



**KINGS'**

SCHOOL · WINCHESTER

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Headteacher - Dr J Adams. BSc, PhD, PGCE, FCCT

15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Changes to our School Uniform Provider**

At Kings' School, we want all our pupils to take pride in wearing our school uniform – representing a place where they are successful, they feel part of our community and enjoy the many additional activities we offer.

In response to feedback from parents and in light of recent changes to government policy, we have taken the decision to make changes to our uniform and the way this is purchased. The two main reasons we looked at these changes are.

1. Having a school uniform shop where parents can purchase items online and have them delivered directly to their home address, during school holidays as well as term time, will be significantly easier for the majority of our families.

In light of this, we have moved the uniform shop to an online retailer and as of 3<sup>rd</sup> April will no longer have an 'onsite' uniform shop.

We looked at a range of providers and chose the only viable option that kept the prices at a level consistent with our current range.

Our new retailer 'Hewitts of Croydon' will allow parents to purchase uniform items online and have them directly delivered to home addresses. We have chosen Hewitts online only shop, as this maintains our previous competitive price while sustaining high quality. Hewitts of Croydon is a leading provider of school wear, based in the Southeast area. The company has been trading for over 150 years with a rich history, proudly supplying uniforms for over 100 schools.

Hewitts will be opening a pop-up shop at Kings' once a year for new Year 7s and parents who prefer to try on items and purchase in a shop. This year's pop-up shop will take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

For those who wish to purchase online, Hewitts offer an online rewards scheme (collect 10 x virtual reward stickers and receive a £50 voucher). Uniform Information, and a link to our new uniform shop will be on the uniform page of our website.

We will continue to have a second-hand uniform shop in school, and will be expanding the items stocked to footwear, coats and books. The second-hand shop will be open



one morning a week for parents and one lunch time for pupils. The opening times are available to view on our website.

Stationery will be available to purchase from the library, and we will continue to sell revision guides, workbooks and stationery in the second-hand shop.

2. New government statutory guidance regarding the cost of school uniform – keeping costs down.

This new government guidance encourages schools to look at their uniform and make changes where possible to reduce the cost impact of school uniform to parents.

We have looked at this and have been working to make changes, which will be implemented in September 2023. We believe that by reducing the number of uniform items and allowing more of the items to be handed down to siblings we can hopefully help our families to keep costs down. The number of optional branded items have also been kept to a minimum whilst still promoting the ethos of our school, providing a sense of belonging and identity and creating the right environment for learning.

The changes listed below will be gradual and will only become mandatory in September 2027. The other elements of the uniform will remain the same.

- David Luke grey stitched down knife pleat skirt DL972. This is no longer a specially made skirt and can now be purchased through a number of retailers including Hewitts.
- Black straight/slim leg trousers can be purchased through any retailer.
- Precision Attack black PE shorts for both girls and boys replacing the burgundy shorts for girls. This will make it easier to hand down this item to siblings. These are more suitable for all sport and reduces the need for additional rugby shorts and games skorts which will no longer be stocked.
- Kings' gold crested polo top replaces the House polo top. This will make this item easier to hand down to siblings.
- Maroon sweatshirt replaces the grey sweatshirt. This is a unisex optional item.
- Plain black waterproof sports jacket replaces the branded waterproof top. This is for wet weather only and can now be purchased through any retailer.
- Scarves can be a school scarf or plain black.

Any parent/carer that may feel the need to check a purchased item for compliance, will be able to contact the school in the usual manner.

We are sure our pupils will continue to wear their uniform with pride. We know that in keeping our standards high, we are supporting our pupils to look towards inspiring futures after their time at Kings' as well as developing a sense of community whilst they are with us. We thank you for your support in this – we know what an important part you play in shaping a strong future for our school and all our pupils.

Yours faithfully,



Dr James Adams  
Headteacher