



Consilium Academies

December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during the first academic term of 2024-2025. As Consilium Academies Trust, Regional Director for Moorside High School and Ellesmere Park High School, it is always great to hear all the positive things that are happening within our schools.

One area that we are always keen to keep readdressing and ensuring we have high standards around, is our school uniform. We know that research shows that by wearing a school uniform it allows students to be focused on their education and not what clothes they need to wear. Research also shows that when all students are wearing the same uniform, classrooms are more settled. School uniforms promote equality and inclusivity by removing the differences in dress that may exist between students from different economic backgrounds. When everyone is wearing the same clothing, it eliminates the pressure on students to wear expensive and trendy clothing to fit in with their peers. This promotes a sense of community and inclusivity, as everyone is part of the same team. Whenever your child puts on their uniform, we want them to feel a sense of pride, unity and community spirit. We want them to be ambassadors for their school and Consilium Academies Trust.

One area that we feel as a Trust and as individual schools, we can continue to move forward with is the professional dress of our students. We want all students at Moorside and Ellesmere to be professional learners both in their approach and their dress. It is for this reason that we are making a slight change to the [uniform policy](#). From January, all students who chose to wear a skirt, will be required to wear their skirt with plain, non-patterned black, opaque tights, no finer than 40 denier. Those students choosing to wear trousers, will need to wear black ankle socks with their trousers. Our collective aim is to ensure that all our students are professional in their dress as well as their learning, we want to continue to ensure that we develop socially responsible citizens that are ready for their next step be that university, college or an apprenticeship.

By having this standard approach of black opaque tights with skirts across our schools, provides clarity and removes the uncertainty around the style/type of socks allowed. We know that by adhering to a professional dress code, it prepares them for future professional settings where appearance plays a role. Wearing a uniform teaches students about appropriate dressing for different occasions and fosters a sense of responsibility and accountability. As always, both Moorside and Ellesmere Park High School will continue to operate a common-sense approach to all aspects of uniform, especially when the weather is particularly warm. This will be at their discretion and will be communicated to parents and students when required.

We appreciate that many parents will be refreshing school uniform supplies in readiness for the new academic term in January. If you will struggle to purchase tights over the festive period, both schools will be open on the Inset Day (Monday 6th January 2025) and parents/carers/students can drop in and collect a pair of tights from the reception to ensure students are following the policy from their return on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

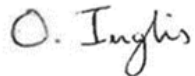
Alongside the introduction of tights, we will also be continuing to ensure that all our students are wearing professional footwear. All students must wear a conventional black shoe. Trainer style shoes or footwear with logos are not appropriate school uniform and are not permitted. If your child has worn trainers so far this year, this is not an excuse for this to continue after the half term break, they will need to wear a conventional school shoe.

The intention of our [uniform policies](#) is to promote professionalism, pride and responsibility in our students in preparation for adult life and to ensure equal opportunity without extremes of fashion. We take great pride in our uniform and appearance and our high standards and expectations require all students to always wear their full uniform professionally and correctly. Having a clear policy and abiding to it, also drastically reduces the amount of time wasted with constant debates about what the policy should be or what exceptions students want us to make.

Having the support of parents, as always, goes a long way to reducing the number of conversations we have to have about uniform and appearance and supports the smooth running of the schools. I therefore ask for your support in ensuring all students are in the new correct school uniform from Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Thank you in advance for your support. I wish you and your families an enjoyable holiday over the festive period and look forward to continuing to work with you, alongside both Mrs Ryles-Dean, Mr Ross, and all the staff and the students at Moorside High School and Ellesmere Park High School.

Kind Regards



Owen Inglis
Consilium Academies Hub Director Northwest and Yorkshire



Mr I Ross
Headteacher
Ellesmere Park High School



Mrs H Ryles-Dean
Headteacher
Moorside High School