The Chantry School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

UNIFORM STANDARDS

As we move into the final half term of the academic year, I would like to make you aware of some slight modifications to the way we categorise and monitor our behaviour standards from Monday 1st June.

In accordance with our Behaviour Policy and the standards we uphold around Essential Equipment, Lates and Uniform, we have now separated "Uniform" into the following categories:

- Incorrect uniform
- Poorly presented uniform
- Make-up
- Jewellery

Increasingly, as the year has progressed, some pupils have begun to push boundaries and adapt the school uniform in ways that do not align with our published policy (attached/shared previously).

As I am sure you will appreciate, having clear standards provides consistency, clarity and a sense of uniformity across the school community. It is important to stress that our expectations themselves have not changed, nor has the way in which standards and consequences are applied. What we are doing is making the categories clearer so that pupils and parents better understand the expectations.

Each morning during tutor time, staff will continue to check pupils for correct uniform, make-up and jewellery, correcting issues prior to the start of the school day wherever possible.

Where a pupil is wearing incorrect uniform, they will receive a standard and will be given three days to correct the issue unless there is a genuine reason why they are unable to do so. We would ask parents and carers to be proactive in informing the Form Tutor or Head of Year if there is a legitimate reason for incorrect uniform.

Given the time of year, we would not expect families to be purchasing new uniform items, including shoes, before September. Therefore, if there are any difficulties, please do contact us so that we can work with you supportively.

Looking ahead to September 2026, a slight compromise has been agreed for pupils in Years 10 and 11. Subtle make-up may be worn; however, lipstick, lip liner and eyeliner will not be permitted. Similarly, subtle eyelashes may be worn if necessary although the school reserves the right to determine what is considered appropriate and acceptable. This modification applies with immediate effect for current Year 10s.

We also remain steadfast in our expectations regarding jewellery and nails. Pupils may wear only one set of small stud earrings, and acrylic or gel nails are not permitted. This is not only a presentation issue, but also one of health and safety, as well as long nails can affect pupils' ability to hold a pen correctly and write fluently.

One of our biggest concerns continues to be the increasing use of stretchy skirts, which have not been part of the school uniform since September 2025, as well as skirt length. We ask for your support in ensuring pupils attend school dressed appropriately and in line with the standards expected. All the skirts come in various lengths, so it would be beneficial commencing the school year with the most appropriate length. Having said that, we are aware some pupils set out from home in the correct uniform and then change into their preferred skirt!

All pupils have recently received an assembly on these expectations, including visual examples, which I am also sharing with you. Pupils are, therefore, very clear about what is and is not acceptable and understand that continued failure to meet expectations may result in incremental consequences, including loss of social time during and after the school day.

Ultimately, our aim is simple: pupils can look smart and present themselves well when expectations are consistently upheld. We hope that by reinforcing these standards now, we can reduce the amount of "nagging" and instead focus our time and energy on what matters most — learning.

We will continue to support individual cases whereby pupils request leniency regarding false eyelashes or false nails because of some pending special occasion.

LATE DETENTIONS

Since February, we have also been able to devise a more effective system for closely monitoring pupils who are not punctual to school and lessons. In line with our Behaviour Policy, pupils who accumulate 6, 9 or 12 Late standards will receive after-school detentions of 60, 90 or 120 minutes respectively.

There is, in reality, rarely a genuine reason for pupils to be late to school/lessons. I am pleased to report that for many pupils who had previously been receiving late standards, there has been significant improvement. However, there remains a small group of more "hard to reach" pupils for whom punctuality continues to be an issue.

Therefore, for the sake of expediency and clarity, we will now be introducing automatic email notifications to inform parents and carers when their child has been placed in an after-school detention for lates. These detentions will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Parents and carers will continue to be notified by telephone of after-school detentions issued for other behaviours.

Although schools are not legally required to provide notice of detentions, we believe that keeping parents informed is important in maintaining positive and supportive relationships with families. As a result, communication regarding lates detentions will continue, but via email rather than telephone.

If your child is unable to attend on the allocated day, please contact the relevant Head of Year or Ms Drust so that the detention can be rearranged within an acceptable timeframe. Otherwise, all pupils will be expected to serve the detention as issued.

A reminder also that all standards issued to pupils can be viewed via the ARBOR app, enabling parents and carers to monitor attendance, punctuality and behaviour standards regularly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Clear
Headteacher