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# Ysgol Clywedog



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Pennaeth Mr M Vickery Headteacher

12<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parent \ Guardian

## RE: School Uniform Proposal for September 2019

### Feedback from the initial survey of students, parents, staff and governors indicated the following:

#### Ethos and the importance of a uniform

- Raised self-esteem in our students and a feeling of being a young adult
- Increased sense of pride and identification with, or belonging to, the school
- Further improvement of our ethos and respect
- Further encouragement of students' disciplined, purposeful attitude to work
- Further improvement of the perception of the school in the community

#### Parents' feedback

- Low cost to parents, especially parents who have more than one child at the school
- More convenient for parents to purchase uniform
- More clarification of uniform expectations
- More durable uniform, which will also support a lower cost

#### Anti-Bullying comments

- Less competition to wear expensive fashion wear
- Discouraging bullying /victimisation because a student doesn't wear certain jackets

#### Safety considerations

- Improved security through identification of intruders
- Reduction in truancy as students are easily identified outside the school
- Improved security on trips and visits due to ease of identification

#### Preparation for Work

- Preparation of students to wearing appropriate dress in future employment

#### Responses to questions

- 70.9% of respondents wanted to introduce blazers, with 'Blazers and optional Jumpers' being the most popular response.
- Option 4 was the most popular logo; however, the straight 'Ysgol Clywedog' text will need to go under the badge for a blazer pocket.
- The priorities for a new uniform in order of importance were; durability, cost, ease of care, convenience, a sense of pride and then environment. Parents with two or more children at the school raised more concerns regarding costs.

- It was generally agreed that the school should consider a uniform that is broadly the same for both boys and girls (77.3%), but there was not a significance difference about year 10 and 11 having a slightly different uniform to years 7, 8 and 9 (54.9% yes vs. 45.2% no).
- It was agreed that the rest of the school look smarter in the navy-blue jumpers rather than sweatshirts, however these would be optional, as stated above. (70.3%).
- Over half the respondents were unaware of any financial help with school uniforms (55.3%). This information will be included with the proposal.

#### Feedback from student and parent focus groups:

- The student group selected a navy blazer with blue piping, a navy jumper and a navy tie with diagonal light blue stripes as their preference, but were also happy with some alternatives if it helped cost.
- Whilst many of the concerns listed above have been raised within the student and parent groups, students and parents have also indicated that the affordability of uniform remains a key consideration, especially for families with siblings attending Ysgol Clywedog. In addition, parents have requested that consideration is also given to the durability of items and their on-going maintenance and care – including the need for washing and ironing.
- The availability of uniform items and the ability to purchase non-branded items (e.g. white shirts) from supermarket chains is also a key consideration.
- The PE kit will be reviewed and a recommendation for or against change will be made by the working party. There have been no requests from Parents or pupils to look at changing the PE kit this year.
- Specific arrangements will be explored for the current Year 10 pupils to mitigate any costs for just one year of wearing any new uniform.

On the basis of this initial feedback we are now consulting on the proposal put forward. We hope to ascertain the views of all students in order that they are active participants in deciding on the change and shaping the uniform of the future.

We also recognise that the views of parents are critical, and to this end there will be opportunities to meet with the head during the consultation period.

#### The proposal is:

- An Ysgol Clywedog blazer in navy with blue braiding.
- An optional navy Ysgol Clywedog jumper and a new style tie. These would replace the current sweatshirt and tie.
- Change the supplier to one with a store in Wrexham for ease of fitting and buying.
- Reduce the cost of the PE kit, but allow the new kit to be phased in as current kit wears out.
- Keep the current white shirt and black legwear to reduce costs.
- Allow a wider range of black footwear.



Digital Mock-up - Colour version is on the school website.

The cost of the blazer would be around £27.50, but should last 2 years. For the larger sizes (38" chest upwards), the price would include VAT and would be around £33.00. The blazers will be machine washable. The optional jumper would be around the same price as the existing sweatshirt. This would mean the cost of the uniform would be similar to other local secondary schools.

Shirts, trousers, skirts and socks/tights will not have any additional cost as students and parents have asked that these remain as white shirts and black trousers and skirts to reduce the cost of the uniform change.

We would aim to price the uniform so that the overall cost of the school uniform over 5 years would be similar to the current cost.

For parents with more than one child at the school we would subsidise the cost of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> blazers for the first year to support the introduction of the new uniform. For current year 10, who would have the blazer and tie for one year, we would allow a 'buy-back' scheme so parents could get a 50% refund on blazers and ties that could still be used by others.

As a school we will also ensure families that are entitled to financial support with uniform are aware of it and receive it.

### Next steps

If you have any comments or feedback regarding the uniform proposal, please email [uniform@clywedog.org](mailto:uniform@clywedog.org) . If you would like to meet with the head teacher to discuss the proposal, please contact Mrs. Laing on 01978 864200 to book a suitable time. The deadline for comments and feedback is 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019.

I believe a new, smart uniform will make a fundamental, positive difference to the pupils and their outcomes.

I look forward to hearing your views and receiving your contributions.

Yours Sincerely



Mr Matt Vickery  
Headteacher