



Knox Academy

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March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As the new session approaches I feel it is important to write to you about our expectations in relation to school uniform. Knox Academy is very proud of its tradition of school uniform and the wearing of it helps promote the sense of community within the school, our wider community and create that feeling of 'belonging'. Alongside 'Respect' and 'Ambition', 'Community' is one of our school values and it is hoped our young people wear the Knox Academy uniform with pride.

A few years ago our young people and parents/carers were consulted on what they wished the school uniform to comprise. Through recent discussions with staff, pupils and parents a few tweaks have been made to our uniform from 2019 onwards. The school uniform in August 2019 will be as follows:

- White/black shirt
- Tie (with House stripe on it)
- Black v-neck or crew neck jumper (plain and only with school logos or no logos)
- Black trousers/solid black jeans or skirt (no leggings or ripped/blue jeans)
- Headcoverings – worn for cultural or religious reasons, should be black
- Black shoes
- School blazer (for all in S5 & S6 – as has been the case for years)

Each pupil belongs to a House at the school; another way of building community. Therefore, to support the House ethos, new school ties have been designed. These House ties still feature the Knox Academy logo but now have a stripe below this in the House colours the pupil belongs to. If your young person is in S1-S5 at present and you would like support with replacing the tie, please speak to their Guidance teacher.

In relation to health and safety, hooded tops of any description **will not** be acceptable dress code (this includes Knox Academy sports hooded tops which should only be worn for sports). Often young people are tempted to wear their hoods up and this compromises everyone's safety. We need to ensure that everyone's faces are visible in and around the building at all times so we can keep everyone safe.

Shoes should be all black so as to avoid pointless discussions on those with logos attached and other elements of colour. White shoes, which may be fine for PE, are not part of the school uniform. A skirt should be of an appropriate length for wearing in a school based environment. Trousers should be whole, rather than with designer holes or tears which are not suitable for a working environment.

Our hope is that this presents a more simplified, consistent approach, in that the expectations for all year groups will be the same (with the exception of blazers for S5/6). With the exceptions of the school tie and blazer, parents/carers will be able to purchase all other items of clothing from whichever outlet they wish, so long as they conform to the expectations. Ties are available from Border Embroideries <https://www.beschoolwear.co.uk> and, in smaller quantities, from the school office. For the purchase of school blazers, we arrange a date in school for fittings and then blazers can be purchased through Border Embroideries. Financial support in buying school uniform is available from East Lothian Council. For details of eligibility and how to apply please follow this link: [https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210557/schools and learning/11899/free school meals and clothing grants/2](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210557/schools_and_learning/11899/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants/2). We will also be starting a 'Dress Code Donation Drop' at Parents' Evenings in order to recycle outgrown dress code. For a small donation, these garments will be upcycled for use by other families/pupils at these

evenings. More information will follow on where to hand clothing in to. As well as supporting families it also supports our Eco-School approach.

I thank you in advance for your co-operation in ensuring that pupils adhere to the school's uniform expectations and I trust that this period of notice will allow you to make the necessary arrangements so that we can start the new session in August in style.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

S Cook