



# TENBURYHIGH

## ORMISTON ACADEMY

Oldwood Road, Tenbury Wells  
Worcestershire WR15 8XA  
Tel: 01584 810304  
Email: [admin@tenburyhigh.co.uk](mailto:admin@tenburyhigh.co.uk)

Principal: Mrs V Dean  
Vice Principal: Mrs D Wall  
Assistant Principal: Mr R Davies  
Assistant Principal: Mr K Williams

**[OAT]**  
Ormiston Academies Trust  
AN OAT ACADEMY



A Specialist Science and  
Mathematics College

30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well and enjoying a warm and sunny June. As usual, this is a very busy end of term with many trips, residential and reward events taking place. Thank you for your support in this and for keeping up with the many notices and letters home. I hope our pupils have a really enjoyable last few weeks of term.

This letter replaces this fortnight's edition of In the Spotlight, as they are many key messages I need to report you that fit the style of a letter more appropriately.

Firstly, well done to all year 9s who recently completed the Duke Of Edinburgh expedition. The weather was kind and the pupils' conduct, resilience and attitudes were impressive. I would also like to congratulate the year 10s for completing their Year 10 Mock examinations. I have been impressed with their mature approach to their first formal mock exam experience and for the way pupils have handled both the stress and challenges of such an experience. Finally, well done to all year 7s and 8s who took part in a very successful Careers Detective event in school this week, having the opportunity to meet with representatives from a range of careers and backgrounds.

I wrote to parents and carers on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June about the forthcoming strike days and associated school closures. Here is a reminder of the important information:

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July

**Year 7** – pupils will be in school

**Year 8** - pupils will be in school

**Year 9** – pupils will **NOT** be in school

**Year 10** - attending work experience placements

### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July

**Year 7** - pupils will **NOT** be in school

**Year 8** – pupils will **NOT** be in school BUT the Year 8 Black Country Museum trip WILL still run on that day. Pupils going on the trip need to be in school at the normal time; they can come in their own clothes – no school uniform required. These pupils to meet in the dining hall at 9.00am - they will be back in school for usual collection/transport home at 3.30pm.

**Year 9** – pupils will be in school

**Year 10** - attending work experience placements

On the days pupils are **not** in school, pupils must remain at home and we ask that they use the time to study independently. Teachers will set work for pupils who are not in school (excluding year 10 as they are on work experience) . Work will be set on Edulink by 9.00am on each morning.

Over the last few months, parents and carers have engaged in a consultation about uniform and a proposed change to the school day. I wish to share the outcomes of these consultations with you.



## **Changes to the school day:**

I have consulted with staff, parents, transport companies and other relevant stakeholders.

There were 99 parents/carers responded to the recent consultation; here are the results:

- 59% of respondents preferred model one
- 28% preferred model two
- 13% preferred the current model

As a result of all the feedback, I have decided to move the start and finish times of the school day from September 2023. School will start at 8.45am and end at 3.15pm and we will operate a five lesson day (60 minutes per lesson).

The school gates will open from 8.35 and pupils will go straight to their tutor rooms where they will be supervised by their tutors. Tutor time will start at 8.45am. Please see the school day plan below.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity/Lesson</b>
<b>8.35 - 8.45</b>	Pupils arrive in school and make way to tutor rooms
<b>8.45 - 8.53</b>	Tutor time - tutor takes register, collects phones and checks uniform and equipment
<b>8.53 - 8.55</b>	Movement time
<b>8.55 - 9.55</b>	Lesson One
<b>9.55 - 10.55</b>	Lesson two
<b>10.55 - 11.15</b>	Break
<b>11.15 - 12.15</b>	Lesson Three
<b>12.15 - 1.15</b>	Lesson Four
<b>1.15 - 1.50</b>	Lunch
<b>1.50 - 2.50</b>	Lesson Five
<b>2.50 - 3.15</b>	Tutor time - tutor takes register, DEAL, assembly, phones and other activities as per tutor time plan
<b>3.15 - 3.30</b>	End of day and buses

6 out of 99 respondents raised specific concerns about an earlier start time and travel time which I have considered and appreciate. Moving to an earlier start time will mean an early journey start time for pupils. However, the journey time remains the same and pupils will finish earlier and be home earlier. This will create more time after school for extra-curricular opportunities, homework and independent learning, and will allow most pupils to get home in the daylight.

More importantly, however, are the teaching and learning benefits these changes will bring.

This model creates several main benefits. Firstly, lessons at Tenbury High are planned in four parts. Lessons start with a recall activity, followed by the teacher led phase (where new knowledge is introduced). The third part is the pupil independence phase where pupils engage independently with the new knowledge and then, fourthly, the application phase where pupils apply the knowledge learnt earlier in the lesson. The sixty-minute lesson will allow more time on the application stage thus providing further opportunity for pupils to apply their knowledge in a range of contexts over a series of lessons.

The second reason for the change is that a five lesson day will reduce the number of transitions between lessons in a day and, therefore, reduce movement across site and impact positively on pupil behaviour and concentration.

Furthermore, this model allows one lesson to be timetabled in the afternoon. National research, as well as our own experiences working with our children, suggest that pupils perform better in the morning. Limiting an afternoon lesson to one, rather than the two that we currently have, will benefit and improve focus, productivity and behaviour for learning. It also allows for an afternoon extended tutor time session allowing heads of year to pick up pastoral related matters from the day, at the end of the day, rather than waiting for the following day. Assemblies at the end of the day will also allow us to address any concerns or issues arising from the day in a timely manner.

In this model, social times remain at a reasonable time.

I have consulted with all transport companies who have confirmed they can accommodate these changes. Local authorities and operating bus companies will advise of changes to collection and drop off times. The changes bring us in line with other schools which all start between 8.35am and 8.50am and finish between 3.15pm and 3.25pm.

