

29 April 2022

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Dear Parent/Carer

Advance notice – change to uniform for September 2022

At Bedlington Academy we are proud to have a uniform which is practical and smart. We believe that school uniform is important because it instils pride in students and the wider community, encourages identity with our school ethos, and protects children from social pressures to dress in a particular way.

In recent student voice, students have told us they do not feel comfortable wearing a school jumper alone, and that they want a uniform which is smarter. It is very clear from our student voice that high standards and pride in how we present ourselves matters a great deal to all our students.

As a result of these consultations, we have decided to introduce a blazer into our uniform for September 2022. The school jumper will become an optional item, with students being able to wear the jumper under their blazer if they want to.

To help ease the transition to the new blazer, I want to let you know that we are offering the following:

- A blazer will be provided free of charge for all students in Year 11 in September 2022 (current Year 10); this will be returned to school at the end of Year 11 to become part of our 'pre-loved' uniform store.
- For all students in Years 7-10 in September 2022, the cost of the blazer will be subsidised by the school so that a blazer costs no more than a school jumper does currently.

Full details of how the new blazer can be ordered will be sent out shortly. We will have a number of in-school uniform events in June where students can try on sizes and order their blazers.

Please note that there is no change to any other aspect of our uniform requirements. Other items of uniform (for example shirts, skirts and trousers) have been fully audited to ensure that they can be purchased in the lowest possible price range across many stockists/stores.

In future years, purchases of blazers will need to be included in your uniform budget. We will also shortly be updating our uniform leaflet and information on our website to remind you of our expectations on other aspects of uniform and in relation to shoes, jewellery and hairstyles, giving plenty of notice before purchases are made so that when all students return to school in September, they meet our exemplary standard.

Yours sincerely



Jo Lamb
Head of School