

13 November 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

It has been another busy week at The Grange.

We remembered the fallen this week with some very moving assemblies on the theme of remembrance in literature and history.

On Thursday we held an 'Into the Sixth Form' evening for our current Year 11 pupils. There was record interest and our Sixth Form, which was rated 'Good' at the most recent inspection, continues to go from strength to strength. Jayni and Jack, our Head Girl and Head Boy, gave an excellent flavour of life in our Sixth Form and individual subject presentations were well attended.

In spite of the positive announcements recently about the potential roll-out of a vaccine to the most vulnerable by Christmas, we are still very conscious of the need to take every precaution to ward-off Covid-19 and curtail its spread. With this in mind I would like to thank all of you who have provided your children with masks. It would be helpful, too if students could have a plastic zip lock bag in which to store their mask. One or two students still appear not to have got the message and we would appreciate your cooperation in providing appropriate PPE: the school cannot afford to provide a paper mask every day to students who forget. PE days are a particular issue as some students tend to leave masks in blazers rather than in their bags.

A reminder, too, with the backdrop of lockdown, that all students are expected to go straight home after school and not loiter anywhere. Again, we would appreciate your cooperation in reinforcing this message.

We are really pleased with how smart and proud the students are in their new uniform. We have also received several comments from people in the local community commenting upon how mature and professional the students look travelling to and from school. In order to maintain these high standards, please can we ask that you child is aware of the following expectations:

- Jumpers should not be tucked into the skirt
- PE Kit - navy blue tracksuit bottoms only
- PE Kit - if wearing legging students must wear their shorts on top
- Jewellery is not allowed (apart from a watch and one pair of small stud earrings)

We will be conducting something of a blitz on this in the next week or two, including confiscation of prohibited items such as jewellery, so please do reinforce the message to your sons and daughters. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

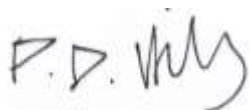
Continuing the theme of school uniform, we have listened to your concerns regarding the cost of certain uniform items and gone back to our supplier to persuade them to reduce prices on 'big ticket' items in particular. You will find the new prices here:

<https://www.uniform4kids.com/>

We are limited in our choice of supplier by the manufacturer and we have to consider the needs of those parents who would like to visit a physical shop for a fitting. The Pullens store in Stanmore remains the most convenient for the majority of our parent body and they provide a free 'click and collect' service, saving on delivery costs. We hope that we have now struck a better balance between affordability and accessibility.

We are conscious that some of you would like to contribute more actively to the governance of the school, so I am delighted to advertise the position of parent governor. You will find full details in an accompanying letter and I would urge anyone interested to complete the relevant form. It is a unique opportunity to work closely with Future Academies and the Leadership Team in taking The Grange Academy to the next level.

Yours faithfully



Dr Philip Hills
Principal
The Grange Academy