



23rd November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

Proposed Uniform changes for September 2017

We have been considering possible changes to the academy uniform for some time. Reviews of uniform regulations take place in all schools from time to time and these are usually driven by a number of key considerations:

- **Do our students look presentable?**
- **Is the uniform practical?**
- **Is the uniform distinctive?**
- **Is the uniform reasonably/sensibly priced?**
- **Does the style of uniform reflect the culture/ethos of our particular school?**

This year, acting on the advice of students themselves, we introduced a change to the Year 11 uniform. Now all Year 11 students wear the white shirt, school tie and black sweater with Academy logo, not just the prefects. We feel that this has been a significant step forward and that more Year 11 students take pride in their appearance than ever before.

To achieve the same effect, we now feel that change should be introduced in Years 7 to 10 from next September too, but that the change should be modest. The reasons for making this change are all linked to the five bullet points above.

Our proposal is that students in Years 7 to 10 should no longer wear polo shirts and sweatshirts, but white collared shirts, school ties and a new blue sweater with the Academy logo. A number of parents and students have remarked that polo shirts and sweatshirts are a 'primary school uniform' and that the 'high school' uniform should reflect that step-up.

In addition, as we have found with this year's changes, we believe that the proposed changes would mean that our children look smarter generally. In terms of the uniform reflecting our ethos at Holbrook, we feel that as well as looking smart, our students should feel relaxed and comfortable. Because of this, we feel that introducing blazers is a step too far.

A major consideration for all schools is the cost of school uniform to parents and whether, given the fact that current Year 7 parents have recently invested in polo shirts and sweatshirts, uniform changes should be phased in. However, this is not our preference, as it runs counter to the concept of 'uniform', and if the change is made, it would apply to all students in Years 7-10 from next September.

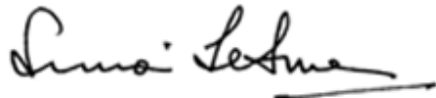
The cost of the proposed new sweater would be slightly more than the current sweatshirt and the cost of the school tie will be around £5. Our current uniform suppliers, Coe's of Ipswich would continue to supply the sweater and tie, but shirts could be purchased from any retail outlet.

We would welcome your input as this proposal is being considered within the school. To express an opinion you can use the e-mail address: parentforum@holbrookacademy.org .

A decision about whether or not to proceed with the change will need to be made by early December in order for our suppliers to order uniform stocks for next year. I will write to you all with our decision at the end of term.

Please do take the opportunity to contribute to our discussions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Letman", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dr Simon Letman