

**July 2024**

Dear Parent/Carer

May I thank you once again for all your support this year. It has been very busy and we look forward to the Summer holidays. Please find some key updates and information within this letter for your information regarding the new academic year and the retirement of Julie Anstey, Principal.

### **Julie Anstey's Retirement**

The end of this academic year also marks the end of Julie Anstey's time here at Grace Academy. Julie has been a valued member of our school staff and leadership team since 2009, undertaking the role of Associate Principal in 2019 and then Principal in 2023. Julie has been a driving force behind the significant improvements at our Academy, contributing to our Ofsted rating of "Good" in both 2018 and 2022.

Julie's unwavering dedication and commitment have ensured that our students receive a quality education, leading to consistently good results. As Julie embarks on a well-deserved retirement, we extend our heartfelt thanks for her years of service and leadership. We wish her a restful and happy retirement.

Thank you, Julie, for everything you have done here for Grace Academy Darlaston.

### **Next Academic Year**

Students will finish for the summer break on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 12.15pm.**

In September we will be adjusting the timings of the school day. **Form time will now begin at 8.30am** with the doors opening at 8.20am. Students will be marked as late after 8.28am.

**Years 7 and 12 will start the new school year on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Students should arrive at 8.20am ready for an 8.30am start.**

**Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 will start on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. All students should arrive at 8.20am ready for an 8.30am start.**

### **Uniform**

I also write to you this side of the summer 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. The Academy's uniform requirements are available in our policy on the website but detailed within this letter for quick reference ahead of the summer holidays. We

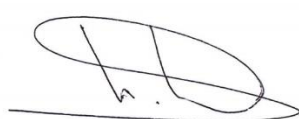
recognise how challenging it can be to fund uniform, therefore, I send this letter to provide you with notice to ensure all students have the correct uniform for a fresh start in September.

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



**Henry Holland**  
**Principal Designate**

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## 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. \*Head student purple and gold stripe, awarded by the Academy, should be worn instead of the plain purple tie when Head student 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 skirt) 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 to the knee or below  
with black opaque tights

### X Not Acceptable Shoes and Trousers/Skirts



All black shoes only, no  
embellishments



Trainers are not acceptable  
in any form



No leggings or  
tight trousers, or  
jeans



No tight skirts and not  
acceptable if above  
the knee

### Uniform Suppliers:

Items with Logos such as blazers, ties and PE kits can be purchased from:

Clive Mark Schoolwear  
Units 40-44 Saddlers Centre  
1 Park Street  
Walsall  
WS1 1YS  
01922 622556

First Choice Uniforms  
26 Union Street  
Wednesbury  
WS10 7HD  
0121 505 7100

<https://clivemark.co.uk/>

<http://www.firstchoiceuniforms.co.uk/>

Items without logos can be purchased from any retailer of parent/carer choice.