



02 January 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

I trust this finds you well at the end of the busy Christmas period and would like to wish all members of the George Pindar School community a very Happy New Year. As we approach the return to school, I would like to provide some important updates and reminders which I would urge you to read carefully and share with your child.

As you are no doubt aware, we constantly review our practices in school to ensure that we are providing the best possible education for your child, and to ensure that we create the calm and respectful learning environment that will help all children thrive. As part of our review, we are planning for a school-wide drive which will launch on Tuesday 9 January to ensure that all students are wearing the correct uniform and are adhering to the school behaviour policy in order to further improve our school community.

#### **Uniform Expectations:**

The majority of our students wear their school uniforms with pride and represent George Pindar School very well in the community; the uniform is the most basic expectation of school life and we expect that all students will be able to comply with our guidelines. Unfortunately there are a number of students who are not complying with our procedures and despite previous changes, the overall uniform standard in school has fallen, with some children appearing to 'take advantage' of the orange slip system. Our uniform policy has not changed and details can be found here: <https://gps.hslt.academy/uniform> Students who arrive at school wearing incorrect uniform will be given the opportunity to correct the issue immediately; those who are not prepared to correct the issue will be sanctioned. I would like to highlight the following common uniform issues and ask for your support in ensuring that your child complies with our policy:

- Only **plain black** shoes, trainers or boots are acceptable and no coloured logos or branding should be visible on trainers, shoes or boots.
- The only permitted jewellery is one pair of stud earrings; **all** other piercings must be replaced with clear plastic retainers during the school day.
- False eyelashes are **not** permitted; any students who arrive at school wearing false eyelashes will be expected to remove them immediately.
- False nails are **not** permitted; any students who arrive at school wearing false nails will be expected to remove them immediately.
- Leggings are **not** permitted; students should wear trousers which are loose-fitting if they do not wish to wear a skirt.
- Socks worn over tights are **not** permitted; students should wear trousers with socks if they feel this is more appropriate than skirts.
- Hoodies and sweatshirts are **not** permitted; students should wear an outdoor coat over their uniform if they are cold and remove this on entry to classrooms.

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George Pindar School  
Moor Lane, Eastfield, Scarborough YO11 3LW  
Tel: 01723 582194  
Email: [hello@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:hello@gps.hslt.academy)  
Website: [gps.hslt.academy](https://gps.hslt.academy)

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We understand that there may be occasions where there are specific circumstances preventing your child from wearing the correct uniform. If you have any queries, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

### **Behaviour Expectations:**

You may be aware that we have operated our current Behaviour Policy since academisation in April 2019. We have updated our local procedures to further improve the way in which we manage behaviour in school and our communication to you, so you will see some changes on Edulink when we return to school. From now on, students will not be given codes for behaviour indiscretions, but rather will be placed in phases. Only when students have failed to respond to an initial verbal and written warning will a log be made on Edulink. I will share more details of the revised behaviour procedures when we return to school and would ask for your support in helping us to improve the learning environment for the whole school community by reminding your child of the importance of making the right behaviour choices. Please note that as part of our procedures, **all** students should bring a reading book / some reading materials with them to school from Tuesday 9 January and students must ensure they bring their planner to school every day.

### **Endpoints Assessments:**

During Year 9, your child will have formal assessments twice per year. The assessments will assess students' knowledge and their ability to apply the knowledge they have gained over the last term and for Year 9, the assessment week starts on **9 January**. All subjects have provided students with revision lists - these can be found in students' Google Classrooms online. I encourage all students to revise thoroughly for their assessments to ensure that the tests give an accurate reflection of their current progress and any areas to improve in the coming months; the assessments are particularly important for Year 9 students as they begin the process of choosing their subjects for GCSEs in the weeks ahead. You will receive a report about your child's progress in February followed by an opportunity to discuss your child's progress at the Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening on 7 March; we hope to see you there. If students have any questions about the Endpoints Assessments, they should ask their subject teacher in the first instance.

### **Attendance Update:**

As you are aware, attendance is of the utmost importance and statistics show a huge boost to attainment when students achieve over 95% attendance. Students who achieve 100% attendance per week are rewarded with a '100 Club' ticket for our half-termly draw for three £100 prizes; please encourage your child to attend school every day and remind them that they need to be in to win! If you have any questions about attendance, please contact our attendance office on 01723 582194.

I would once again like to thank you for your support. We know that students succeed most when home and school work together and I hope we can continue to do this as we strive to further improve the school community to help your child achieve their very best. I look forward to welcoming your child back



to school on **Tuesday 9 January** at 8.35am and hope that they enjoy the final week of the Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

LA Welsh

Lesley Welsh

**Principal**