



Mearns Castle High School Striving for Excellence



School Uniform Presentation
Parents' Meeting
22 May 2012



Our Pupils



A **big** thank you to our
pupil guides this
evening!



Our School



'Mearns Castle High School is a highly achieving school community with a clear sense of direction. Young people are very well served by this school. They are very proud to represent their school locally and nationally. As a result of the excellent quality of education provided by the school, we will make no further visits in connection with this inspection'

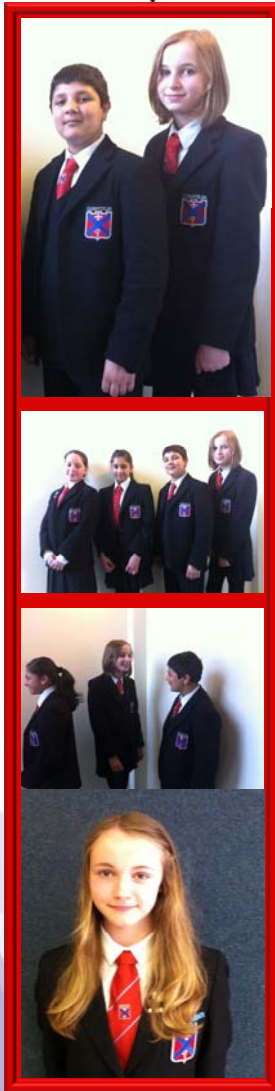
HMle April 2011

but..

there is always room for further improvement!



Our School Uniform



99% of Pupils, Parents and Staff say that:
'Overall they are happy with Mearns Castle High School'

but..

79% of Pupils, Parents and Staff say that:
'The standard of our School Uniform could be improved'



Improving Our School Uniform

Why does it Matter?



- Security and Personal Safety
- Peer Pressure
- Positive learning and work ethic



- Expectations
- Standards
- Ambition



'...Show a pride in your school and have high expectations of what you can achieve...' MCHS Vision, Values, Aims



'...ensure the excellence that is achieved by our schools in many areas of their work extends to the wearing of school uniform...' ERC Standard Circular 6: Dressing for Excellence



Improving Our School Uniform

Why does it Matter?



'...Uniform makes the school stand out as a better and smarter school...it makes everyone equal and there is no pressure on how to dress when coming to school...it would make the school a better place for learning and you wouldn't need to fuss about what you were wearing...'

A pupil's view



Improving Our School Uniform Why does it Matter?



What do we want from our school?

How high should our standards be?

79% of Pupils, Parents and Staff say that :

'The standard of our School Uniform could be improved'



Improving Our School Uniform

What are the current problems?



- Lack of uniformity in wearing Blazers
- Skirts too short and tight
- Leggings
- Trousers worn too low
- Jeans
- Belts
- Shirts untucked and unbuttoned
- Multi-Coloured Underwear
- Ties too loose and too low
- Hoodies / Jumpers
- Trainers
- Elaborate jewellery



Improving Our School Uniform

What are the current problems?

In part these problems have been contributed to by..

- **a lack of specific advice from the school about items of uniform**

allied to..

- **a lack of consistency in enforcing uniform standards in school**

With the support of pupils and parents we now intend to address these issues





Improving Our School Uniform The Consultation Process



ERC Standard Circular 6: Dressing for Excellence published in August 2011

'...schools should consult widely on their proposed uniform policy and changes to an established policy...'

- Surveyed over 1000 Parents / Pupils / Staff



- Focus Groups of Parents / Pupils / Staff

79% of Pupils, Parents and Staff say that:
'The standard of our School Uniform could be improved.'



A clear mandate exists for the improvement of our school uniform



Improving Our School Uniform Blazers



79% of Parents say that:

'In our policy on school uniform a blazer should be compulsory for all pupils'

A black blazer (woollen or polyester) will be compulsory for all pupils at Mearns Castle from August 2012.

Blazers should be worn to and from school. Blazers must also be worn in school at all times but can be removed during lessons.

During inclement weather, pupils should wear a black outdoor jacket over their blazer. Outdoor jackets should then be removed in school and stored in lockers.



Improving Our School Uniform Other Items of Uniform



88% of Parents say that:

'Our policy on school uniform should feature specific, approved items of school uniform eg. Skirts, jumpers etc'

Pupil Focus groups consistently told us to tell pupils more precisely exactly what they should wear and that they would wear it – as long as everyone is made to wear it!



