

Newsletter

Year 8 Term 4



Dear Parents and Carers,

May I take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful staff, students, parents and carers for welcoming me into the role of Head of Academy. It has been a delight to visit lessons, assemblies and in particular see the opening of our new £500,000 dining facility. This is proving a real success in helping to ensure that all of our students have a welcoming space to sit down and enjoy their lunch. You will see more details of the new restaurant in this newsletter.

You may well remember that at the start of this term I wrote to you to request feedback on what we are doing well and for any suggestions that you may have for us to further improve. Thank you for engaging with this, I was pleased to see the number of responses and wish to share the overview with you. I have collated the individual comments into categories for ease of analysis. Your feedback identified the following main strengths of Kingswood in this order;

Pastoral care: A willingness to go above and beyond. Students are safe and happy.

Communication: Keeping families in the loop and keeping the conversation 'real'.

Curriculum and academic achievement: Students are challenged in lessons. There is a real drive to help students achieve their potential.

It is pleasing to see these strengths identified and we will continue to work to develop these further. The areas of development identified were focused around inconsistencies in the application of the behaviour and uniform policies, and in further improving how we recognise and reward desired student behaviours so that class charts is more positive.

This is really useful feedback and I have been working with the staff to incorporate this into our thinking for the opportunities that exist to further improve the academy. Mr Scallan, our Deputy for behaviour and standards, has written to you to update you on this.

There are a few good news stories that I wish to share with you. This year we have received the highest ever number of applications from parents and carers of Year 6 students wishing to join us in September. We have had over 300 families place Kingswood as a preference with only just over 200 places available. I believe this surge in applications demonstrates Kingswood's growing popularity and is testament to the standing we have in the local community. Finally, our parents' evening attendance has significantly increased this year. We have had around 75% attendance at each of our parents evenings which is up on previous years, and whilst there is still room for improvement, as I have said before, it is this positive parent/carers and Academy relationship that is the key to drive the success of our students and your children. Thank you for this engagement.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Gamble

Head of Academy

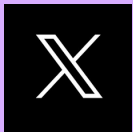


Newsletter

Year 8 Term 4



Join us on X (Twitter)
[@KingswoodAcad](#)



Message from Head of Year 8: -

Dear Parents

I would like to thank every family that contributed to our shoe box appeal for the Skylark Ward. We ventured over with all the shoe boxes and they were extremely happy to receive the good will from our students. We were only able to take a small number of students with us, although we would have loved to have taken more.

Since the start of the New Year we have had an enjoyable term and we spend many mornings learning about the wider world and the community. Two key areas we have explored are online safety and students' mental health. They do have a correlation and we do urge all students to take time away from technology and try something new. As part of the team who looks after your child whilst in school, we encourage them to take all opportunities and explore new ideas and activities. We would like to hear from you and the students about what they have been achieving in their free time and to celebrate their successes with them.

We look forward to continuing to support your child through year 8 and are extremely excited to begin discussing with them the next steps of picking their GCSEs when we are in year 9.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Mr Feely and the Year team.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8 Enrichment Clubs:

Why is Enrichment so important?

Enrichment:

- Helps children develop their interests and talents.
- Enables children to develop their character, confidence and independence.
- Teaches children how to keep physically and mentally healthy.
- Prepares individuals for future success.

Students can also participate in the following:

Student council: Elected form representatives from all year groups discuss issues affecting students and the Academy. This is a working party which helps our Academy progress.

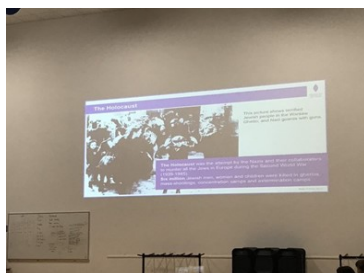
KEM – Kingswood Ethnic Minorities: Volunteers discuss issues that affect and create a more inclusive community. This raises awareness, and students help to plan our cultural celebration days.

LGBTQ+: Formed of students from all year groups. This is an open and safe group where students discuss issues affecting their community. They also raise awareness by organising events and celebration days.

