

Educate for life

Dear Parent/carers,

As the end of term approaches, we wanted to thank you for your support throughout this year. The summer term is always a very busy time of year with all schools making the most of the sunshine and warm weather and it has been fabulous to see our students enjoying the school field at lunchtime. This past year has been incredibly busy with a tremendous amount taking place, most notably with our incredible Matilda performance.

Additionally, we have seen a busy programme of enrichment and curriculum focused events, including our recent Science Festival, numerous sporting fixtures, sports day, student-led assemblies, boat trips, international day and outside companies supporting our students. This is all underpinned by our core belief of the importance to 'educate for life'.

Throughout Key Stage 3 there has been a clear focus on showing respect, building resilience and taking responsibility. The successful accomplishments of these behaviours have led students in Year 9 to graduate with bronze, silver and gold certificates, before beginning Key Stage 4. We wish all students entering this key stage all the best of luck and I have no doubt they will be successful.

In September we excitedly welcome our fantastic new Year 7 cohort to Cowes Enterprise College who will be embarking on their own journey of secondary education. For students entering Year 8 and 9 we will continue to support their wellbeing, develop academic resilience and provide many enrichment opportunities to ensure they feel part of the Cowes Enterprise College community.

Uniform

In response to student and parent voice we have reviewed our uniform expectations throughout this academic year ahead of September. Thank you to all those focus groups who gave feedback.

We are keen for the school ethos to be based on positive conversations about learning. We know that a uniform provides equality between students regardless of background and culture however clothing expectations in the workplace have shifted significantly since Covid and it seems reasonable for schools to reflect this in some way. Research tells us that how the uniform is worn has no direct influence on educational achievement but we look to retain a uniform for the equality it provides the student community.

Therefore we are making the following changes to how the uniform is worn from September 2024. We anticipate this will strengthen relationships with all stakeholders whilst keeping the focus on educating for life and giving clarity of expectation. We want to maintain a positive culture and look to have more conversations about learning than uniform. Thank you to all students and parents for their feedback on this important matter.

Blazers: Blazers can be worn or carried. This removes the expectation to wear blazers in the corridors and classrooms. Students must carry their blazer to demonstrate they have it with them as they will be expected to wear it on certain specific occasions and it is important that every student has one CEC crested item of uniform for safeguarding purposes both on and off site. We are also aware some students like to wear their blazer to store belongings.

Skirts: Skirts must be worn to the knee unless worn with plain black tights or plain black leggings worn underneath the skirt.

Ties: Ties will now become optional for staff and students.

Other expectations remain as before. This includes all shirts and blouses being tucked in and natural look makeup. For more details see the school website.

Phones

In light of the Department for Education updated guidance on mobile phones we are consulting parents on their opinions of young people and mobile phones.

According to the DfE "Every school has a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. One of the greatest challenges facing schools is the presence of mobile phones. Today, by the age of 12, 97% of pupils own a mobile phone. Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion. Nationally one in three secondary school pupils report that mobile phones are used in most lessons without permission. This not only distracts the pupil using the phone, but disrupts the lesson for a whole class, and diverts teachers' efforts away from learning."

We are reviewing our mobile phone policy and would welcome your feedback. The survey will close on Friday 6th September 2024. [Click here for the survey.](#)

We now move into a well-deserved summer break for both pupils and staff after a very busy academic year. I wish you a lovely summer and I am sure your children will come back refreshed and ready to make the most of a fulfilling and enriching 2024-25. A reminder we return to school on Thursday 5th September at 8:25am.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Milligan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr J Milligan
Assistant Principal