Improving Our School Uniform Skirts



- 2 black skirt styles will be compulsory – box pleat and straight
- Suitable lengths 18” – 22” – dependent on height
- Skirts should be worn no higher than 2” above the knee with plain black tights or knee high black socks
- ***Tight fitting, short, ‘body-con’ type skirts are not acceptable school uniform***



Improving Our School Uniform Trousers



- Girls can wear appropriate black formal boot-cut trousers
- Boys must wear formal black school trousers up to the waist with a black belt and plain buckle if required
- The following items of clothing are not acceptable school uniform:

Pin-striped trousers

Black Denims

Jeans-style trousers

Leggings

Shorts

Footless tights



Improving Our School Uniform Shirts/Ties/Jumpers



- A formal white school shirt must be worn tucked in
- Ties must be worn up to the neck, properly tied, with the MCHS badge showing
- A plain black V-neck jumper or cardigan where the tie is clearly visible can be worn
- The following items of clothing are not acceptable school uniform:

Hooded tops

Vest tops

Tops with logos

Tracksuit tops



Improving Our School Uniform Footwear



- Formal black school shoes with a black sole and black laces if appropriate must be worn

- The following items of footwear are not acceptable school uniform:

any training shoes or plimsoles including all black items

any footwear that has a sole that is not black

any footwear featuring logos



Improving Our School Uniform Retailers



- Cost
- ERC Tender – ‘Mans World’
- Indicative Prices:
 - Blazers (woollen) with badge from £56
 - Blazers (polyester) with badge from £26
 - Skirts (pleated) from £15
 - Skirts (straight) from £14
- Additional Support – knowledge of uniform requirements



Improving Our School Uniform Retailers



- Mans World uniform evenings:
Wednesday 6 & Thursday 7 June 5-9pm
10%-30% discount
- Acceptable to purchase the correct items of uniform from any supplier
- We will offer to support parents' who are having difficulty providing items of school uniform



Improving Our School Uniform Enforcement



93% of Parents say that:

'I am happy to support a firmer stance on school uniform standards'

Pupil Focus groups consistently told us to tell pupils more precisely exactly what they should wear and that they would wear it – **as long as everyone is made to wear it!**

We are confident that given the response to our consultation and through working in partnership with our pupils and parents we will get high levels of willingness and co-operation in improving the standard of our school uniform

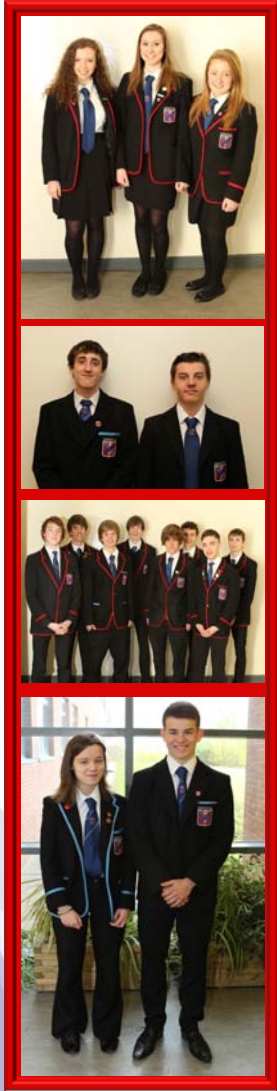


Improving Our School Uniform Enforcement

'...Under no circumstances should young people be denied access to education or full curriculum or assessment opportunities because they do not comply with the school's dress code...'

ERC Standard Circular 6: Dressing for Excellence

- Monitoring – checks before school and Period 1
- Uniform store – including recycled blazers
- Parents to be sent a text
- UPBEAT Demerits → Off colour → losing privileges eg. Christmas Dances, Charities Week, School Trips





Improving Our School Uniform Next Steps



- P7 Parents' Meeting
- Mans World uniform evenings:
Wednesday 6 & Thursday 7 June 5-9pm
10%-30% discount
- Pupil Assemblies
- Uniform Information Leaflet
- Preparing for August 2012



Improving Our School Uniform The Way Forward



- What do we want from our school?
- How high should our standards be?
- Ambition

'...Show a pride in your school and have high expectations of what you can achieve...' MCHS Vision, Values, Aims

'...ensure the excellence that is achieved by our schools in many areas of their work extends to the wearing of school uniform...' ERC Standard Circular 6: Dressing for Excellence



Improving Our School Uniform The Way Forward

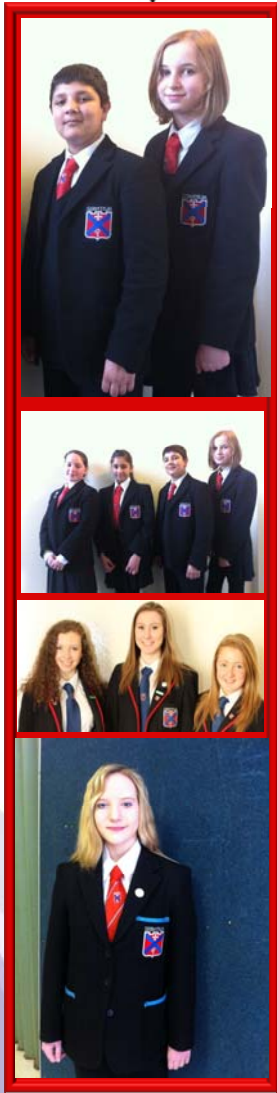


- Based on the results of our consultation there is clearly a will to improve our school uniform
- We are confident we now have the way to improve our school uniform
- We are looking forward to working in partnership with you to achieve that improvement for August 2012...if not sooner!





Improving Our School Uniform



Any questions?