



Dear Parent

We understand that there has been some concern over the cost of trousers and skirts from our suppliers, Trutex. When consulting over the new uniform, we received an overwhelming response from parents that they wanted consistency and smartness with a sense of pride and identity alongside affordability. This consultation led to our new vision for the uniform :

Our uniform is a statement of pride in our school, a statement of belonging and identity. It supports us in keeping our students safe and recognisable. Our uniform is designed to be smart, resilient and ethically sourced. Our parents and the local community support our uniform and helps us to maintain consistent high standards.

To enable us to have consistently high standards, we have decided that we would remain with Trutex who have been a valued and reliable supplier of uniform to the school for many years. To meet the need for accessibility, we ensured that there were over 200 different on-line retailers including Amazon and eBay, where parents may purchase the school uniform. In addition, and in line with Welsh Government Guidance, we have staggered the introduction of the new uniform; alongside this we reviewed the need for logoed items and limited it to one item, again in line with guidance from Welsh Government. We trialled the use of barcodes for parents to buy cheaper (but often less ethically sourced) items from high street retailers but quickly found that codes and styles changed, allowing many students to create a very different style of uniform including tight, skinny jean type trousers and inappropriate skirts. The school simply cannot keep pace with brand and style changes that will add to inconsistency in a school with over 1500 students. In the consultation, parents and students said that having a consistent uniform reduced distraction in learning and supported Form Tutors who are tired of checking the branding and styling of different uniform items.

Affordability was important in our decision-making process and we have compared the prices for the old uniform with that of the new, which is shown at the end of this letter. This price comparison compares two Polo Shirts to the one Jacket. We have also ensured that the school jumper is optional and that parents are able to purchase the shirts from different stockists. We came to an agreement with "Theschooluniformshop" whereby all parents who are eligible for free school meals will receive the items free of charge in the first year of Year 7. Through staggering the introduction of the new uniform, we have allowed parents time to budget for the new items but we are also working with the Friends Association to buy uniform back from parents when they no longer need it. We will work with the Friends to support those parents who are experiencing hardship so that we can support them in the first few years of the change.

Through the consultation, students and parents made it absolutely clear that they wanted the uniform to be ethically sourced. Trutex is one of the UK leading suppliers of uniform and has been commended for its sourcing of uniform that respects and values those across the world who make our uniform. In addition, "TheSchoolUniformShop" at Ross Labels recently won an award for Best School Wear Store, partly in recognition of the fantastic work it does in supporting ethical sourcing of uniform. I'm afraid this is not always true of much cheaper suppliers.



Sending students home (in line with Welsh Government Guidance) is, of course, our last resort. We will always look for suitable ways to resolve a situation. However, to be fair to all our parents who have supported the school and its expectations and who have made it clear to us through consultation that they expect consistency, we will insist on parents adhering to our expectations regarding uniform at MCS.

Ensuring all our students are smart, professional and comfortable is not an easy task and I appreciate the work of our parents in supporting the school. Over the last few years, the uniform at MCS has become tired, inconsistent and not fit for purpose. We want to enter our new school with a uniform that stands out in its smartness, that supports equality through consistency and that is instantly recognisable in the community.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Mr Andy Williams
Dirprwy Brifathro / Deputy Headteacher

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Monmouth Uniform Comparison				
Boys				
2016			2017	
Item	Price		Item	Price
x2 Sweatshirts	£28		Contemporary Jacket	£43
x4 Polo Shirts	£44		Tie	£8
Trousers	£24		x2 Twin Pack Shirts	£26
			Grey Trousers	£20
TOTAL:	£96			£97
Girls				
2016			2017	
Item	Price		Item	Price
x2 Sweatshirts	£28		Contemporary Jacket	£43
x4 Polo Shirts	£44		Tie	£8
Skirt	£20		x2 Twin Pack Blouses	£26
			Skirt	£16
TOTAL:	£92			£93