

Thursday 18 July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

School Name Change, Uniform, Appearance and other matters

Christ's College

We are very pleased to confirm that Department for Education approval has been given to Grindon Hall Christian School's name changing formally to Christ's College, Sunderland (CCS), with effect 1 September 2019. Thank you to everyone who submitted responses to the consultation process which, whilst wide ranging, enabled a good understanding of the merits and challenges of the proposal. The historic building here will of course retain its original name, being an important element of the rich legacy inherited by the newly-named Christ's College. Regrettably and contrary to our planning, this news was published in the media in advance of separately informing parents, students and staff, for which we sincerely apologise.

Uniform and ordering

With the school name change, and to address certain issues with what is otherwise a very popular and high-quality uniform, intensive work has been underway by ESF's uniform supply specialists. Key principles and changes to day wear and sportswear are:

1. **New starters** to the school from September 2019 will only be eligible to wear correct CCS-branded uniform.
2. **Existing students with uniform fully compliant with July 2019 GHCS rules**, may continue to wear correct* GHCS uniform until July 2021, thereby allowing considerable time for wear, growth, etc.
3. **Key uniform changes**, including response to input from parents and students:
 - a. Christ's College logo replaces GHCS;
 - b. Caps & Bonnets (£27.99) in primary years are now listed as 'desired' rather than compulsory;
 - c. Rever-neck blouses without tie are an option for girls;
 - d. Trousers and skirts: black with CCS logo and price reductions for junior sizes. Black is preferred generally, also enabling (across all waist sizes) supply of correct length skirts that touch the knee when standing;
 - e. Blazers: we are working with our supplier to organise retrofit of the new logo for in-use blazers (except where older 'white-font' type which prevent retrofit unfortunately), at nil cost to parents;
 - f. Sports uniform – reduced overall requirements and costs.

**For parents of existing students who are in any doubt as to what the current uniform rules are, being permitted to continue through to July 2021, they should refer to 'Up to July 2019 uniform policy' – website.*

If ordering uniform (by Friday 4 August for supply before the new term begins) please:

- (1) Use the relevant Uniform Style Guide on the new CCS website (christcollege.org.uk/information/uniform) and then,
- (2) Either:
 - a. Online: go to the Emblematic website, from where you will locate Christ's College uniform, or go directly to <https://emblematic.co.uk/schools/ccs-online/>
 - b. Paper: download and print, or ask the School office for a copy of, the order form. Complete the form and post it with a cheque to Emblematic.Emblematic also has a physical shop located in Longbenton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Appearance

Whilst the Parent Handbook remains the authoritative reference on this matter and covers a wider range of issues, we draw parents' attention to the following, including some minor changes from September 2019:

1. Hair:
 - a. Minimum length of 'number 3' (9mm);
 - b. Not highly styled, no extreme fashion including streaks, lines, patterns nor excessive use of 'product' (e.g. wax, gel, mousse);
 - c. If longer than collar length must be tied *back* neatly near to the neck, with black or red bobble;
 - d. Cut / tied back above eyebrows, enabling clear visibility of eyes at all times.
2. Other:
 - a. No visible make-up to be worn, including eyebrow colouring / tinting / dying or similar;
 - b. No jewellery whatsoever, including pierced-ear studs whether visible or not, with the exception of wrist watches (but not smart watches). If ear-piercing is to be done, we recommend this being done at the very beginning of the summer break.

Start to Term, no change to times of School Day

We look forward to welcoming all students from 8:15am (for 8:30am start) on Monday 9 September. Whilst we intend to consult on these with parents during 2019/20, they remain as 2018/19 for the time-being.

We very much look forward to welcoming all students back, and new starters for the first time, in September. In the meantime we wish all parents, carers and students a very good, and restful summer, break.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Julie Roberts
Principal

Available on new website (christcollege.org.uk/information/uniform)

- Sept 2019 Uniform policy
- Up to July 2019 Uniform policy
- Uniform Style Guides (Reception – Year 6; Year 7-11; Sportswear, Coats and Bags)
- Order forms
- Hyperlink to Emblematic website