

Dear Parents and Carers

Following recent communication regarding the refined Sixth Form Dress Code, I am writing to thank all those students and parents/carers who have been very open and supportive in their feedback which has enabled both myself and colleagues to reflect on concerns raised. Please rest assured that our intentions to date have been based on what is best for our students, improving standards and student outcomes. As part of this process are the expectations of pride and purpose that we want to continue to enhance across our learning environments.

We accept that our communication surrounding the refinements has generated confusion and frustration and we sincerely apologise for this. Our intention was to provide clarity to support a smarter appearance for our students.

We have reflected on feedback received from parents/carers and students, regarding the refinements and have made the decision to simplify our approach for September 2024 and implement further change in a phased format.

In providing clarity to a smart-casual dress code, it may be more appropriate to communicate what is not acceptable. The vast majority of the items listed below are historically prohibited and new additions are identified in bold.

From September 2024, to smarten the dress code, the following will be prohibited in the Sixth Form:

- **Hoodies**
- Ripped jeans
- **Jogging bottoms/sweatpants**
- Shorts and skirts that fall closer to the hip than the knee
- Sports vests
- **Ruched/Scrunch/Lift/Impact leggings**
- Nike Pro-style shorts/Nike Pro-style leggings
- All tops that reveal the midriff
- Spaghetti-strap style tops
- **Crocs**, flip-flops, sliders and all backless footwear
- **Baseball caps/hats**
- Unnatural hair colour
- Excessive makeup
- **Lip, eyebrow, tongue and septum piercings and spacers**

We have removed all other stipulations previously communicated and ask that students, with the support from their parents and carers, dress appropriately for College and ensure that the parameters listed above are adhered to strictly.

Students studying Dance, Drama, Sport and PE and those who are part of the Academy Programme are permitted to wear Ivybridge Community College branded items throughout the day. This will continue to be shared through Mrs Reddy and the Physical Education Department and the Academy faculty.

As per previous communications, in order to establish this standard, as with any community-wide norm, we will apply appropriate support for immediately resolvable issues and sanctions in cases where initial support fails to secure the desired standard.

As an all-through provider, we are committed to ensuring that the cultural elements of our College identity, those that set us apart from other establishments and are important to us, are secured for our students from the first day at College to the final day in Year 13. We will continue to work hard on improving our communication processes that encompass student feedback in a more proactive manner that focusses on raising student aspirations.

With our Sixth Form provision being situated on the same site, it is imperative that our cultural principles permeate the College from Year 7 through to Year 13.

From Year 7 to Year 11, we have secured a high standard of dress that has been based on the premise of equity, equality and parity. We know, that as a result of our students knowing exactly what is expected of them, they are safer, anxiety and distractions associated with fashion demands are greatly reduced, and they have a greater sense of belonging.

To afford every student the benefits of absolute clarity and to secure this key cultural identity of our College, for September 2025, we will be reviewing a smarter dress code for Year 12. We know that Sixth Form students wish

to be treated like young adults and this decision will support them to present themselves in line with the adults in the College community.

Student Leadership Teams will be given the opportunity to work with experts in the field to design a dress code that promotes individual identity within our College-wide standards.

Please rest assured that students who will be in Year 13 in 2025, will not have to adhere to any further changes to a smarter dress code but will be supported to do so if they wish to.

I apologise for the frustration that our communication on this matter has caused and hope that this update provides the reassurance required.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson

Principal