

Dear Parent/Guardian

I trust this letter finds you well. Once again can I say thank you for taking the time to respond to our uniform consultation earlier this year. Your feedback and the response from the pupils and my colleagues has greatly helped the Board of Governors determine the uniform for the academic year 2026/27.

Please be assured the Governors, in making their decisions, were mindful of reducing costs and taking on board the range of comments. There was overwhelming support for maintaining school uniform, including the petrol blue colour for girls as well as maintaining a Banbridge Academy identity within the PE/sports kit. I have enclosed a copy of the uniform list 2026/27 for your information, however, I believe it is important to highlight the changes that resulted from the concerns expressed by parents and pupils.

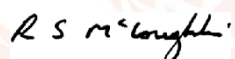
- Skirts - significant concern was expressed regarding the length of girls skirts, therefore you will note wording - Petrol blue with pleats (MUST be to the knee). Please note skirts should not be altered in terms of length. Skirts purchased too short will have to be returned and you will be asked to purchase a new skirt of the appropriate length. Skirts must not be rolled up at the waist. Sanctions will be issued if girls roll their skirts.
- Brown Shoes – concern was expressed regarding the availability and cost. Therefore, it has been determined that black shoes (details in attached School Uniform List) will be phased in, please note pupils will be allowed to wear out their current brown shoes.
- Tights – concern was expressed regarding the availability and cost. Therefore, it has been decided that black tights will be phased in alongside black shoes.
- Black Crested ¼ Zip - Following concerns regarding the cost, quality and variety of hoodies, it has been determined that from the start of the 2026/27 academic year, hoodies are no longer permitted to be worn to, from, or during the school day, including for PE and all extra-curricular activities. All previous hoodie variations will be replaced by a single, optional universal black crested ¼ zip, designed to provide a higher-quality, more cost-effective solution for use across all school activities.
- PE T-shirt – concern was expressed regarding the cost and colour. Therefore, it has been determined that we will move from the specially produced PE T-shirt to a red crested stock Canterbury CCC T-shirt, which will reduce the cost and eliminate the colour problems with the white T-shirt. Please note, this will be the same red T-shirt for girls and boys. The current sports/games jersey will remain for boys as the black crested stock CCC jersey and please note pupils will be allowed to wear out their current white PE T-shirt.
- Games Socks – concern was expressed regarding the cost therefore it was determined to change to an unbranded school games sock.
- Track suit bottoms – concern was expressed regarding the cost of CCC track suit bottoms and therefore it was decided to change to unbranded school crested track suit bottoms. Please note track suit bottoms will be a compulsory item for girls and boys.
- Leggings – concern was expressed regarding the cost and quality of the CCC leggings therefore it has been decided to introduce non branded crested leggings – please note this is an optional item.

Please remember the frequent Uniform Swap and Sale events, which are extremely well supported. This initiative promotes sustainability and offer a cost-effective solution for families, the Banbridge Academy Association facilitates a uniform exchange program where parents can swap items for different sizes or purchase pre-loved pieces for a small fee; we rely on the ongoing donation of clean, serviceable uniform items to the School Office, ensuring a high-quality, communal resource that reduces waste and supports the entire school community.

Once again, many thanks for your commitment to the school and I take this opportunity to congratulate all of our co and extra-curricular activities following another tremendously successful season. It is my privilege and pleasure to watch and support our wonderfully talented pupils participate at the highest level across so many activities. It is worth noting that the school has won 12 Ulster and Irish titles across 8 different sports and there were 40 National or International representatives across 12 different sports – an incredible season which is echoed by the number of shortlisted teams at the National Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards.

Finally, I wish your son/daughter every success in the coming months and I sincerely hope that their results in the examinations reflect their commitment and effort.

Yours sincerely



R S McLoughlin OBE
Principal

Reminder re dates that have already been published:

MAY

Tuesday 12 May – Staff Training – TransformedED – No pupils

Monday 25 May – Staff Training – No pupils

Monday 18 May - Friday 29 May - Year 11 Examination window (Internal and Public Examinations) - Pupils may revise at home when they do not have an internal school examination or external CCEA examination.

Friday 22 - Friday 29 May - Years 8 - 10 Internal Examination window – Pupils will revise at home on Wednesday 27 May.

JUNE

YEAR 11 ONLY

Thursday 4 June - Year 11 pupils will take their History (9.15am) module, all other Year 11 pupils must attend class as normal. ***Pupils will return to class after the module.***

Monday 8 June – Friday 19 June 2026 inclusive - Year 13 return to class

Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11 June – all Year 10 pupils Community of Lifesavers Workshops

Monday 22 & Tuesday 23 June – all Year 11 pupils Learning How to Learn Workshops - pupils will attend a range of activities

Tuesday 30 June - Final day of Summer Term - normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.00noon