

Dear Parent/Caregiver

ADVANCE NOTICE OF CHANGE IN UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

We are seeking your support to reaffirm what are the appropriate expectations for a full uniform, internationally accredited school which aspires to world's best practice in everything we do. We would really appreciate you taking time from your busy lives to read this information and discussing with your son/daughter how they can help us fulfil these expectations.

Background

In 2009 a new company Brandmode won the contract to supply our school uniforms. The firm's owners worked with students, parents and staff to refresh uniform items eg shirts, dress, trousers, tie, shorts and to deliver exceptional customer service. We are now embarking on a new era where we need to do things differently and better - partly because of the change in the company, partly because of the change in items, and partly because of the way our uniform is being worn by a number of our students as more of a fashion item.

To maintain consistency in quality, colour and style of garment all items need to be official Glenunga International High School wear as sold in the school uniform shop or at the Brandmode retail outlet at 83 Glen Osmond Road, Eastwood.

Shoe Trial

We have concluded our trial of different shoe styles and need to share with you what this means for 2010.

In 2009 the school trialled slip-on shoes in response to a request from our male international students. This was in addition to the traditional black leather lace up shoes. Unfortunately some of our female students interpreted this to mean that ballet style slip-ons without any support were acceptable. This has raised significant OHSW issues and has wasted staff time talking with girls about their inappropriate footwear. Ballet slip-ons are not acceptable school wear.

After considering the results of the trial **the black leather shoes illustrated on the attached sheet are the acceptable uniform items. Any other footwear will be considered non-uniform and the usual consequences will apply** ie students will be sent home to change. We are providing families with advance warning of this position prior to their purchasing of footwear for the new school year.

A reminder that school shoes **must** be worn to and from school and in the school at all times, except when playing sport or practical PE where cross-trainers are permitted.

Year 12 Uniform

The Year 12 top will be ready for collection during the first few weeks of Term 1 2010. Year 12 students are asked to wear white school shirts under their school top.

Girls and Boys Items

- Starting from the beginning of 2011 the blue polo shirt will be a Middle School uniform item only. We are phasing this in during 2010. Middle School students can also choose to wear the white monogrammed school shirt.
- Senior School students have requested the opportunity to wear uniform items more appropriate for their age group, the workforce and the world beyond school. As a result we are encouraging senior school students to abandon the blue polo top and to wear

L'Estrange Street
Glenunga
South Australia 5064

T +61 8 8379 5629
F +61 8 8338 2518
E glenunga@gihs.sa.edu.au

www.gihs.sa.edu.au

Principal
Ms Wendy Johnson

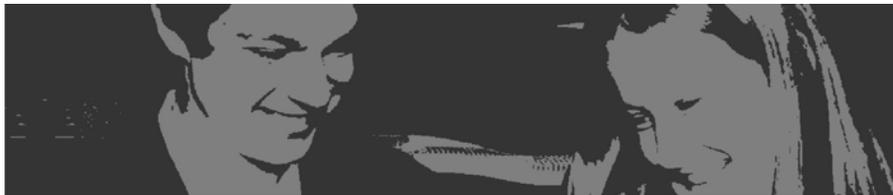
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the white monogrammed school shirt. The long sleeved shirt has been redesigned in response to students' requests to enable it to be worn loose over pants.

- Many students are now choosing to wear the new tie and they look very smart. The tie does need to be worn appropriately knotted at all times and not worn with the polo top or fastened at mid chest level.
- In response to requests from students we have made available the option of a school blazer. Orders need to be made by 15 March 2010 for the winter season. Over the next few years we would like to introduce blazers for all students.

Girls Uniform - Shorts

We have responded to requests from girls to have shorts as part of the uniform. However despite extensive consultations with students when the new blue shorts arrived many of the girls thought they looked too much like the boys' shorts and wanted shorts with cuffs. These won't be available until 2010/11 season and so we trialled students rolling up their shorts to replicate cuffs. Unfortunately during the trial students rolled their shorts to thigh height which is unacceptable as part of school uniform. **In 2010 girls' shorts will need to be worn without any cuffs or rolls.**

Girls Uniform – Skirts and Dresses and Tops

Girls' skirts are to be worn without the waist rolled up and tops need not to be tightened with safety pins or elastic bands. Seams can be altered if students require a more fitted look. Similarly tying the dress belt up at the back is not part of our uniform expectations and it needs to be replaced with altering the dress to get the fit required. The new dress available from Brandmode has been designed specifically with this in mind.

Dark navy winter tights for girls to wear with the winter skirt as an alternative to socks are available from our uniform shop and the Brandmode retail outlet from March 2010.

Boys Uniform

The new blue shorts have superseded the elastic waisted grey shorts. Grey shorts will still be acceptable in 2010 but need to be phased out by 2011.

Final Thoughts

We are very proud of our students and know the excellence that they are capable of achieving. Unfortunately the wider community, international visitors, prospective enrolments and employers judge our students by what they look like. In recent times we have tried to listen to students and adjust our expectations accordingly. Some things have worked, but sometimes students have gone beyond our agreements. As a result teachers have needed to engage in conversations with students about different interpretations and this is not what we want them to be doing. In 2010 we need to reaffirm our expectations and ask our students to abandon the fashion statements. Smartening up how our students' wear their uniform will send a clear message to the wider community that we are world class, public and proud! Thank you for your support with this issue.

Regards

Steve Stylianou
Head of Middle School
21 December 2009

Jeremy Cogan
Head of Senior School

Wendy Johnson
Principal



L'Estrange Street
Glenunga
South Australia 5064

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