



Our ref: NAR/KIS/UniformChanges/25-26

30 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Updates to Academy Uniform Policy

I would like to begin by offering my sincere thanks to everyone who participated in our recent uniform consultation. We received over 300 responses, providing us with invaluable feedback that has been instrumental in shaping our uniform policy moving forward.

High standards of uniform and presentation are a key driver in our school improvement journey, particularly in raising standards of behaviour and fostering a sense of pride within our student body. However, following the extreme heatwave last summer, I felt it was vital to consult with parents and students to consider adaptations that ensure our young people can learn in comfort without compromising our high expectations.

Our consultation expanded to explore the general uniform in light of student and staff wishes, sensory needs, and the rising cost of living. We also recognise that the professional world we are preparing our students for has evolved significantly in recent years. Furthermore, in line with recent Department for Education (DfE) guidance on the cost and accessibility of school uniforms, we have made several key decisions to ensure our uniform remains inclusive, affordable, and practical.

Key Changes and timeline

As a result of your feedback, we will be transitioning from the traditional blazer to a **knitted navy jumper** (Material: 50% Cotton/50% Acrylic). We believe this change will significantly cut costs for families while providing a more comfortable and sensory-friendly option for students.

Summer Uniform - After Easter Holidays- end of July 2026:

[Embroidered Navy Knitted Jumper](#)

Students may choose to wear the new knitted jumper and or their blazer. **Please note that the sweatshirts are not permitted but can be used for PE.** The summer uniform will include an option for tailored black shorts for all students, available from Karl Sports only. This will ensure that boys and girls have the option of a cooler alternative in hot summer months. Please note that we will not move to PE kit in extremely hot weather, students will be permitted to wear a shirt sleeved shirt and tailored shorts or skirt.

[New PE Shorts](#)

To further support the DfE guidelines, we have amended the PE uniform. We have introduced an improved PE Short that is suitable for all students. The polo shorts and shorts will be the only compulsory items. We will continue to offer optional Navy PE Training Pants with logo, Navy PE ¼ Zip Top with logo, Navy PE Leggings with logo, Navy PE Training Pants with logo and Navy Sports Socks.

[Additional Tie](#)

Alongside the clip on tie, we will be offering a regular tie as an alternative. Learning how to wear a regular tie is a great skill for life.

The above items will be available to purchase from Karlsports from Friday 27 March 2026.

Winter Uniform from September 2026-July 2027:

To allow families to get the maximum wear out of current items, we are implementing a phased transition from blazers to knitted jumpers. By September 2027, the blazer will no longer be part of the required Academy uniform.

Uniform Transition Timeline

Date	Uniform Requirement
13 April 2026	Blazers become optional. Students must wear either the new navy knitted jumper, or their blazer, or both. Tailored shorts (Karl Sports) may be worn. Please note that sweatshirts are not permitted but can be used for PE.
September 2026	Students must wear either the new navy knitted jumper, or their blazer, or both
September 2027	Blazers are no longer permitted. The knitted navy jumper becomes the standard outer layer for the daily uniform.

Important Practical Considerations

As we move away from blazers, there are two important practical changes to keep in mind:

1. **Compulsory Bags:** Blazers provide several pockets for essential items. Without them, it is mandatory that all students have a suitable school bag to carry their books, planner, and stationery at all times.
2. **Outdoor Coats:** We hope that removing the bulk of a blazer will encourage more students to wear a proper waterproof coat during cold or wet weather. Please be reminded that **hoodies are not permitted on the Academy site** and may not be worn as a substitute for a coat.

We are excited about these changes, brought about by listening to our community, and believe the new uniform expectations will foster a sense of belonging while maintaining the high standards that allow our students to thrive.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Isaksen
Headteacher