26th June 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Many thanks for all of your supportive and positive comments about the new school uniform. I have attached the article from the Boteler Bulletin on the 15th May 2015 in case you have missed all of the communications regarding this.

I am now writing to you to ensure you have all the correct information in order for you to purchase the new skirt and tie. I appreciate there are some concerns about the online price and ordering and I completely understand that. Therefore we have agreed with the supplier that they will come into school with a ‘pop up shop’. The shop will be available in the Main School Hall on **Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th August 2015**. The shop will be open from **11**.**00am** until **4**.**00pm**.

The supplier, Price and Buckland, will be primarily selling the new school skirts; there will be samples for the students to try on to ensure that they purchase the correct waist size, but the school skirts will be only available in one length, long. Payment can be made by cash, debit card or credit card; there is no extra charge for card payments.

If your child is entitled to free school meals and they would like to use their voucher to purchase skirts at the event on **17th and 18th August** they must contact their Head/Assistant Head of House to request this. This must be done no later than **Monday 12th July 2015** so that the appropriate paperwork can be put into place for this to happen.

I will send flyers out nearer the end of term as a reminder. I just wanted to keep you in the loop as much as possible.

If you are not able to visit the school on these days or would prefer to purchase the skirt online then the link will be made available on our school website as soon as the skirts are available to purchase. I will let you know as soon as we are informed of their availability.

As per the current procedure, the new school tie can only be purchased from the Main Office at school; the first tie can be purchased at the discounted price of £3 but further purchases will be £5. Again, I will let you know as soon as the new ties are delivered to school.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to remind you about the rest of the uniform. Please note the changes to socks. Only **black** ankle socks, **black** knee socks or **black** tights are permitted. Over the knee socks are not allowed.

**Uniform**

* Blue shirt with a collar (casual shirts and open neck shirts are not permitted).
* Black trousers which are tailored. Trousers should be worn with a plain black belt where necessary and should not hang below the waist. No jeans or leggings are permitted.
* Navy blue blazers with the school crest are compulsory. School crests can be purchased from the Main Office priced at £2.50.
* Navy blue V-neck jumper is optional.
* Outdoor coats must be sensible and in a dark colour where possible. Students should be dressed appropriately for the weather. Hoodies and cardigans are not permitted at any time and are not acceptable as a coat.
* Girls – black ankle socks, black knee socks (not over the knee) and black tights are permitted only. No other colour is acceptable.
* Boys – black ankle socks.

**Shoes**

Black flat shoes with no other colours or markings must be worn at all times. No trainers, boots, canvas pumps, canvas shoes or heels are to be worn. Footwear with any sports logo on is not permitted, even if it looks like a shoe. The school retain the right to decide if it is acceptable or not. If in doubt please check before you purchase.

Full details about uniform and expectations will be sent out in the new school handbook at the end of term.

If there are any questions or queries then please contact school for more information.

I am sure you agree that the uniform will look extremely smart and represents the ‘High Expectations, High Aspirations and High Standards’ we have for all our young people at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School.

Yours faithfully

Mrs B Scott-Herron

Headteacher

**Boteler Bulletin article 15th May 2015 – School Uniform from September 2015**

With effect from the start of the new school year, September 2015, there will be some uniform changes.

**School tie**

I have decided to introduce a new school tie; it is a navy blue tie with the crest just below the knot; it will be a clip on tie and not one that needs to be tied by the student. I am sure that this will improve the standard of uniform as top buttons will need to be closed for the tie to be clipped on. In addition, the simplified design has resulted in a lower purchase cost. All shirts however must have a top button. Open neck shirts are not permitted.

Currently, ties can only be purchased from the school and this will continue to be the case. It has been agreed that the first tie purchased by any student will cost £3; this applies to our new intake right through to our current Year 10 (who will be Year 11). If another tie is required either for a spare or because the first tie is lost then the cost will be £5.

It is anticipated that a sample will be available to view at the Year 6 evening, 30th June 2015 but the new tie will not be available to purchase from school until August 2015; I will keep you informed of our progress.

**School skirt**

The second and final item of uniform to be changed is the school skirt, as I have previously communicated in the Boteler Bulletin. The rationale behind this is at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School we have the highest expectations for our students and this includes uniform and appearance. The school skirts on the high street vary in style and length and it is difficult to purchase one that is knee length. I feel that it will be much easier to standardise our uniform with the introduction of our own school skirt and therefore there are no discrepancies over style and length.

I joined a team of students who carried out some market research within the school community and the decision has been made to change from a black school skirt to the **Oakleigh tartan pleated skirt**; this will be supplied by Price & Buckland. It is made of polyester viscose and has an adjustable waist with a zip at the back; it is available in **one length only of 55cm (22”)**.

**The school skirt length must not be altered or tampered with in any way.**

The introduction of one skirt length will make this easy for us to check. I have had overwhelming support from parents/carers regarding the change to the school skirt and your support is very much appreciated.

The skirt will be available to buy online from Price & Buckland and a link will be put on our website when the skirts are available. In addition Price & Buckland are hosting “pop up shops” where the Oakleigh school skirt can be tried on and purchased. The dates have yet to be finalised and again I will keep you informed as arrangements progress.

Initially, school will hold limited stocks for anyone who is not able to order online and cannot visit school on the “pop up shop” days.

The price of the skirt depends on the waist size purchased and the method of purchase.

**Purchase online from Price & Buckland and have the goods delivered**

Waist 55cm (22”) to 65cm (26”) £17.00 plus £5 p&p

Waist 70cm (28”) to 110cm (44”) £17.00 plus 20% vat plus £5 p&p

**Purchase online from Price & Buckland and have the goods delivered to school, purchase at the “pop up shop” or purchase stock from school**

Waist 55cm (22”) to 65cm (26”) £14.95

Waist 70cm (28”) to 110cm (44”) £14.95 plus 20% vat

If you order online from Price & Buckland and indicate that you will wait for the next delivery to school your order will be despatched, clearly labelled with the student name and can be collected from the Main Office. Over the summer break school is open Monday-Thursday 8.30am to 4.30pm and Friday 8.30am to 4.00pm.

This option will only be available over the summer break; it will not continue into September.

I can appreciate that there is a cost attached to a new school skirt but it is good quality and looks very smart. I have also made sure that the cost of the new tie is reduced to £3 for a first time purchase as I appreciate that uniforms are expensive.

I am sure you can see the raising of Expectations, Aspirations and Standards since September and our new elements of uniform are embedding our vision further not only in school but within the wider community. Our students are smart, dedicated and ready to learn.