



Aylsham High School

*Part of the Aylsham Learning Federation
It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following our recent communication regarding updates to the school uniform policy for September, we have received a number of queries and pieces of feedback from our school community. This week, I had the privilege of leading assemblies with our students to share these updates directly with them.

We always listen closely to our families and young people, and I want to personally thank everyone who took the time to share their thoughts, questions, and concerns. I have since taken all of this valuable feedback to our Senior Leadership Team meeting for a thorough review.

We would like to provide some clarity on why these choices have been made, alongside some important adjustments we have introduced to support all families.

Why We Are Moving to a Single Supplier

- **Ensuring Consistency:** Over recent terms, maintaining consistency with high-street options has proved incredibly challenging. Despite clear guidelines on appropriate length and materials, the wide variation available on the high street has unfortunately led to ongoing inconsistencies and uncertainty for families, students and staff alike.

By moving to a single, regulated supplier, we completely remove this uncertainty, ensuring that all students who choose to wear a skirt are treated equally with no ambiguity around what is acceptable.

- **Quality and Value:** Our team has conducted extensive research to source a high-quality, durable garment designed to withstand the rigours of the school day. While we understand the upfront cost is higher than some budget high-street alternatives, this item has been chosen specifically because its quality ensures it will last, ultimately offering better long-term value for money.

New Adjustments Based on Your Feedback

We have taken your and the students' practical concerns seriously and have introduced the following measures to assist our families:

- **Introduction of a Black Option:** A major and very important point raised by parents and students was regarding period anxiety and the practicality of grey fabric. In direct response to this, we have decided to authorise a black option for

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the official school skirt, alongside the grey. This matches our existing policy for trousers and shorts, allowing students to wear the colour they feel most comfortable and secure in.

Both options will be available on the uniform shop from this afternoon. If you have already purchase grey skirts and wish to exchange them for black, please do contact the school and we will be happy to support with this.

- **Garment Fit & Comfort (Adjustable Waistbands):** We also received queries regarding the flexibility and comfort of the new skirts. Please be reassured that while the skirts are structured to maintain a smart appearance, they feature adjustable waistbands. This allows for a comfortable, customisable fit that accommodates individual needs, growth spurts, and the comfortable wearing of under-shorts or tights.
- **Flexible Payment Options (Klarna):** To help families spread the cost of uniform over the summer and throughout the year, our supplier's online shop now includes a Klarna option at checkout, allowing payments to be broken down into manageable, interest-free instalments.
- **Enhanced Financial Support:** We are fully committed to ensuring that financial hardship is never a barrier to a student's education or comfort. In addition to our standard support structures, we have set up additional discounts specifically for families currently entitled to Free School Meals (FSM).

Supporting Our Students' Transition

We want to reassure parents that our primary focus in September is ensuring a warm, positive, and successful start to the new academic year. We understand that starting high school or returning from the summer break can cause anxiety, and we will be working closely and compassionately with all students during the first few weeks of term to ensure they feel settled and supported.

If you believe you are eligible for the additional uniform discounts, or if your family is facing exceptional circumstances, please contact our finance office finance@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk in confidence so we can ensure the appropriate support is put in place for your child.

Clarification on Alternative Options:

- **Trousers and Shorts:** As a reminder, students remain fully permitted to wear standard black school trousers or formal tailored shorts sourced from any high-

street retailer. Sports shorts and Jersey fabric shorts are not allowed.

- **Trousers:** Following questions from several students during our assemblies, we can confirm that plain black, wider-legged school trousers are also permitted as part of our uniform policy. Joggers are not permitted.
- **Leggings:** Please note that leggings of any kind, including straight-leg, sports, or flared styles, are not allowed as a replacement for school trousers.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, understanding, and support as we work together to maintain high standards and a focused learning environment for all our young people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K. Garnham".

Kathryn Garnham
Deputy Headteacher