

4 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and to thank the board of trustees for appointing me as the temporary Head of School. I'm honoured to take on this role and look forward to continuing to work closely with Mr Sidebottom, the Principal, and all my dedicated colleagues at Smithills School.

I have worked at Smithills School for twenty years; as a class teacher, middle leader, senior leader and now as Head of School. I am extremely proud of what we have achieved as a team and I remain determined to ensure that our school successfully builds upon its good Ofsted judgement. I can assure you that our school will continue to provide the best possible education, outcomes and experiences for our children.

I strongly believe in our vision 'Success for All' and I am passionate about providing all our pupils with a world class education regardless of any barriers they may face. I want to continue to create a school, working closely with our amazing staff team, that our children are proud to attend, a place they feel safe and happy, excited and enthralled and I know with your continuing support we can achieve this.

We look forward to welcoming our children for the beginning of the Spring term on **Monday 9th January at 8.40am**. This term, like all others, will be busy and productive as our pupils continue to learn and make progress in everything they do. Besides the compulsory curriculum there is a wealth of enrichment activities children can experience: annual CEIAG conferences for all year groups, trips (home and abroad) and numerous extra-curricular clubs at lunchtime and after school. The Hive is also open for Independent Practice after school and the Curriculum Hub provides a chance for children to develop their learning and socialise at break and lunchtime.

Our year 10 and 11 pupils continue to work hard as they prepare for terminal exams in the Summer term. They are all welcome to attend session 6 revision periods after school and should speak to their Director of Learning for further information. I look forward to seeing year 11 parents at the Parents' and PPE Results' Evening on Thursday 19th January where you will have an opportunity to find out more about your child's progress and what you can do to support them through their GCSEs.

I hope I can count on your support as we move forward and work together to achieve our shared goal of success and happiness for all our children.

Our uniform expectations for when we return on Monday 9th January are outlined below:

Item	Expectation
Blazer with Smithills Badge on it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The blazer must be worn at all times. Please note, pupils will be advised when they are permitted to remove blazers outside of the classroom due to weather conditions.
Grey pleated skirt or trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knee length skirts may be worn Full length (not $\frac{3}{4}$ length) trousers must be worn on the waist. Pupils may wear full length trousers with a pleated skirt (no leggings)
Black belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only black belts with a small, plain buckle are permitted. Belts must be worn inside belt loops
White Shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be tucked into the skirt or trousers with all buttons done up
School jumper- KS3 grey KS4 black	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an optional item if pupils wish to wear an additional layer to keep warm
Plain white, grey or black socks /black or grey tights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If wearing a skirt, socks must be white, grey or black and knee or ankle length If wearing trousers, socks must be white, grey or black and ankle length Trainer socks are not permitted
Flat black leather shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoes must be plain, smart and business like; they must not look like a trainer or plimsoll Shoes should not be suede or have any coloured stitching or any embellishments Boots must not be worn The school retains the final decision on whether a shoe is in line with the policy
Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hair must always be kept off the face and not fall below the eyebrows Hair that falls below the collar should be tied back For hair that falls below the collar and cannot be tied at the back of the head, a larger headband should be used to keep the hair together Distinct shape-up/shaping of the hairline is not permitted and there should be no hair markings or shapes cut into the hair There must be no distinct contrast (including 'step') between the top, the back and the sides of the hair; any short sides and back must be blended gradually into the top of the hair Hair must be the pupil's natural colour Eyebrows must not be shaved or have any markings in them Facial hair must be clean shaved or natural The school retains the final decision on whether hair, including facial hair, is in line with the policy
Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No jewellery is permitted, except for a single/pair of small, plain, round gold or silver stud earrings in the lobe of the ear Diamante stud earrings are not permitted. No other form of body piercing is allowed A watch may be worn providing its only

	<p>function/feature is telling the time e.g. no smartwatches, watches with alarms or sound effects, watches with calculators or video/audio recording capability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jewellery and watches must be removed before all P.E. lessons• Watches need to be removed for all external exams in line with the JCQ guidance
Head covering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Faces must always be fully visible; full or partial face coverings are not permitted

Please get in touch if you have any questions or queries.

Yours faithfully



C Dewse
Head of School