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ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



Royal Alexandra & Albert School Uniform

Dear Parent,

I hope that you and your families are enjoying the Summer so far.

I am writing to ask for your support in the new academic year in encouraging our pupils to wear the School Uniform correctly and respectfully. One of the things that makes me most proud of our School is the way in which we are a diverse but inclusive and welcoming community of boarders and flexi-boarders, local pupils, and those that have homes much more distant. We are united in our membership of the community and the School Uniform is a sign that we are members of that community. For this reason, I want it to be the case that our pupils wear the uniform with pride. Also, I want them to get used to wearing professional clothes in the right way, as they would for work – and in my view this extends to the School Uniform.

Our pupils are generally good with uniform-wearing and in particular do so very well on significant events during the school year. However, there are some aspects which a number of pupils let themselves and the community down on, and I want to focus on these in this letter and ask for your support, please, in encouraging our pupils to do better. Your support in helping make sure that they leave from home or from the car, if dropped off, in the right manner in this way would be very much appreciated. Similarly, we will be asking our boarding staff to do the same from our boarding houses.

- 1) **Ties** – if these are being worn they should be worn professionally, with top-button done up, tied to a decent length, and with shirts tucked in.
- 2) **Shoes** – these should be black hard leather shoes suitable for school. These should not be boots, not have significant heels (beyond 3cms) and not soft leather shoes with sportswear logos on – in general the shoes should not have any insignia present.

The images below all show shoes which are *not* appropriate



onroadraising.co.uk

Please could you help us to encourage the pupils to take pride in their appearance, and recognise that people do notice shoes. They should be taking an effort to ensure they are kept clean and to a reasonable level of polish.

- 3) **Skirt Uniform** – Skirts need to be pleated and to around the knee length. It is not appropriate for skirts to be worn that are halfway up the thigh. I do appreciate that pupils grow during the course of the year, but this does not account for the length of some of the skirts that we see. Sometimes it is the case that pupils shorten their skirts themselves, by rolling them up, which is an attitude of disrespect to the school rules and guidelines. Next academic year we will be asking pupils that wear skirts that are too short to change these, even if this may mean returning home to get changed, and would ask for your support in this.
- 4) **Trouser Uniform** – The correct sock attire for trousers is black socks, not grey or white. Again, as with the issues of skirt length and tie-wearing, the decision to do differently is very often an attitudinal one and is not showing the right respect to the School rules. I would similarly ask for your support in our pupils in getting this aspect right.
- 5) **Jewellery** - We would ask for your support in ensuring that pupils only wear at most one pair of small plain studs in each ear and if they wear neck chains these should be limited to one and not visible. They may also wear a watch. No other jewellery, such as bracelets, or piercings are allowed. Pupils can expect us to remove such if we see it.
- 6) **Hair and Make Up** Make up, if present, should be subtle at most, and no obvious eye shadow or lipstick. Only clear nail varnish is allowed, and no false nails. Hair should be of a natural colour and long hair must be able to be neat and not covering the face, and must be ready to be tied back for some activities. Hair should not be adorned with other accessories, apart from simple hair bands to tie it back as needed. False eye-lashes are not allowed.

Next academic year we are going to work hard to ensure that pupils are of a good and professional appearance, taking pride in such, and that they are in keeping with the above and the Uniform and Appearance Policy, which can be found on the School Website.

Pupils who routinely are found to be going against the policy and the above, can expect to be sanctioned, and we will reserve the right to send a pupil back home to get changed if needs be, even though this may be inconvenient.

In general, our pupils look good, and take pride in their School, and I thank them for that. My wish is to encourage all of our pupils to do this, so that, as a School, we can be even better with the image we portray of ourselves to others.

With thanks for your support.



Mark Dixon
Headmaster