

Department of Education

Director: John Wilson, OBE BSc (Hons)

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Barrhead High School

Head Teacher: Andrew H Sinclair M.A. (Hons) Dip Ed

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Our Ref: AS/ME

Your Ref:

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Dear Parents / Carers

Over the past two years, we have encouraged pupils to wear appropriate uniform and have seen a fair degree of success with this. However there has been some slippage in this recently and a number of unacceptable variations have come in. I am concerned that the overall standard is falling short of that expected of a high achieving and successful school.

We believe a strong ethos of uniform raises the profile of a school in its community, encourages pupils to view school as a working environment, increases the security of a school environment and generates a greater support for and loyalty to the school. East Renfrewshire Council is supporting its schools through its Dressing for Excellence policy to encourage high standards of uniform in all schools.

I have discussed this issue over the past session with the Parents Council and they share my concerns. In particular we have identified as areas of concern:

- o skirts of an inappropriate length
- o black jeans/leggings.
- o Trainers and footwear which are not black,
- o Coloured tops, hoodies and outdoor jackets

In August we will be continuing to look for high standards of uniform from all our pupils and I am issuing this letter now to help parents avoid buying items which are not acceptable. Please ensure what you purchase does meet the guidelines to avoid needless additional expense.

For this session, we are encouraging all our new S5 & S6 pupils to wear a blazer and have allowed all the senior school to wear the new purple tie designed last year. Fittings and orders have already taken place with a deadline of Tuesday 26 June for placing orders with the school. Further orders must be placed with Man's World.

We know that pupils in other year groups are also interested in wearing a blazer. Our pupils will have an opportunity on Monday to try on blazers. Parents can place orders through the School Office until Fri 13th July and after that directly with Man's World, Giffnock. The unbraided polyester blazers with embroidered badge for S1 to S5 cost – up to 37" £26 and for 38" chest upwards £33.

All secondary schools in East Renfrewshire either already have or are considering setting blazers as a compulsory part of their uniform. East Renfrewshire Council has now negotiated some special prices with Man's World, who won the tender. Over next session, we will be having discussions with pupils, Parent Council and the wider parent body about the possibility of extending blazers to all pupils.

In the two years since I took up post as Head Teacher, I have seen a wealth of evidence that convinces me that our pupils can hold their heads up, second to none – but I am not convinced that they always believe that of themselves. I believe a high standard of uniform is one of the factors that would help them take their place among the other excellent schools in East Renfrewshire with self confidence and belief.

A Sinclair
Head Teacher