

5th July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for all your support throughout the current academic year. In preparation for September, please see the information below.

Winter School Uniform 2019

Following on from the letter which you received in April 2019, please remember that when the students return to school on **Wednesday 4th September 2019** they will be doing so in their “winter” uniform. In response to feedback from parents and students alike we are making two slight changes to the uniform from September (**indicated in bold below**) however all other uniform rules remain the same i.e.

- Trousers must be plain black, standard fit and not be made from denim, corduroy, leather, lycra or other expandable material. Leggings, jeggings, tight trousers, black jeans or ¾ trousers are not permitted and the trousers should not have decorative zips on them. **All pupils should be in trousers from September, skirts are being removed from the permitted uniform**
- Black shoes with heels no higher than 4 cm. Trainers and plimsoll shoes are not acceptable and neither are leisure boots such as Rockport, Doc Martins, Ugg boots or similar. Shoes/boots with multi-coloured soles (soles of shoes must be plain black and not have a coloured or white line through them) or uppers are unacceptable. Shoes must be plain black and not have stripes, logos or decorations of any kind visible. **Plain black low heeled boots (Chelsea boot style) may also be worn**
- Jewellery - only one stud per ear lobe and in no other part of the ear, and one watch. No other jewellery or body piercing is permitted
- No coloured or fake nails are permitted. Nails should be of a reasonable length
- Make up must be kept to an absolute bare minimum and must be natural looking. False eyelashes are not permitted
- Hair must be worn no shorter than a No 2 haircut anywhere on the head and extreme hair dyes/multi coloured hair is not acceptable for any pupil. Hair styles /eyebrows must not have any lines, patterns or symbols showing

PE kit

Please note that the PE kit has changed over the course of 2018-19. The kit below is the new kit which will be *phased in* as pupils need to replace their current kit.

- Maroon sports top with school logo
- Black shorts or black leggings with school logo *please note that leggings other than the school ones are not acceptable*
- Maroon socks
- Black fleece (optional)
- Black waterproof top (optional)



All uniform with school logos/colours, i.e. sweater, ties, summer polo shirts, PE Kit, is available from Elizabeth's Embroidery. This can be purchased online at www.elizabethsembroidery.co.uk password HURWORTH. They also stock black trousers and white winter shirts, although these can be purchased elsewhere.

You can also visit the shop where items can be tried on for size and ordered, at 8-10 Richardson Road, Stockton-on-Tees. Tel: 01642 674973.

Equipment

As you will already be aware, students are also expected to bring a school bag large enough to carry an A4 file every day. Students must attend school with the necessary equipment on every school day too i.e. pen, pencil, rubber, calculator, ruler, practical equipment where necessary e.g. PE kit, ingredients etc. Since October 2018, we have been checking on pupil's basic equipment and arranging for them to purchase replacement items from the school shop for 10p per item to ensure that they are fully equipped to go about their day. Due to the fact we operate a cashless catering system, many students do not have cash on a daily basis therefore the items have been charged against their dinner money. To check whether your child is one of those who are frequently losing equipment please access your ParentMail account where you will see the charges listed as "adjustment". If you need assistance with accessing this then please contact us.

Access to water and environmental awareness

We have a very active Green Society group within school who have been making fantastic strides in improving everyone at school's environmental awareness through the delivery of assemblies as well as taking practical steps to reduce the amount of plastic we use. We have now removed all plastic cups from both the Main Office and the canteen and students are expected to bring their own water bottles if they wish to access the free water from our water fountains. Students will be responsible for refilling their own bottles over break and lunchtimes and should not need to access the fountains during lesson times. In addition we have made changes to the way in which our waste is collected to ensure that as much of it as possible can be recycled. Future changes are also planned to the packaging used in our canteen in order to further reduce the amount of plastic which we use.

Nut Allergies

We have several students in school who have severe food allergies to peanuts/nuts. It is important that there is strict avoidance of this food in order to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction. Please help us to provide these students with a safe school environment. Any exposure to peanuts/nuts may cause a life-threatening allergic reaction that requires emergency medical treatment. To reduce the chance of this occurring, please do not send any peanut or nut containing products to school with your child that will be eaten in school or used in food lessons.



Attendance and Punctuality

At Hurworth we expect all our pupils to achieve at least 95% attendance and anything below 95%, we view as unacceptable. The Department for Education deems that if a student's attendance drops below 90% they become known as a Persistent Absentee, regardless of the reason for the absence. Good attendance and punctuality to school and every lesson is a key factor in enabling students to reach their full academic potential. Research has shown that if there is a 10% drop in attendance, it is likely that this will cause a decrease in achievement of at least one GCSE grade.

Fixed penalty notices for holidays

As you are aware the guidance from the Department of Education regarding holidays state "current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the Head Teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave. Parents can be fined for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school".

It is important that Parents carefully consider the implications of taking their child out of school during term time. There are 190 statutory school days in one year. There are 175 days (week-ends and school holidays) available to use for holidays which would not have a negative effect on your child's education.

At Hurworth, we appreciate parents/carers who support excellent attendance throughout the school year. Therefore, if permission has been requested in advance and a student's attendance is above 95% just prior to the holiday taking place, school will not refer for a penalty fine (the attendance percentage will be calculated from the start of the school year). A Leave of Absence form can be found on the school website and is also available from the school office.

ClassCharts

As you will be aware we use the ClassCharts system to track your child's behaviour and their participation in school rewards events **is dependent on at least 90% attendance and on them achieving at least a 90% positive rating on ClassCharts**. You have received information updating you on your child's percentage at regular intervals over the course of the year however you can check their current ClassCharts percentage at any time via your parental ClassCharts account. You should have received your login information for ClassCharts via a separate letter but if you have any queries regarding this then please contact **Mrs Gawthorpe** at school.



Picking up and dropping of your child at the start and end of the school day

Can I please remind parents that they should not be dropping or picking their child/ren up from the school grounds as school car parking is extremely limited. On a daily basis, we struggle to cope with the demands of staff and school visitors parking and this issue is particularly difficult at the start and end of the school day. Please note "school organised" taxis collect students from the school yard and that access to the front of the school building by car is not permitted unless parents have appointments or are collecting students via a prior arrangement with the school. I am aware that parking near to the school is extremely limited, but I would urge you wherever possible to also refrain from parking on the main road outside the school and use the side streets wherever possible. Please be mindful of our immediate neighbours when parking as some parents are blocking the access to their properties at collection times. Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support in this matter.

I hope this information is helpful but if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a lovely summer holiday.

Yours sincerely



Miss N Peaker
Head of School

