Dear Parent and Student,

Thank you for all your support, hard work and engagement throughout this first half-term of an academic year together. Overall we can be satisfied that we have enjoyed a good start to the year.

This week, I want to use our bulletin home for some reminders.

- Monday 4 November is a staff training day. Students return after the half-term on Tuesday 5 November.
- Attached is a letter about uniform which has been sent home to all families of our female students. Our young men are also reminded, however, that they should not come to school wearing sweatshirts and hoodies which are non-school uniform items. As the weather turns colder all students need sensible overcoats/jackets for their journey to and from school.
- With regards to travelling to and from school, we once again urge all the young people who travel by bicycle and scooter to not only take great care on the roads but also to think carefully about what they are wearing. We strongly encourage the use of safety attire such as helmets. It is also essential to have the relevant lights and high visibility attachments to the bicycles and scooters.
- Year 9 have their PPEs commencing on Tuesday 5 November.
- Year 13 have their PPEs the week commencing Monday 11 November.
- Year 11 have their Reporting Evening on the Thursday 14 November.
- Year 11 have their PPEs the week commencing Monday 25 November and concluding on Friday 6 December.
- Friday 29 November we have an occasional day holiday as we returned to school early in September. This means school is closed on that day.
- The Sixth Form Reporting Evening is on Thursday 5 December.
- Term ends on Friday 20 December.

I hope these reminders prove helpful. If any further information is required please do not hesitate to be in contact.

When we return, our bulletins home will be dedicated to ‘Student Voice’ and will share information on:

- our new Academic Board;
- the work our Year 9 have been undertaking to supply the local foodbank;
- some exceptional engagement of senior students in enrichment and extension opportunities.
There is much to look forward to but in the meantime I wish you all a very enjoyable half-term break.

Very Best wishes

Kathleen M Higgins
Executive Headteacher
Dear Parent/Carer,

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps allow students to feel pride in their school. It also ensures students are not put under any pressure because of the type of clothes or accessories they wear, and all are treated equally. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work or comply with a dress code.

It would be fair to say that at present we appear to have some differing interpretations of what is and is not acceptable uniform amongst some of our female students, and therefore we believe it is essential to repeat and confirm our expectations and requirements.

**Accessories:**
Make up should be minimal and not obvious for our 6th Form young women. Young women in other year groups are not permitted to wear make-up. False eyelashes are not permitted.
Only clear nail varnish is allowed. False nails, acrylics, extensions or gels are not permitted.
Only one piercing per ear is allowed. The earrings worn should be small studs and should be worn in the regular position in the ear lobe. Nose/mouth/eyebrow piercings, ear cuffs or similar are not permitted. Sunglasses should not been seen in school.
Jewellery: One small ring is allowed. Students may wear a wrist watch.
Handbags should not be used in place of school bags. Bags should be of a size to be able to fit A4 folders in them as a minimum.

**Skirts**
Skirts must not be Lycra material or any similar stretch jersey fabric.
Skirts should be black, smart, tailored and around knee length.

**Trousers**
Stretch fabric trousers are not permitted.
Black jeans are not permitted.
Skinny style trousers are not permitted.

**Shoes**
Canvas shoes or trainers are not permitted.
High heeled shoes are not permitted.
Boots are not permitted.

If you wanted to buy uniform from a store or online rather than the school supplier, that is acceptable, but it must match the uniform policy exactly. The school uniform policy is available on the school website and a copy can be arranged to be sent home on request.

Girls who turn up in incorrect uniform or who are not complying with the requirements detailed above will be required to remove the item and/or given a time period in which to correct the problem. This will be no longer than a week and a pass will be issued by the form tutor for that period of time in exceptional circumstances where it is clearly not possible to rectify the problem immediately/within a short period of time.
Students who persist in arriving in incorrect uniform, or with an incorrect item of uniform or accessory following Monday 4th November, will face further disciplinary consequences. We will contact you and send them home to change in to the correct uniform. We believe that there has been more than sufficient time to address uniform issues since the start of term and certainly by Tuesday 5th November, when students return from the half term break, all should be dressed correctly and appropriately for learning.

Should you have any questions about this uniform policy, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you are unsure whether a piece of uniform is acceptable, please consult the school before buying. We need your support in buying affordable, good quality school clothing for your daughter. We believe that this guidance is clear and are happy to support any family who requires addition guidance over the choice of possible suppliers or the wide range of options available to parents these days.

We look forward to your support in ensuring all students are treated equally and prepared for the school day,

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kate Larkinie
Raising Standards Lead
Word of the Week

**circumspect** (adj)

*sur-kuhm-spekt*

**Definition:**
- wary or unwilling to take risks
- cautious and vigilant

**Usage:**
- You should always be circumspect about giving out too much personal information on the internet.
- Because Jimmy had lied to me in the past, I was circumspect about believing what he was telling me.

**Synonyms**
- cautious
- careful
- cagey
- wary
- guarded
- judicious

**Etymology**
- Prefix - From the Latin, *circum*, meaning around.
- Root - From the Latin, *specere*, meaning look.