Personal development:

It has been a positive start to the year with Mr Gamble as our new Head of School, and his first job this year was giving out all our subject awards to our students who were nominated for their outstanding work.

In our PSHE and form time sessions we have been learning about dreams and goals with assemblies on World Religion Week, Holocaust Memorial Day, Childrens Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day and with presentations by the Kingswood Urban is has been a busy and informative term. Our Year 7 and Year 8 students have also been helping our environment by looking after their outside area with a big clean up.



Next term our PSHE topic is Healthy Me and students will be learning all about how to keep healthy with diet and exercise.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8 Enrichment Clubs:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Break 2 1:40-2:10	Break 2 1:40-2:10	Break 2 1:40-2:10	Break 2 1:40-2:10	Break 2 1:40-2:10
Maths Game Club DB Maths resource centre	Film Club Part 1 PCL E5	Drama Club CR & CD EP1	Business Club SD IV4	Film Club P2 HH E5
Anime & Manga Club HH L2	Dance Club KG EP1	Board Games Club FH (Hope Church) PA1	Poetry By Heart DC & NM E1	Horrible Histories SE H4
Science club LC Sc3 Years 7&8	IT Club SA IV6	STEM JM & HJ Sc5 Years 9&10	Singing Club MT MU2	
	Bedrock/Educake/ GCSE Pod MW E9	Fashion Club RBR M2		
	Music Club – Garage band TR MU1	Keyboard Club BDK MU2		
FOOTBALL ASTRO JL/MG Years 7-13				
LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games	LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games	LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games	LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games	LIB Chess, Anime, Computer & board games
After school 3:10- 4pm				
LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club
SPORTS CLUBS TERM 1				
AFTER SCHOOL (3:10pm– 4:10pm)				
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Astro / Field	Y7 & 8 Boys' and Girls' Football Club <i>RN/HW</i>			
Netball Courts / Gym	Netball Club – All Years <i>ACO/RO</i>			
Main Hall			Table Tennis Club – All Years <i>PH/SRD</i>	
Sports Hall		Y9, 10 & 11 Basketball Club <i>PH</i>	Y7 & 8 Dodgeball Club <i>LF</i>	Y7 & 8 Girls' Basketball Club <i>SM</i>
Fixtures / Revision (See teacher)		Y9 Netball Fixtures Y10 Netball Fixtures <i>ACO/ROM/SM</i>	Y7 & 8 Girls' Football Fixtures <i>ACO/RO/SM</i> GCSE PE Masterclass (T2) <i>SM</i>	Y10 Boys' Football Fixtures <i>SRD</i> CNAT Sport Science Masterclass (T2) <i>PH</i> (T1) <i>ACO/RO</i>



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8 Curriculum Clubs:

Curriculum clubs:

Independent learning is an integral part of the learning process at Kingswood Secondary Academy. It builds resilience by allowing you to take ownership of your learning linked to the learning in lessons as well as forming good study habits. These rooms are available for Years 7, 8, and 9 until 4:10pm for independent study:



Monday	LRC (library)
Tuesday	LRC (library)
Wednesday	LRC (library) English in E2 with specialist staff
Thursday	LRC (library) Humanities in H2 and MFL in L2 IV1 and IV4 with a vocational teacher

Sports clubs:

Sports clubs are also timetabled for after school. They are advertised in all form rooms, on Facebook, on our website and in the PE area. Please speak to your PE teacher for more information.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8 Curriculum:

The curriculum and independent learning at Kingswood Secondary Academy

Independent learning (home learning) is an integral part of the learning process at Kingswood Secondary Academy. It builds resilience by allowing our students to take ownership of their learning linked to the learning in lessons as well as forming good study habits. The Academy uses ClassCharts to record all independent learning tasks. All students and parents / carers have an individual log in for ClassCharts. If you need access, please contact your child's form tutor.

There are many different tasks that teachers may set students to complete independently such as completing research, undertaking a project, revising for a topic, completing an assessment, reviewing and / or improving a task and completing some online activities.

Please read the curriculum timetable which highlights the learning expectations for each subject this term. We hope you find this information useful and take time to discuss the subject topics and learning opportunities with your child.

