



June 2017

Dear Student/Parent

Associated Sixth Form Dress Code

We are very proud of the students in the Associated Sixth Form and of the way in which they represent themselves and our schools. However, it has come to our attention that some students are not adhering to the Association's dress code, especially as the summer weather sets in. We are therefore taking this opportunity to remind you of our expectations as the governors and staff of the Associated Sixth Form have requested a more rigorous enforcement of the dress code from September 2017: students who choose inappropriate attire will be sent home to change and persistent refusal to adhere to the dress code may lead to a student's place in the Association being reviewed or withdrawn.

The Associated Sixth Form dress code is intended to be a student-friendly approach to Sixth Formers remaining smart, purposeful and ambassadorial during their school lives.

The dress code should serve the following purposes:

- to allow all students to be identified as members of the Associated Sixth Form, in order that the security of both sites can be maintained
- to ensure that students offer a suitable role model to younger students in the schools' communities
- to represent the Associated Sixth Form appropriately in the local area and community
- to allow students to feel comfortable yet purposeful in their studies and working relationships with staff
- to offer students an opportunity within certain parameters to begin developing their identity through what they wear, avoiding the enforced homogeneity of a uniform.

We aim to keep the principles and guidelines clear and simple, as stated in the Student Planner. Images of appropriate dress code are produced to support this and can be found on the schools' websites. Where students remain unsure about the suitability of their attire, a guiding principle is that there should be an obvious distinction between what they would wear casually at weekends and what they wear for the school workplace.

Weather considerations

We acknowledge that at certain times in the year inclement weather will necessitate slight changes to what students wish to wear. However, the principles of security and smartness must be upheld and to this end we ask that:

- hoodies or other coats which might present a casual appearance and obscure appropriate dress code are not worn in school
- ostensibly more comfortable or practical footwear such as trainers are not worn in school.

Attendance

We are becoming increasingly concerned about some students' attitudes to attendance and punctuality. The Sixth Form has a duty of care to its students but it is impossible to carry out our safeguarding responsibilities when students are missing from registration or choose to leave either school's site for no valid reason and without signing out. There are also obvious implications for students' engagement with Sixth Form life and lessons and therefore academic performance can also be affected.

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It is important that we work with students and parents to address this issue and we will be introducing a revised attendance policy for September 2017. Details will be issued at the start of next term but you should be aware that we will be monitoring attendance data more closely and more frequently, with unauthorised absence from registration or timetabled sessions being a serious cause for concern.

We are conscious that as an Association we are preparing young people to make positive choices as they move towards adulthood and to that end we must ask for compliance with our requirements on appearance and attendance.

We thank all students and parents for their support in these matters and look forward to a successful and rewarding academic year.

Yours faithfully



C I Kidman
Head of Sixth Form, St Aidan's



A Joy
Head of Sixth Form, St John Fisher