

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our recent uniform consultation. 76% of respondents indicated they were either highly in favour or mostly in favour of our proposals. We also received a very high number of thoughtful, constructive comments, and we are grateful for the care and honesty with which you shared your views.

As a result of this overall positive response, we will be proceeding with the proposal for a modernised black and honey-gold uniform from September 2026. The consultation showed strong support for the new colour scheme, the increased affordability of core items, and the distinctive identity this would continue to provide for Darrick Wood School.

At the same time, we recognise the concerns raised about potential cost, length of transition, and comfort, particularly for older students and those with sensory needs. We want to reassure families that these concerns have been heard and will be considered when working with our suppliers. We are proposing:

### **1. A Long Transition Period for those already attending the School**

- Students currently in Years 7–11 will **not** be required to purchase the new uniform unless they wish to. They may continue wearing their existing brown and honey gold uniform for the remainder of their time at Darrick Wood and whilst stocks remain.
- If families wish to replace individual items, for example, swapping brown trousers or skirts for black during this time, they may do so, but this will be entirely optional. Current students will not be penalised for wearing a mixture of old and new items during the transition. Only those starting at the School from September 2026 will be required to wear the new uniform in its entirety.
- We will continue to hold pre-loved uniform sales whilst stocks last.

This approach ensures that no family will be asked to replace wearable uniform unnecessarily and that older students will not be required to purchase a new blazer for a short period of time. If a student in current Year 10 or 11, for example, has a sibling in current Years 7-9, they will be able to pass their uniform to their sibling. They will not be able, however, to do this if their sibling will be joining the School as a new admission from September 2026. These new students will be required to wear the new uniform.

### **2. Blazers, ties and comfort**

We recognise the concerns raised about blazers and ties, particularly around comfort, fit and cost. We will therefore be:

- Working closely with our suppliers to source blazers that are suitable for all
- Ensuring fabrics are comfortable, durable and practical
- Prioritising machine-washable options wherever possible
- Continuing to explore ways to keep costs as low as we can

Our aim is to provide a blazer that looks smart, feels comfortable, and represents good value for families.

We acknowledge that a small number of parents/carers raised that girls may not wish to wear a tie, but our Student Leadership Council felt it looked very smart and their preference was that everyone should wear the same. We did weigh up alternatives (e.g. neither boys nor girls wear ties), but we feel that wearing ties would align well with our aim of having a smart uniform. 96% of parents/carers in our survey earlier last term felt a smart uniform was important.

We remain committed to:

- **Affordability** – ensuring that the majority of the uniform can be purchased from a range of retailers with only the three core items plus tie needing to be purchased from our specified suppliers
- **Inclusion** – supporting students with sensory needs or other individual requirements
- **A smart, distinctive identity** – one that reflects the pride we have in our school and its values
- **Sustainability** – continuing pre-loved uniform sales and reducing unnecessary waste

We believe the updated uniform, combined with a fair and flexible transition, will support these aims while giving families the time and choice they need.

### Next Steps

We will share further details, including visuals, pricing information and guidance for September 2026 later this year once we have liaised with our suppliers. In the meantime, thank you once again for your engagement and for the support you continue to show the School.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey  
Head Teacher