Term 4: Year 8 subjects	Curriculum, independent learning topics and assessment focus	Useful website links / additional information
English	<p>'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare.</p> <p>Dracula – Bram Stoker play</p>	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxgcwmn</p> <p>https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/a-midsummer-nights-dream</p> <p>https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/dracula/summary/</p>
Science	<p>Group A: 8x1, 8XC, 8y2, 8y5 Earth and Space 1: Earth Structure Earth and Space 2: Universe Earth and Space 4: Earth Resources</p> <p>Group B: 8y1, 8y3, 8x5 Energy 4: Heating and Cooling Forces 3: Contact Forces Forces 4: Pressure</p> <p>Group C: 8x2, 8x4, 8y4 Organisms 3: Breathing Organisms 4: Digestion Genetics and Evolution 1: Inheritance Genetics and Evolution 2: Evolution</p>	<p>Earth Structure</p> <p>Universe</p> <p>Earth Resources</p> <p>Heating and cooling</p> <p>Forces Pressure and Contact Forces</p> <p>Breathing</p> <p>Digestion</p> <p>Inheritance</p> <p>Evolution</p>



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8 Curriculum continued:

Term 4: Year 8 subjects	Curriculum, independent learning topics and assessment focus	Useful website links / additional information
Maths	Fractions and percentages Standard index form Number sense	https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year/year-8 https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/browse/807 https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/browse/808
Geography	Russia (Country Study) Hot deserts	Introduction to Russia - KS3 Geography - BBC Bitesize - BBC Bitesize What is a hot desert? - Internet Geography
History	Industrial Revolution	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zm7qtfr
Religious Studies	Moral issues	https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-gcse-matters-of-life-and-death/zy24bqt https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zhbqf4j/revision/1
French	Festivals and Celebrations / Hobbies	https://dashboard.blooket.com/set/619a9a940fd616e7aac489a1
Spanish	My life / Food	https://dashboard.blooket.com/set/600f175985ec6f0012bb508f
Art	Topic: Imagination cross-cultural Artist link: Mexican Day of the Dead Skills: Drawing, painting, mixed-media	www.pinterest.co.uk
Dance / Drama	Exploration of a professional piece of repertoire 'Swansong' focusing on the theme of conflict. The process of Dance is used to develop unison, canon, safe lifting, repetition, and formations or Development of knowledge and understanding of naturalism / realism linked to the theatre practitioner Stanislavski and a professional play text	Swansong (rambert.org.uk) Konstantin Stanislavski - Naturalism and Stanislavski - GCSE Drama Revision - WJEC - BBC Bitesize



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8 Curriculum continued:

Term 4: Year 8 subjects	Curriculum, independent learning topics and assessment focus	Useful website links / additional information
IT	Using spreadsheets to organise and analysing data.	Advantages of using spreadsheets - Spreadsheet software - GCSE ICT Revision - WJEC - BBC Bitesize
Music	MU1 Band Lab Project – (Tonality and Structure) / MU3 – Tonality and Structure	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zmsvr82
PE	Boys: Football Fitness Girls: Handball / Netball Badminton	UK Sport UK Sport
Technology rotation	Groups rotate every 7-9 weeks to cover all the areas below Food: Health and safety in the kitchen. Cooking techniques and cooking a variety of simple dishes. The theory of food is then also taught in an extra lesson for half the year. First Aid: Pupils follow a bespoke programme developed for teaching them basic first aid. Textiles: An Art Textiles based project with sewing machine and other key skills. Finance Skills: Pupils are taught about real life finance skills using an online programme Engineering – Completion of a mini project Library lesson: Pupils follow a reading programme	Recipes for kids recipes - BBC Food 20 Fun And Easy Sewing Projects For Kids To Make (homeschoolmasteryacademy.com) https://www.tinkercad.com/ - Engineering