### **Outcome of uniform consultation:**

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on our current uniform policy. This consultation asked many questions and accumulated a broad range of responses. On the whole, the feedback was that our uniform is good value, fit for purpose and appropriate. You were generally very positive about the uniform. However, issues were raised about the consistency with which staff tackle inconsistencies in uniform.

In light of feedback, I have made some minor changes to both the PE and school uniform from September 2023. These changes are intended to give parents and carers more choice therefore reducing cost where possible. Please find below the guidance for uniform from September 2023. I have added in red the changes and rationale.

### ***The uniform for our pupils is as follows:***

- **Black V-neck jumper, plain knit, with the academy badge *and/or* black blazer with the academy badge (blazers are optional but you must have either a jumper or a blazer).** You can buy a jumper with the badge already embroidered from [Monkhouse School Wear Specialists](#) either online or from the shop in Hereford, or you can buy a plain back V-neck jumper from a retailer of choice and buy a jumper badge to sew onto the jumper from the Academy Reception Office (£5.25). **Blazers remain as optional. The option to buy a jumper and separate badge provides choice which will help parents who have concerns around cost and quality.**
- **Black trousers, shorts or skirts.**
  - Shorts must school style (not PE/sports shorts).
  - **Shorts and skirts must sit a few centimetres above the knee at the top of the knee cap.**
  - Skirts must be the <https://www.monkhouse.com/david-luke-dl969-straight-skirt-bk> in black and can be bought from [Monkhouse School Wear Specialists](#) either online or from their shop in Hereford. **A specified school skirt remains. Stretchy skirts will not be allowed.**
- **White school shirt**, long or short sleeve, not open necked, with a top button and with a large enough collar to allow the top button to be fastened and a clip on academy tie. **Top button must be fastened and shirt tucked in at all times.**
- **School ties** can only be bought from the Academy Reception Office (£5.25)
- **Black polishable substantive footwear (suede is also acceptable).** The shoes should be **totally black** with a black sole. The upper should be made of polished leather or polished synthetic material. Please note that the shoes should provide adequate protection for such subjects as Technology, Science, etc. **This should provide a wider choice of footwear and impact cost positively.**
- **Black socks or tights.**

- KS3 pupils are not allowed to wear nail polish. KS4 pupils only may wear nail polish or gel nail varnish that is natural in colour: nudes, clear, very pale pink, French style manicure. Nails must not be extended. Acrylics are not allowed. Nail art is not allowed.
- Very light make-up may be worn by pupils in Years 10 and 11 only.
- Pupils' hairstyles must be appropriate to a professional/learning environment. No unnatural hair colours are permitted, or extreme styles which adversely affect the ethos of the academy. The Head of Academy or his/her representative will be the judge of whether or not a hairstyle is deemed to be acceptable.
- No more than two **ear-studs** in each ear. No other visible studs, rings or piercing adornments may be worn. Ear spacers are not allowed.
- One ring may be worn. No necklaces, sweatbands or bracelets may be worn, other than one charity bracelet.
- School coats must be suitably weatherproof. We do not allow hoodies or zip hoodies made of jumper material to be worn as coats, outerwear or as PE kit.

Our PE uniform received more of a mixed response from parents and carers. I am unable to make considerable changes to our uniform policy at this time in the year. However, I will be asking Mr Alton to conduct a full PE kit review during the next academic year to cut cost and improve availability where possible.

**THOA PE Kit** (can be purchased online from Scimitar Schools - <https://scimitarschools.com/product-category/tenbury-high-ormiston-academy/> )

- THOA Technical T-Shirt (Boys and Girls) – **Required item**
- THOA ¼ Zip Track Top - **Required item**
- THOA Sports Shorts, Skort or leggings **OR** non THOA leggings or sport style shorts (black, unbranded, no motifs) - **Required item** *This provides choice in supplier and removes the requirement for branded items which will improve cost and availability.*
  - **Please note**, shorts must not be lycra ie. cycling shorts or very short shorts ie Nike Pro. These must be a similar style to the THOA shorts. Leggings must not be see-through.
- THOA Joggers – **Optional Item** *You do not need to buy joggers.*

**Other PE Kit** (can be purchased from any suitable retailer)

- THOA Team Kit Football Socks (Black) – **Required Item**
- Sports trainers – **Required Item**
- Football boots – **Required Item**
- Swimming costume/trunks – **Required Item**
- PE bag – **Required Item**
- Shin guards – **Required Item**
- Mouth Guard – **Optional Item** but recommended
- White trainer / white sports socks – **Optional Item**

***(all jewellery must be out – tape is not accepted. Hair must be tied up and pupils must come to every PE lesson with their PE kit, even if they are unable to take part.)***

I appreciate the concerns you raise about items in the above “other PE Kit” list which you feel are bought but not always worn often. These items will be reviewed in the work Mr Alton will carry out next academic year.

Uniform will be checked daily upon arrival at school. Incorrect uniform will be corrected at that time. Pupils with uniform matters that cannot be rectified at the start of the day will be given time to correct their uniform and this

will be recorded on a uniform card. Tutors will work with families to establish the barriers and issues around individual uniform matters. Persistent breaches of the uniform policy, despite support and solutions provided, will be dealt with according to our behaviour policy.

I do appreciate there is a lot of information contained within this letter. I will be talking to pupils about these changes in the next few weeks to ensure they are clear on the changes being made from September.

Thank you for sharing your views in these matters. I hope you feel that we have listened and are making positive changes to develop the culture and direction of our school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Dean', with a large, stylized initial 'V'.

Mrs V Dean  
Principal

