

18th December 2025

Dear parents, carers, students and staff,

I know you'll all be keen to know the outcome of our uniform consultation. Thank you so much to those of you who responded. School uniform can be a controversial topic because we all have different views and perspectives. However, I am very happy to report that we are united in many areas.

In this letter, I will explain what changes you can expect from January. The changes are 'additions' only, so the current uniform, as it stands, remains in place. There is no expectation that parents and carers will have to buy new uniform for January because of these changes.

Black trainers

Parents, students and staff agree that all black trainers are an acceptable alternative to black shoes. Therefore, from January, students are allowed to wear black trainers or black shoes. However, for anyone wearing black trainers instead of shoes, there are two requirements that must be met:

1. Trainers must be **all** black. This includes soles, trims, logos, laces and any other part of the trainer.
2. If students wear trainers to school, they **must** bring a different pair of trainers for PE.

Black tailored shorts

Parents, students and staff agree that black shorts are an acceptable alternative to school trousers in warmer weather. Therefore, from Easter, students (boys and girls) can wear tailored black shorts. However, there are two requirements that must be met:

1. Shorts must be tailored. They must be trouser material only. They must finish just above the knee. The correct short can be viewed [here](#).
2. Shorts will be allowed in the Summer Term only* (Easter to Summer).

Black skirts

Parents, students and staff were **not** in agreement that black skirts could be worn as an alternative to the straight or pleated tartan skirts that we already have. Whilst there was strong support from students for a black skirt, there was less support from parents and even less from staff. The reason for this was clear from the consultation; many of you commented that too many girls are non-compliant with the tartan skirts, wearing them too short, and that a black alternative will only extend or worsen the situation. Many of you also made the very sensible point that girls already have an alternative, with trousers, so do not need another.

Therefore, we will not be introducing a black skirt into our school uniform at this time. We hope to review this in future. What we need to do is work together to ensure girls wear the current tartan skirts correctly. For clarity, tartan skirts, either straight or pleated should finish just above the knee. A good guide for parents is 'just above' means no more than two inches above the knee.

Most of the skirts that girls are wearing are perfectly acceptable, but girls are choosing to roll them at the waist to make them shorter. We would ask parents and carers to support the school in reinforcing that this is not allowed, and continued non-compliance will lead to sanctions. Please note that the 'short' version of the skirt on the website for girls of very small stature in Year 7 and 8 only.

Trousers

From the comments received in the consultation, parents and carers told us that finding the 'right' style of trouser for girls can be a barrier. To encourage the wearing of trousers, we will be updating our uniform policy to include a little more choice. From January, trousers can be straight, bootleg, skinny, flare or cropped, but they **must** be trouser material. They must not be legging material. For clarity, leggings are **not** allowed, including as an alternative to tights.

Ties

Although ties were not part of the consultation, many of you commented that proper full-length ties would be welcome as an alternative to the clip-on tie. Therefore, a full-length tie will now be available to purchase from Price and Buckland in addition to the clip-on version. We expect the full-length ties to be available to buy from Easter onwards.

Sixth Form dress code

Although there were some consultation responses that were not in favour of allowing of jogger-type trousers and trainers, most staff, students and parents and carers were in favour. Therefore, from January, sixth form students can wear joggers and trainers.

Conclusions

We will keep reviewing our uniform policy to evaluate what works and we continue to invite your feedback. Many of the comments were very useful, including, for example, better clarity on a 'summer' uniform. The uniform policy on the website will be updated in the new year to reflect the changes in this letter and to advise on adjustments to the uniform in the Summer term.

I'd like to end by saying thank you. The vast majority of Sharnbrook students are beautifully dressed every day and wear their uniform with pride. Thank you to the parents and carers, school staff and students who make this happen.

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If you have any further feedback or any questions, please do not hesitate to email me on administration@sharnbrook.academy

Yours sincerely



Mrs Waterman

*Or in unseasonably hot weather, after permission from the Principal.