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8



Communication and Celebrations



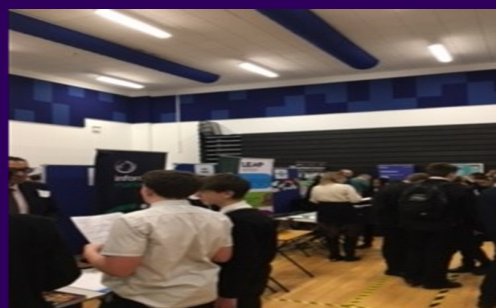
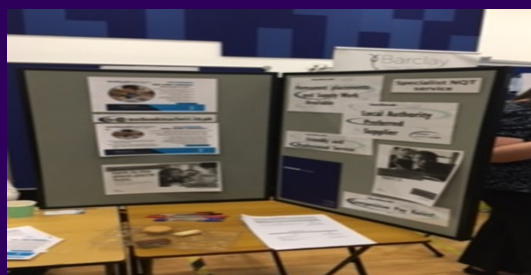
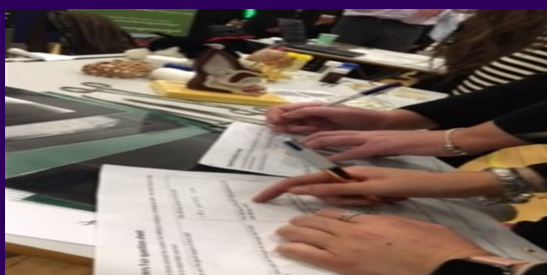
Kingswood's Careers Fair

On Thursday 18th January we hosted our Careers Fair. The event was a great success with 42 employers and employees visiting the Academy to give our students a valuable insight into a range of careers.

All Year 9 students attended and were able to make links between the subjects they want to study at GCSE and their future careers; this was especially useful in helping them choose their option subjects. We also welcomed other year groups and their parents and carers as they spoke to local employers and discussed a range of career pathways.

100% of employers said they would return next year and offered to further support our students, including offering interview experience.

We would like to thank Mrs Hardy (our Aspiration and Careers Advisor) and Ian and Emma from Prospects for organising such a successful event and for their continued support and careers advice.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8



Communication and Celebrations

Our new Year 7 and Year 8 Restaurant is open!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that our new Y7 and Y8 Restaurant is now in full use. It has taken two years of planning and £500,000 to get there, but we are delighted with the end result.

Not only does this give Y7 and Y8 a fantastic environment in which to enjoy their food and socialize at breaktimes, but it also provides a resource that can be used for PE, examinations, teaching and Parents' Evenings to name but a few.

Well done and thank you to everyone who has been involved in bringing this project to fruition - we are looking forward to making full use of its potential. Our students will be involved in naming this new facility- we will update you with more information about this soon.

Some of our students shared their viewpoints about the new facility:

"A good place to eat, particularly when it's cold and raining outside."

"Teachers are always looking after you."

'A clean environment!'

"A nice place to eat our food and it's warm inside so your food does not get cold."



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8

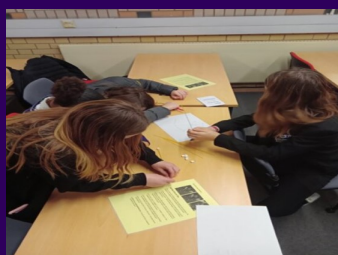


Communication and Celebrations

University visits

Inspires Day

The Academy is partnered with De Montfort University and some of our Year 7 students recently visited the University to learn more about academic learning and university life. During the day our students toured different areas of De Montfort University including the Kimberlin Library and a Hall of Residence. They listened to a session from the Student Ambassadors who explained what university is like and participated in a Q&A panel. They also developed their teamwork skills through challenges such as the Spaghetti Towers Challenge. It was an enjoyable day with many students now planning their future educational journeys.



The Inspires (UNI) club

We also have some Year 8 and 9 students participating in the Inspires (UNI) Club. This is an academic programme run by the University of Northampton which aims to widen access for students and provides them with opportunities to learn more about university life and university-style learning. Our students work with tutors, and they are introduced to supra-curricular topics designed to stretch and challenge them. This is a six-week programme and, once completed, our students will complete a final assessment which will be marked university-style with pupils receiving a First, 2.1, 2.2 etc. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to celebrating their future successes.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8



Communication and Celebrations

Thank you for your contributions!

On the last day of the Christmas term, Fumi (Year 13) delivered our substantial donation to the Corby foodbank. Thank you all for your support and we are proud that our students planned and organised the collection to give something back to our community.



