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Stewarton Academy

Head Teacher Mr John Stuart MA

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11 August 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Arrangements for the return of pupils on Monday 21st August 2023

The staff very much look forward to welcoming our young people back to Stewarton Academy on Monday 21st August and we especially look forward to greeting our new S1 pupils as they join our school family.

Pupils in S2 – S6 should attend school as normal (arriving promptly to be able to enter the school by the warning bell at 8.42 am and the classroom door by 8.45 am). As per information from Mrs Ward and Ms MacBain prior to the summer, new S1 pupils should meet outside the front of the school by 8.45 am.

SQA results

By now all young people who sat SQA examinations in May 2023 and who completed SQA courses in session 2022-23 should have received their results. Well done to everyone who put undertook these assessments and congratulations to all for a good set of results cross all levels at Stewarton Academy. As happens every year, some young people may not achieved all the results they were looking for. The most important thing to remember is that there are many routes and pathways to follow when planning for after school so there are always alternatives to explore if results this time did not work out. If this is the case for your young person, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and ask to speak to your child's Principal Teacher of Pupil Support.

Option Changes resulting from SQA results

A number of pupils/ parents/ carers have already discussed potential Option Choice changes for 2023-24. If you still require to do so, we are offering a further opportunity to discuss changing options **on Monday 14th August**. Pupils should attend school at the following times to discuss changes to options choices:

New S5 10.00 am until 11.30 am

New S6 11.45 am until 12.30 pm

Pupils should only attend at these times if they wish to discuss changing their options for the coming year. Staff will not be able to discuss grade boundaries, appeals or component scores during these times. This information will be available when pupils and staff return to school. Any changes discussed at these sessions will be confirmed when all pupils return to school on Monday 21st August to confirm suitability for the option changes and overall class capacity.

Uniform

Our uniform policy and expectations remain the same as last session. The policy follows on the review and consultation which took place in session 2021-22. Please see a copy of the policy below. Young people tell us they are keen for the uniform policy to be implemented in a fair and consistent manner. Therefore, please note that the policy re-emphasises the kind of items that are not part of the uniform code and are not suitable for school. There will be a strong emphasis on consistency when we return to school in August.

We have a bank of uniform available in the school to support young people if there are any difficulties with the cost of the school day. If you are experiencing any difficulty in obtaining school uniform, please contact your child's guidance teacher if you wish to discuss this in confidence.

In addition to national retailers, there are a number of local suppliers for school uniform, including local charity shops which provide uniform at significantly reduced or zero cost. I wish to emphasise that the only school branded item required is the school tie (and blazer for S6 pupils) Therefore, parents and carers should feel free to buy generic school uniform items (in the correct colour) from whichever supermarket or school uniform supplier you prefer. We do encourage blazers for all year groups but this is not essential. Pupils who are not in uniform will be supported to address this by staff.

Wellbeing/ Health and Safety Update

Please can I ask parents and carers to remind young people about the following important wellbeing and health and safety expectations?

- Time-keeping and attendance – young people should make every effort to attend school every day and be on time. Good attendance is a key factor which support young people to do well in school and it closely linked to success and achievement. Good time-keeping is also essential as it avoids disruption to learning and supports a positive mind-set for the rest of the school day.
- All pupils must remain in the school building or the kiosk area during morning break. It is essential for fire safety and appropriate supervision. It also ensures pupils are not late for learning after break. The school cafeteria will ensure suitable availability of drinks and snacks at break time or pupil can choose to bring their own.
- Pupils in S2 – S6 are permitted to leave the school premises at lunch time. S1 pupils must remain on the school premises at lunch time.
- Senior pupils who have learning time off campus – eg at college must sign out at the school office.
- Any S6 pupil who has a not contact period must sign the register at the school office to indicate the location of private study for each non-contact period.

Communication

Please note that the main school e-mail address is eastewarton.ac@eastayrshire.org.uk

The main method of communication to parents and carers for schools in East Ayrshire is via the Safer Schools Scotland App. Please make sure you have down loaded this from the relevant app store. Be sure to choose the Scotland version.


Full details of how to down load and log in can be found on the school website:

https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/stewartonacademysite2016/uploads/sites/4005/2023/04/28152625/SaferSchools_Letter_parents_March.pdf

The school website is <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stewartonacademysite2016/>

In general, please do not hesitate to contact the school about any matter. Our core purpose is to make Stewarton Academy a place where young people feel confident, safe and empowered to achieve their full potential. Therefore, we want to know about anything we can do to improve our service and to know what we are doing well.

Kind regards,



John Stuart
Head Teacher

OUR UNIFORM

COMMUNITY

At Stewarton Academy we believe that every learner is part of our community and plays a key role in developing our sense of school pride. Our school uniform reflects this and plays a central role in recognising that our learners belong to our school, be that when they are in the school building, out and about in the local community or representing the school at an event. Our uniform reflects that every individual is a valued member of our school community.

