28th June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have reached the end of yet another busy term and I hope that you are looking forward to the summer break. I will be in touch during the summer with an update about key dates for the year and the arrangements for returning to school on the 21 August 2024. Mrs. Anderson, who will be your child’s Depute Head Teacher, has been really enjoying reading the letters that she has received from our primary schools describing our new S1’s hopes and dreams for their future at The Robert Burns Academy.

School Uniform

I know many of you will start to get organised already for the start of term and so we have consulted with a significant number of pupils about our school uniform.

It is very important to us that every young person who attends The Robert Burns Academy feels a sense of belonging to our school. School uniform is a great way to feel that sense of belonging and allows us to be proud members of The Robert Burns Academy community. All of this is underpinned by equity which is one of our Campus values. This recognises that every young person’s circumstances are different and we are keen to support all young people with the resources required to achieve at school.

Why wear a uniform?

* ***It creates a sense of safety*** by allowing us to be able to identify our pupils very quickly in such a busy building.
* ***It is cost-effective***. Families have different financial circumstances and wearing school uniform means everyone can 'fit-in' and no-one is judged or bullied because of what they are wearing. It also ensures there is no risk of damage/loss of valuable items of clothing that are costly to replace.
* ***It is inclusive and creates a sense of belonging, dignity, teamwork and togetherness***. Young people are representatives of The Robert Burns Academy and it is important that our families and community view our pupils and school favourably.
* ***It promotes a can-do attitude and creates a positive mindset and readiness to learn***.
* ***Uniform is a part of learning, life and work.*** The routine of wearing uniform prepares young people for the world of work.
* ***It saves time!*** There is no need for planning an outfit every day! This reduces the pressure on young people.

Through the consultation results it was made to clear to us that our pupils have requested the uniform should remain the same but with some important additions. These additions are to reflect modern life and will help some children to be more comfortable during the day and therefore ready to learn!

The table below details the items of clothing that will form our school uniform from August.

S1-4 pupils

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Current school uniform** | **Additions to school uniform** |
| White school shirt and RBA tie | Plain white polo shirt |
| School skirt | Thick, black leggings |
| Black school trousers | Plain black “hoody” |
| Plain black jumper | Black tracksuit bottoms |
| Black shoes or black trainers | Tailored shorts \* |

**Health and Safety**

**\* Tailored shorts and/or hoodies cannot be worn in Design and Technology subjects with the exception of Graphic Communication, due to health and safety reasons. This is not optional.**

Jumpers, hoodie and leggings etc. should be plain black with no sport or designer branding.

Blazers are optional for pupils to wear. However, we would encourage our senior pupils to wear them. Senior pupils are role models to younger pupils in school, therefore high standards of uniform is expected at all times.

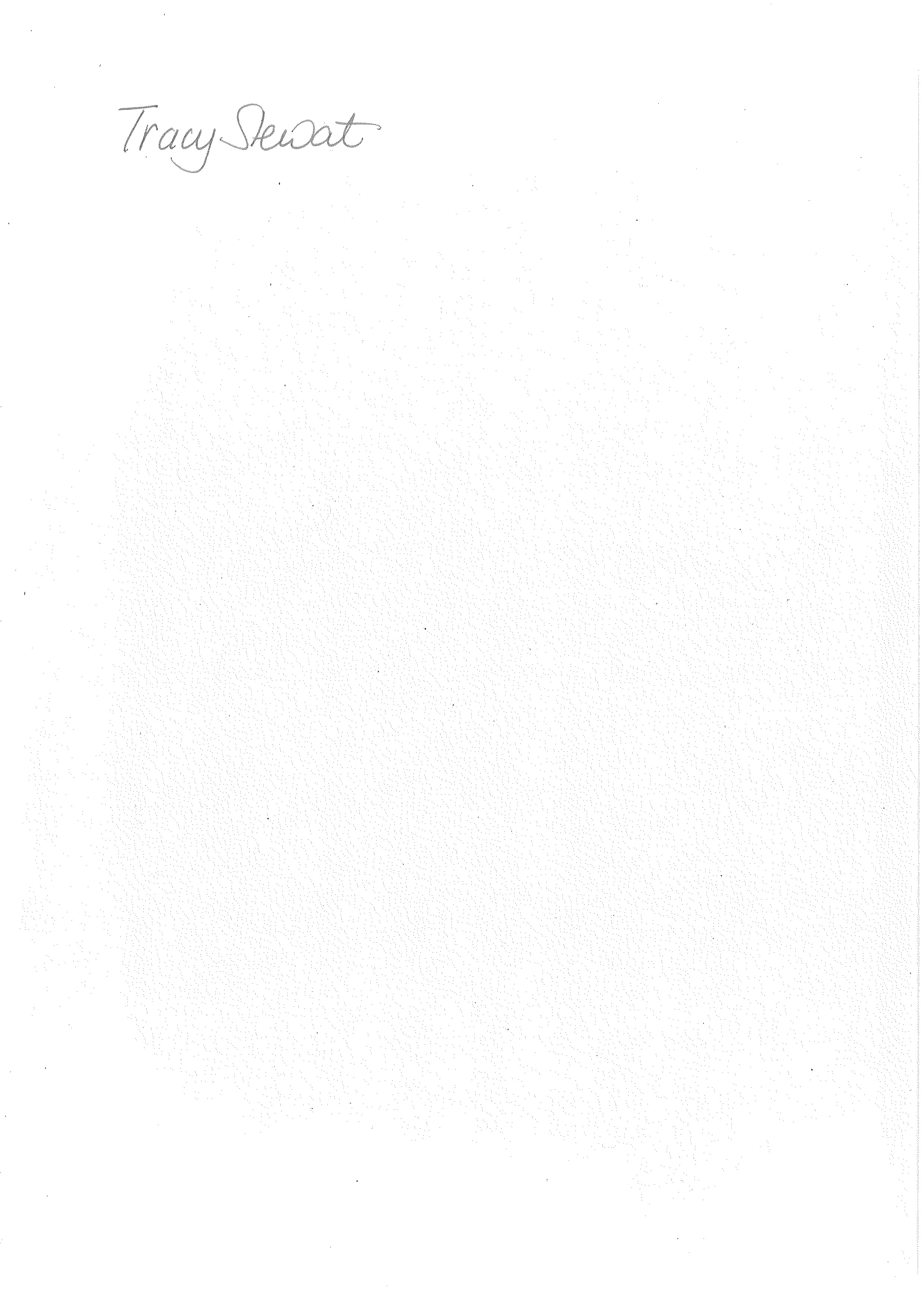
Financial support with school uniform is available through the East Ayrshire Council website, where families can apply for clothing grants. Our financial inclusion team are also available to offer advice to families.

They can be contacted at [john.scally@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.scally@east-ayrshire.gov.uk) or [laura.greer@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.greer@east-ayrshire.gov.uk).

Items of uniform with RBA branding are available now from the following outlets:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company** | **Phone Number** |
| 1.    Kenny’s Kilts 91 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock | 426940 |
| 2.    Donsport 24 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock | 423399 |
| 3.    Blu Design, Mauchline | 551471 |
| 4.    Just Jeans Highhouse, Auchinleck | 421880 |
| 5. 0290 Designer Clothes Glaisnock Street, Cumnock | 423946 |

Thank you once again for your support and I wish you and your family an enjoyable summer. See you in August!

Yours Sincerely

Tracy Stewart

Head of Barony Campus