Singing Club news!

The Singing Club is participating in the UK Music International competition. We wish them the very best of luck and we will update you with the results next term.



RICHARDSONS CYCLES
www.richardsonsonline.co.uk

Richardson's Cycles are pleased to offer a 15% discount on any Oxford lock (T&Cs apply). Students will need to show their student ID card in store to complete the purchase. We always encourage our students to lock all bikes and scooters on our site.

Lost Property Notice

We have a collection of unclaimed items including coats, jumpers, shoes, equipment etc in our Student Services area. On the last Friday of each term all items will be displayed neatly in the Reception area for collection (except during break and lunch time). Please collect any missing items as we are unable to store the items long term and will donate any remaining items to charity.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 8

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The Kingswood Secondary Academy is part of the Greenwood Academies Trust (GAT). Please use the link below to see our full list of current vacancies for both Kingswood Secondary Academy and other Academies within GAT: <https://www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=20>



Please access the Academy website to find information about aspiration and careers and how to best support your child, including job of the week:

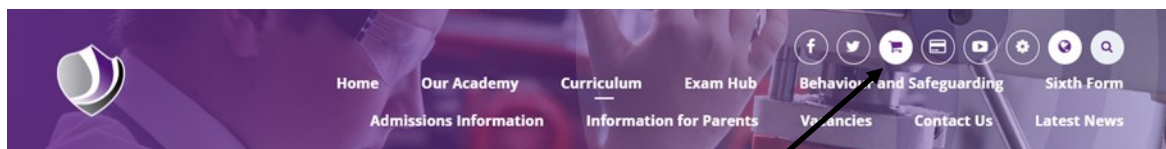
<https://www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org/page/?title=Job+of+the+Week&pid=615>



ClassCharts

Please access ClassCharts <https://www.classcharts.com/account/login> for all homework, RISE points and behaviour information. You will need a code in order to log on. Please contact your child's tutor who will provide this for you.

How to access ParentPay



ParentPay is a convenient facility that enables parents and carers to pay, in a cashless way, for various items. You can access ParentPay by visiting <https://www.kingswoodsecondaryacademy.org/> and then by clicking on the shopping trolley icon. Here are just a few of the things that can be paid for via the ParentPay Shop:

- Equipment Packs
- Art supplies
- Revision guides & books
- Uniform
- Exam Re-takes.

In the payment screen it is essential that we are able to identify your child and his/her Form group. Once we have received payment notification, we will process your order and your son/daughter will be advised when they can collect their items from Reception. Items will not be posted home.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Year 8

Communication



Parking and access to Kingswood Secondary Academy:

Wherever possible we encourage our students to walk or cycle to the Academy for the obvious health and environmental benefits this brings.

If you do bring your child by car, please can you note the following:

Dropping off your child in the morning:

It would be most helpful if you could drop off your child off a few hundred metres from school and they walk the short distance in.

If you do wish to use our roundabout then we do allow this in the mornings. This works because parents drop off their children over a 30-45 minute period, so congestion does not tend to be a significant issue.

Collecting your child at the end of the day:

Due to the inevitable departure of students in a relatively short period of time at the end of a school day, it does not work for us to allow parents onto site to collect their child. This is because of the very significant congestion caused which leads to vehicles backing up out of our entrance, in turn then blocking Gainsborough Road in both directions.

In summary: please do not drive onto our school site to collect your child at the end of the day.

Exception: If your child has a disability then please speak with their Head of Year or Miss Skorwider in our Special Educational Needs Department who will make appropriate arrangements.

Sadly, we quite often get complaints from local residents e.g. on Tower Hill Road and Oak Wood Drive. With this in mind, we'd be very grateful if you note the following:

Please park considerately and consider parking further away and allowing your child to walk for a couple of minutes to get to you, so you can park in a less congested location.

Please avoid blocking residents' drives and do not use residents' drives to turn around in or stop in. Please avoid parking on yellow lines.

Thank you for your understanding.

