



## Uniform - Final Decisions

At the meeting of the Full Governing Body this week, we finalised our decisions with regard to the college's uniform. These decisions are set out below and once again, we would like to thank all those of you who took part in the survey. We would like to assure parents, pupils and staff that we carefully considered all views presented to us.

### Blazer

We will keep the same blue blazer for both boys and girls but from the Summer Term 2011 the logo on the pocket will be updated from the Swan (current style) to the college's official S shaped logo.

Parents will only be expected to purchase a new blazer when their child has grown out of their current one.

### Shirts

NO CHANGE – white style as now for both boys and girls.

### Summer Only Polo Shirt

In the Summer Term 2011 we will trial a blue polo shirt with the Swanmore logo and name. This may be worn instead of the shirt and tie in the Summer Term only. This will be for both boys and girls.

### Jumpers

NO CHANGE – we will keep the same V neck jumper and it will still be optional. However, apart from plain white vests/t shirts worn under the normal shirt, the jumper will be the only garment allowed to be worn under the blazer. This applies to both boys and girls.

### Skirts (Girls only)

Skirts present one of the greatest difficulties because even when purchasing the correct style some girls choose to buy them one or two sizes too small so that they are tight and have to be worn too short. Therefore, we are introducing the requirement for girls to wear the drop pleat Charleston skirt (see picture below) in grey. This should be no more than 3 inches above the knee.



We are phasing this requirement in with immediate effect so that by September 2011 **ALL** girls wearing a skirt will be expected to wear this design.

### Tights

Black or grey tights may be worn.

### Ties

From September 2011 there will no longer be a requirement for new KS4 pupils to wear a special tie with the swan logo. All pupils will wear a plain blue tie (outgoing Y11 pupils excepted).

### Trousers (Boys)

NO CHANGE. Boys present few problems with regard to uniform. Suppliers do not generally supply larger sizes in grey and this situation has existed for many years. Therefore trousers for boys may be grey or black.

### Trousers (Girls)

NO CHANGE. Girls must wear parallel leg grey trousers. We must stress fashion trousers, coloured belts, large buckles etc ARE NOT ALLOWED.

We have listened to the request for black trousers/skirts for girls and considered this most carefully. However as there are far more fashion choices in black for girls, it was agreed the black trousers /skirts presented even more problems than the grey ones for the college staff (and parents) to enforce. To avoid pupils wearing inappropriate fashion items to college, it was decided to keep the current grey trousers for girls.

**Governors will support the college in all sanctions it chooses to use to ensure all pupils abide by the rules with regard to uniform.**

Rules on shoes, coats, jewellery, make-up and hair styles remain the same.

## Staff departures this term

Toni Bridgman  
Imogen Felton  
Alison Sainsbury  
Lynn Smallwood\*  
Robert Tembo  
Ingie Wray

\* Mrs Smallwood leaves us to begin a new life away from Hampshire after over 30 years' service at Swanmore. She will be greatly missed but we wish her every happiness and success for the future.  
We are delighted to inform you that we are fully staffed for next year and new members of staff will be introduced by Mrs Hillier in her communication to you at the start of next term.

## Improving Attendance

**Research shows there is a strong correlation between a child's attendance and their performance at school.**

For example, children who have 15 days or more absence from school each year are far less likely to achieve national average expectations in terms of academic progress. The Headteachers of the Swanmore Pyramid Schools have recently spent a great deal of time reviewing absence levels across the schools and the amount of time children are unnecessarily absent from school due to family holidays being taken during term time.

Although each school will continue to work closely with parents on an individual basis to minimise pupil absence caused by reasons such as illness and lateness, the Headteachers and Governing Bodies of our Pyramid of Schools have now agreed a policy, in line with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) guidance, which aims to ensure that the approval of requests for leave of absence is consistent and clear across the pyramid. By working together in this way, we believe we can have a positive impact on pupil attendance and therefore on their attainment.

Any approval of requests for leave of absence for any reason is at the discretion of the individual Headteacher. Furthermore, the relevant regulations make it quite clear that parents do not have the right or an entitlement to take a child out of school for the purpose of a family holiday during school time. The college has always made this extremely clear in its policy.

From 1 September 2010 though, all Headteachers in the Swanmore Pyramid of Schools have now agreed that requests for leave of absence for family holidays during term time will not be approved unless there are exceptional circumstances. The fact a holiday during term time is cheaper will not, for example, be considered as 'exceptional circumstances'.

This is a significant change in policy across the pyramid of schools but actually brings things in line with the policy which has been operating at the college for many years.

Please consult the college website for the specifics pertaining to the college policy eg in KS4 leave of absence is never granted except for highly exceptional personal reasons.

This pyramid policy has been approved by Hampshire County Council's Children's Services Department which supports schools in promoting regular attendance and discourages absence from school for any reason.

## And Finally...

The Governors of Swanmore would like to take this opportunity to wish our departing Year 11 pupils every success and continued good fortune for the future and we wish everyone an enjoyable and relaxing Summer Holiday.

The new academic year begins on **Tuesday 7 September 2010.**

## How to contact us

**We can be contacted by email at the following address: [governors@swanmore-sec.hants.sch.uk](mailto:governors@swanmore-sec.hants.sch.uk)** or by letter addressed to the college, which will be passed to us.