

## Sixth Form Dress Code 2021

A Dress Code promotes a sense of identity, avoids divisiveness and helps to create a sense of personal pride and pride in the Sixth Form. A Dress Code prepares students for the reality of work, where a Dress Code of one sort or another is often expected. We believe that the Sixth Form Dress Code helps set the right tone for life in our Sixth Form and provides a good example in creating clear expectations for our younger students.

Over the last three months students and staff have been working together on our Dress Code. In effect we have been working on this over the last two years but have been hampered in our progress, quite understandably, by the C19 pandemic. The ideas discussed were presented to all students last month. Having listened to all feedback we have decided upon the following:

- **Tradition:** Maintain and improve the traditional standards of Professional / Business Dress which have been in our Sixth Form for many years.
- **Comfort:** To ensure all students feel as comfortable, in all ways, as possible within this Dress Code.
- **Developments:** Expand the dress options within a limited and similar colour range.
- **Choice:** It is our hope that these developments will provide a greater degree of individuality, flexibility and enjoyment.
  
- **Principles:** We ask all students to respect the principles of our Dress Code. We must be clear from September 2021 that the following items will be unacceptable:
  - **Skirts:** Very short and tight skirts (bodycon).
  - **Other Items:** Trainers/Canvas shoes, branded clothing, sweatshirts and super skinny trousers.
  - **Extreme:** Any extreme items of clothing / appearance.
  
- **Hair / Make-up / Nail Varnish / Jewellery / Piercings:** We ask that they are in keeping with the standards and values of our Dress Code: formal.
- **Communication:** We ask students to talk with your Head of Year in advance before wearing any item / colouring hair / etc. which may be considered extreme. We ask students err on the side of caution here.
- **Photo Below:** Out current Year 12 students modelled our new dress code in action. We hope this helps to give us all a sense of what we are trying to achieve.



Female	Male
Items	Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Suit:</b> Navy Blue, Charcoal Grey, Black.</li> <li>• <b>Shirt / Blouse:</b> Blue, White, Pink.</li> <li>• <b>Jumpers (V necked) / Cardigans:</b> Navy Blue, Charcoal, Grey, Black.</li> <li>• <b>Shoes:</b> Black / Dark.</li> <li>• <b>Tights:</b> Black / Formal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Suit:</b> Navy Blue, Charcoal Grey, Black.</li> <li>• <b>Shirt:</b> Blue, White, Pink.</li> <li>• <b>Jumpers (V necked) / Cardigans:</b> Navy Blue, Charcoal Grey, Black.</li> <li>• <b>Ties:</b> Standard design / choice of colours.</li> <li>• <b>Shoes:</b> Black / Brown.</li> <li>• <b>Socks:</b> Formal.</li> </ul>

**Flexibility:** Within the feedback a number of students have asked about the flexibility with regards to:

- Colours of shirts and blouses.
- Style of suits.
- Boots: particularly in the winter months.

We are keen to keep on developing these and other areas of our Sixth Form Dress Code and so ask students who wish to discuss this further to do so on an individual basis with Mr M Hughes (Year 12) and Mr Q Hughes (Year 13). Both can be contacted via Teams or by emailing [sixthform@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk).

### Ordering

- **Expectation:** As is currently the case we only expect students to purchase one suit which can be used for interview purposes at a later date. We ask, as happens now, that students respect this approach and we do not create a 'competition' of the Dress Code..
- **Ties:** Through an idea developed by our Green Society, we are now using 'Eco Ties', a company that makes ties from recycled plastic. Ties can be bought for £5 for one or £12 for three. Students will be able to order their tie(s) before the end of term. We will message students in the holidays to come in and collect your ties before the term starts.
- **Payment:** Will be via schoolcomms. We will outline the detail here in the week of GCSE results.

### Year 13

We are conscious that Year 13 students only have one year to go and may have not used their current clothes much during lockdown. As discussed as part of this work Year 13 can keep the exact same Dress Code we adopt currently. The only aspect we must insist on is that the items we have discussed and identified here as not being acceptable / extreme are simply not worn.

### September

Our overall hope is that all students really enjoy these new flexibilities and embrace them in the spirit in which they have been developed. You are young adults who have shaped this approach. Take a real pride in your appearance and being part of our community. As our most senior students, help us lead the younger students in this regard.

We are very grateful for your time, views and support in making our new Dress Code a success.