

# WEST HILL SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer

Can I first wish you a very Happy Easter.

The main purpose of writing to you at this time is to ask you for your cooperation in relation to the school maintaining its high standards of uniform and appearance of the boys who come and learn here at West Hill School.

West Hill School insists that all boys wear the correct full uniform in its entirety at all times including coming to and from school. This is all part of the high expectations that we have for our boys and young men. The vast majority of our boys do this with pride and are immaculate and smart. However, over the last term it has become evident that a number of boys have chosen to not abide by the school expectations, specifically in terms of their hair cut and style, being clean shaven and the type of shoe they have chosen to wear.

## Hair cut

In terms of hair style and cut, may I remind parents and carers that unusual or extreme hair styles are not allowed, this is clearly stated in the pupil planner page 4. Hair should be neat, tidy and smart. If boys choose to grow their hair, long hair which falls below the collar line must be tied up and off the face. Fully shaven heads are not allowed and if the hair is shaven at the sides and back it must be no shorter than a grade 1 and this should extend no further up the neck and head than the top of the ear and there should be no discernible line between the shaved part and the main head of hair.

## Facial hair

Inevitably as boys mature into young men they will begin to grow facial hair. The school policy states clearly that boys' faces should be cleanly shaven.

## Shoes

Recently a number of boys have come into school in black footwear claiming they can be polished and therefore permitted. These include the 'Van' style of footwear. Please see image below or for a higher quality image please refer to our website.



The image is for illustrative purposes as to the 'type' of footwear I am referring to and is not an indication of the only make and model being highlighted.

We fully acknowledge the difficulties parents and carers face when choosing footwear for school when many shops and retailers advertise footwear as school shoes which do not conform to school definitions.

Page 6 of our pupil planner states very clearly that 'trainers or hybrids' are not allowed and this type of footwear comes under this definition.

As an acknowledgement of the difficulties parents and carers face when buying shoes, we are clarifying the school policy in relation to this issue. Where parents have already bought shoes of this type in good faith this academic year, we will allow their son to continue wearing them until the end of this academic year. This does not extend to any other type of trainers/hybrids which are still not permitted.

Shoes of the style and type exemplified overleaf will not be allowed from 1st September 2016. We ask parents and carers who are currently looking to replace their son's shoes not to buy this type of shoe for school from now on. If you have any concerns regarding whether a particular type of footwear is acceptable please ask for clarification with your son's Head of Year before you buy.

The Headteacher reserves the right to determine when any part of a boy's uniform or general appearance is contrary to the school policy and expectations. Boys who choose not to abide by our high standards may be sent home or isolated at the discretion of the Headteacher in order to amend the issue.

We respectfully request that parents and carers continue to support the school in maintaining the high standard of appearance of our boys and young men by ensuring their sons adhere to our expectations in terms of our uniform and appearance.

Thank you for your cooperation in advance.

#### **Other information for parents and carers.**

#### **Prefect Interviews**

As part of preparing our pupils to become good citizens and ready for the world of work, we try to give them various levels of responsibility at different stages in their school lives, for example, peer mentors, school councillors, team captains. However, perhaps the most important opportunity is the process of becoming a prefect, one that all boys will have the chance to experience during their time at West Hill.

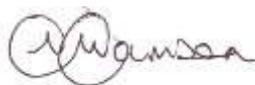
This term, all year 10 pupils have been briefed on the role of the Prefect and the application procedure. Potential candidates are now busy preparing their application form and supporting letters for the selection process. The next step for each candidate will be an interview with current prefects, governors and members of staff. In order to facilitate these interviews and make them as close as possible to a real life experience, school will close at 1.55 pm on Friday 29th April to allow them to take place.

Pupils in years 7, 8 and Year9 b will be dismissed for the day at the end of period 4 (1.55 pm). Pupils in Years 9a, and 10 will have lunch as normal between 1.25 and 1.55 pm, once they have finished their lunch they will be allowed to leave school.

All Year 11 pupils will stay in school. They will have an English revision lesson during Period 5 in preparation for their English Language examination on Tuesday, May 3rd.

#### **School will also be closed on the Bank Holiday Monday - 2nd May**

Yours sincerely



Mr A. F. Harrison

