time of 8.30am. Please see the additional letter from Mrs Wheeler for more details on Year 7's first day. Year 12s will also receive communication about the details of their first day, subject to results day.

Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 will start on Wednesday 6th September 2023 at the start time of 8.30am.

School Meals Update:

Due to factors outside of our control such as the Ukraine crisis, global extreme weather, and post pandemic supply issues, we have seen an increase in food prices of 16.5%. While our catering suppliers have absorbed a great deal of these costs, from September 2023 we will be implementing a 6.6% increase on non-essential food items such as pastries and cakes. The meal deal which includes a hot meal and hot pudding or a baguette and piece of fruit/small cake, will cost £2.50. The Free School Meal allowance will be raised to £2.50 accordingly.

Uniform Update:

I would also like to take this opportunity this side of the holidays to remind all our students, parents, and carers that we continue to expect students to take pride in their uniform, as they represent our Academy throughout the school day and in the community. I recognise how challenging this year has been for many, therefore, we would like to give plenty of notice for students to return in September with correct uniform to uphold the Academy's excellent standards.

The Academy's uniform requirements are available in our policy on the website but I have detailed the summary within this letter for quick reference ahead of the summer holidays.

I would like to highlight some points in the uniform policy to ensure absolute clarity:

- **Jewellery** – students are allowed one small plain, gold or silver stud in each ear lobe. **No other piercings or jewellery are allowed.** Any jewellery will be confiscated in line with our policy.
- **Skirts** - Plain black pleated/non-pleated of an appropriate length with black opaque tights, which should cover the legs entirely. **Tube skirts** (or, other stretchy/tight-fitted skirt) are not allowed. Tights should be at least 60 denier.
- **Trousers/Socks** – Students' trousers should cover the legs and ankles entirely with black socks; **no trainer socks** – ankles should not be visible.

Any students who are not in correct uniform will be expected to correct this or they may be subject to further action. Thank you again for your support in maintaining excellent standards at Grace Academy Darlaston.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Julie Anstey
Associate Principal

Grace Academy Uniform

- **Blazers:** Black Grace Academy Blazer
- **Shirt:** Plain white cotton shirt with a top button which should be fastened at **all times** (no polo- shirts).
- **Ties:** Purple Grace Academy tie with GA logo on display below the knot.
*Prefect purple and gold stripe, awarded by the Academy, should be worn instead of the plain purple tie when prefect status is given.
- **Pullovers:** Plain black V-neck – optional (no sweatshirts, no hooded tops, no cardigans, no tank tops).
- **Trousers/Socks:** Students' trousers should cover the legs and ankles entirely with **black socks**; **no trainer socks** – ankles should not be visible.
Or Skirts: Plain black pleated/non-pleated of an **appropriate length** with black opaque tights, which should cover the legs entirely.
***Tube skirts** (or, other stretchy/tight-fitted skirts) **are not allowed.**
*Tights should be at least 60 denier.
- **Shoes:** Plain black shoes (no trainers/pumps/canvas shoes/boots/sports brands/shoes with fashion laces or extra adornments).
- **Coats:** Winter coats/anoraks – optional. **Plain in colour** (no denim, hooded tops, tracksuit style tops or fashion jackets).
No coats, gloves/scarves to be worn inside the Academy.
- **Jewellery:** students are allowed one small plain, gold or silver stud in each ear lobe. **No other piercings or jewellery are allowed.** Any jewellery will be confiscated in line with our policy.

Grace PE Kit

- Grace Academy Polo shirt
- Grace Academy Rugby shirt and/or Grace Academy Sweatshirt
- Black Rugby/Football shorts or Black sports joggers
- Grace Academy waterproof PE Jacket (optional)
- Non-marking sports shoes

- Football boots (optional for football/rugby)
- Black Rugby/Football socks
- Shin pads (optional)
- Grace Academy waterproof PE jacket (optional)
- During outdoor activities especially in winter months, we advise a black or white underlay/base layer to be worn also

NB: Students not participating in a PE lesson are expected to bring kit so they can assist in the lesson. It is recommended that all items are to be clearly marked with the student's name.

Optional - headscarves

Black school approved headscarf conforming to the requirements below:

- The fabric should be lightweight and plain black.
- The headscarf must be folded under the chin, taken round to the back of the neck and the ends tucked in. This conforms to the health and safety and school requirements.
- The headscarf must be worn so that the collar and tie can be seen clearly. The reason for wearing the headscarf is to preserve modesty. Therefore it should not be worn with headbands, brooches, shadow stripes, patterns, logos, embellishments, diamantes, tassels or other colours.

A photographic example of the above criteria for headscarves is available upon request.

✓ Acceptable examples of plain black shoes and Trousers/Skirt:



Plain Black School Shoes



Tailored School Trousers



Skirt - appropriate length with black opaque tights

X Not Acceptable Shoes and Trousers/Skirts



No buckles, bows, embellishments.



No trainers.



No leggings, or tight trousers, or jeans



No tube skirts, or stretchy skirts.