



Ringwood School

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all had a great summer break and are looking forward to the year ahead.

Thank you to parents of Year 7 and Year 12 today - we have loved seeing them all looking super smart, enthusiastic and expertly finding their way around school site. I know Mr Massimino has been inundated with 'first day' photos of Year 7, so thank you for sharing those too!

Ahead of all our other year groups returning tomorrow, I just wanted to share with you a couple of the messages we will be giving all students about uniform and student mobile technology. Hopefully this should ensure you are able to give the same consistent messages at home, and you will know when they are desperately trying to tell you something different! Further information about a whole range of topics will be shared at the upcoming Parent/Carer Information Evenings for each year group, so we look forward to hopefully seeing you there too.

Uniform

Our uniform policy has been updated for 2024 and can be found on our school website here: [Ringwood School - Policies and Statutory Information](#) as well as in the student diaries (p 25) however our core expectations around uniform **have not changed**. A few things that we will be making very clear to students tomorrow (and all academic year) will be:

- **Skirts** should be '**knee length**' - we have been made aware that some students have had their skirts tailored or even cut to be far shorter than this; please be aware that if your child's skirt (when unrolled and worn correctly) does not touch the knee, you may be asked to purchase one that does.
- **Shoes** should be 'black, with a closed toe, flat, leather and sensible' and 'shoes with visible branding or logos are not allowed' - with this in mind, please be aware that we do not allow Nike Air Force shoes.
- **Jewellery** - 'one stud or sleeper may be worn in each ear - **no other** visible body piercings are allowed, **including plastic retainers** of any kind'. Please ensure all other jewellery is removed before your child returns to us tomorrow
- **Hair/Make-up** - 'acrylic nails are not permitted and students will be asked to remove them'. Eyelashes must be natural in appearance, colour and length. Hair should also be a natural colour.

To ensure your child's new academic year starts as positively as possible, please make sure your child is adhering to the expectations above. If you have just discovered that they have shot up a few inches over the summer and you need to purchase a new skirt or trousers, please email their Tutor and/or Head of Year to let them know what you are ordering and when it is likely to arrive so that we can make a note of this on our system.

We are fortunate that our outgoing Year 11 students were incredibly generous in their donations of uniform and so we have a fully stocked 'New to You' cupboard where you can buy uniform and PE kit

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for a fraction of the cost of new items. Full details can be found here: [Ringwood School - Uniform](#); please contact reception if you wish to have a look at what we have in stock.

Student Mobile Technology

At the end of last academic year, you may be aware that the government updated their advice on student mobile technology in schools. They said that schools must ensure that student mobile technology was either:

- Not allowed on school site at all
- Handed in on arrival
- Or **never used, seen or heard**

We already had this third and final option in place as part of our own 'Student Mobile Technology' policy, however we have had to make a few tweaks to the policy ensure we are meeting government expectations. Our full and updated policy (including how sanctions escalate for misuse) can be found on our website here: [Ringwood School - Policies and Statutory Information](#), however in brief:

- Student mobile phones and headphones **must not be used, seen or heard on school site at any time**, unless directed by a member of staff
- Sixth form students are only allowed to use their mobile phones in the sixth form building or in the Stables as a study aid
- This starts from the moment students step onto school site until the time they step off school site at the end of the day, and so **it includes before and after school**
- Smartwatches are currently allowed; however, we do not recommend students having them in school. If they do, students must only use them to tell the time; if they are used for other reasons or are distracting them (or others) from learning then they will be confiscated in line with our policy.

There are clocks in every classroom and the time is displayed on screens around school site. We will keep our current allowance of smartwatches under review.

- If students ever need to look at or use their mobile phone for any reason during the school day then they must ask a member of staff first; if they need to contact home, they should go to student reception.

To support our students in meeting these expectations, please refrain from contacting them on their mobile phones during the school day. If you need to get in touch with your child urgently, please contact reception.

Thank you for your support in ensuring our students have a positive start to the academic year - we cannot wait to see them all back tomorrow!

Kind regards,

Heather Jolly

Assistant Headteacher

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