Contact details

If you have recently moved to a new address and/or have updated your contact details, for example you have a new telephone number or email address, please can you contact your child's form tutor, Deputy Head of Year or Head of Year with the new details so we can update our records. Thank you.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8 Communication



Kingswood Secondary Academy – Uniform Requirements for PE from Mrs Meekcom

I am asking for your support in preparing your child for the colder weather. In PE all pupils have one indoor lesson and one outdoor lesson as we only have two indoor facilities, and we try to make access fair for all. All pupils can wear as many layers as they wish as long as they are completely plain black or white and under their Kingswood PE clothes. They can be long sleeved T-shirts/jumpers/base layers but not hoodies as the hood can be used in sport to drag players back and cause significant harm.

The items worn must be under normal Kingswood shirts or Kingswood ¾ zip tops. The ¾ zip top was added to the optional PE kit in response to pupil feedback last year and can be worn in every lesson except Rugby (due to the zip) where the rugby shirt is the alternative. Pupils can only wear the Kingswood leggings and tracksuit bottoms from Price and Buckland as we do not allow branded items in any of our school uniform. If pupils wear their own leggings/tracksuit bottoms they must wear a Kingswood branded item over the top e.g., shorts.

As the rugby lessons progress the level of contact will increase, as is appropriate for the progress of the group. For that reason, we are making you aware that there can be some small knocks and bruises because of the contact element. We recommend that all pupils wear a gum shield, and we do have a small supply you can buy via ParentPay or alternatively you can purchase one from an alternative sports store. They are not essential, but recommended if you are worried or concerned.

May I take this opportunity to ask you to check that all the kit for your child is clearly labelled. We do see a large amount of kit unreturned due to having no names in, including socks and trainers. All the unnamed PE kit that is left is placed in a lost property box under the office window next to the changing rooms. All named kit is taken to the main Reception who will try to return it to the child. Can we also ask: if you have any items that pupils have outgrown can you please leave them at Reception so we can add them to our swap shop.

We offer a few sports through clubs, and we do change most clubs every half term due to limited daylight and weather conditions. All PE clubs finish at 4.00-4.10pm and can be found on the school website and in this newsletter. All clubs are free, and pupils do not need to sign up for them, they just need to come to the sports hall in advance to get changed.

Thank you for your support.



Kingswood Secondary Academy

Curriculum, Clubs and Celebrations

Year 8 Communication



Kingswood Secondary Academy – Uniform Requirements

At Kingswood Secondary Academy we believe that wearing our distinctive uniform gives our students a sense of belonging, fosters pride in the Academy and stops students coming to school in inappropriate clothing or footwear. Students are our ambassadors in the community and therefore we expect all students to wear full uniform when travelling to and from the Academy, at all Academy functions, on extra-curricular visits and when taking part in sports events. Please refer to our website for updated uniform policy and expectations.

Our Academy uniform consists of:

- An Academy tie with a traditional white shirt which has a fastened top button and is long enough to be tucked into trousers or a skirt; the bottom of the tie should meet the waistband
- Black trousers or skirt made of standard material – studs or zips on pockets must not be visible. Jeans, cords, hipster and tight-fitting (e.g. Revs-style) trousers are not appropriate and all trousers should cover the ankle. Combat-style trousers, e.g. with additional side pockets, are not allowed. Skirts should be no shorter than knee length and should not be fitted or made of tight stretchy material. Skater-style skirts are not suitable. As a rule of thumb, trousers and skirts should be modest.
- Academy blazer for all students in years 7 to 11
- Black or grey socks with black trousers; neutral or black tights with skirts
- Black leather or leather-style traditional school shoes that can be polished, with a heel no more than 2cm in height. (No boots or trainers, or trainer-style shoes such as Vans or Converse are allowed. Girls' ballet-type footwear is not acceptable)

Physical education kit for all years:

- Black tracksuit bottoms with academy logo
- Black short-sleeved sports polo shirt with purple panels and the academy logo
- Black long-sleeved sports shirt with purple panels and the academy logo
- Black shorts with academy logo
- Suitable trainers or other sports footwear
- Sports leggings with academy logo or plain black sports leggings (not cotton) Students will also be required to bring other appropriate kit to their PE lessons where necessary. For example, shin-guards for contact sports, studded boots for rugby, mouth guard for some PE activities. Students will be given specific advice from their PE teachers.