EQUITY

Through dialogue with focus groups of learners, the need for a uniform as part of achieving equity was emphasised by our young people. Our learners highlighted that a fair and consistent uniform policy generates an inclusive environment. A school's dress code should support all students to participate fully in school life, and help create a sense of identity and a school culture in which every student feels a sense of belonging.

PUPIL VOICE

Our updated uniform policy reflects the views of learners within the school and been based around their views. This has included considering the balance between a uniform that is both practical and comfortable whilst also recognising that the uniform needs to reflect a modern society. Our empowered learners have identified a uniform of their choosing alongside a fair and equitable processes for how staff manage circumstances when a young person does not confirm to the uniform code.

COST

As a school we aim to ensure that financial outlay does not impact on any learner within our school community. Our updated uniform policy is based around equality and ensuring that cost of items does not exclude any learner. As part of this we will ensure that we can support any family that is finding the financial burden of uniform a challenge in a discreet and respectful manner. Research shows that school uniform is cost effective and avoids peer pressure to purchase expensive branded clothing.

SAFETY

The safety of all learners and staff at Stewarton Academy is our number one priority and our school uniform plays a pivotal role in identifying learners within our school community. The uniform policy has also been developed with a wide variety of learning activities in mind, ensuring that our uniform is both practical and safe to wear across the curriculum within the school.

FUTURE-READY

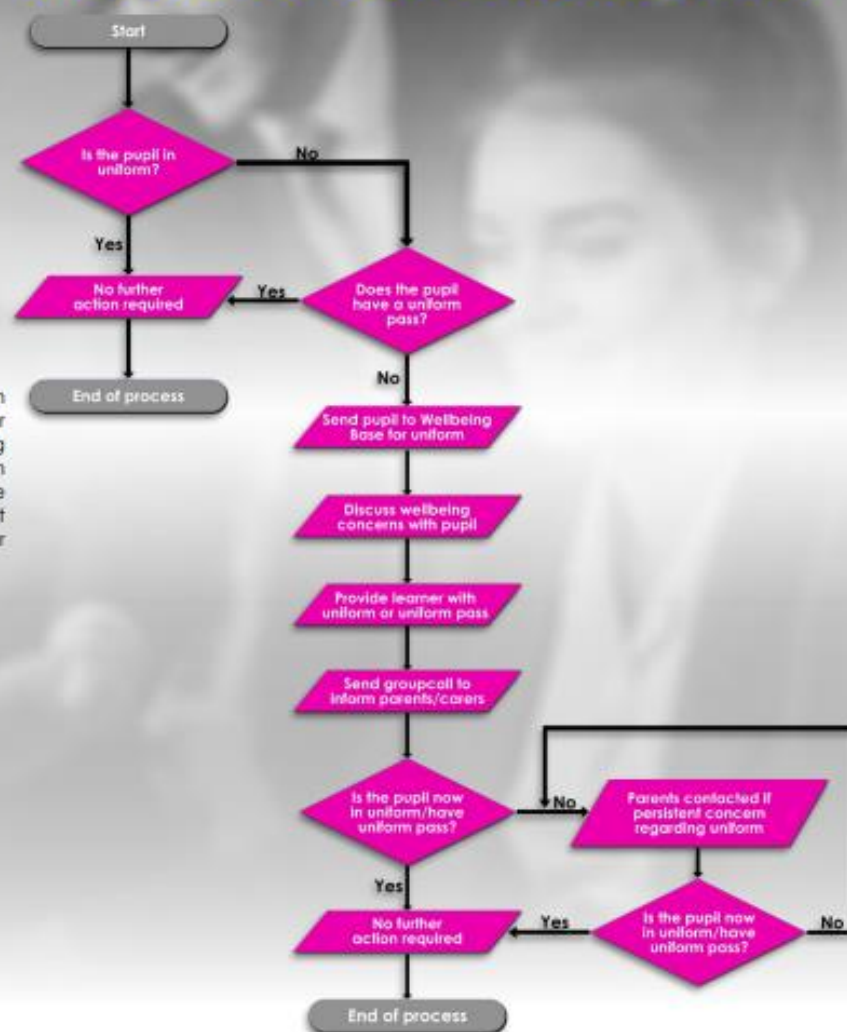
In preparation for lifelong learning and work, a dress code/uniform is a pivotal element within many different organisations. By preparing their own uniform and attending school dressed appropriately, we are actively preparing our learners for the standards and expectations they will encounter upon entering the world of work.



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS



UNIFORM ACTION FLOWCHART



STEWARTON ACADEMY

UNIFORM



RIGHTS
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SCHOOLS



School tie

White or black formal shirt
(Long / short sleeved)

Black jumper or cardigan

School Blazer*



Black formal trousers/chinos**

Black skirt



Black formal shoes

Black trainers/pumps

Black boots

Must be all black



No jumpers with visible logos

Hoodies & t-shirts



*School blazer encouraged S1-5, essential S6

No sport shorts/jeans

Leggings/joggers/tracksuits



**Black formal shorts also acceptable

No non-black footwear



STEWARTON ACADEMY