



June 2019

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 rigorous enforcement of the dress code from September 2019: 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and persistent refusal to adhere to the dress code may lead to a student's place in the Association being reviewed or withdrawn.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. There should be no jeans or denim of any colour, no combats, no tracksuit bottoms, no shorts or skorts, no hoodies (in school) or round necked sweatshirts; dresses and skirts should be of an appropriate length and fit, shoulders and midriffs should be covered; clothing should not be revealing. 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 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. In addition, we have noticed an increase in the number of authorised absences this year. We hope that parents will support us by reinforcing the importance of full attendance where possible and avoiding arrangement medical appointments during the school day. There are obvious implications for students' engagement with Sixth Form life and lessons and therefore academic performance can also be affected.

Continued overleaf.....

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.

Yours faithfully



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



**A Joy**  
**Head of Sixth Form, St John Fisher**