



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School  
Northcourt Road  
Abingdon  
OX14 1NP

Tel: 01235 520698  
Email: [office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk)

Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

26 May 2021

## Attendance, Behaviour & Uniform

Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of Term 5, I just wanted to make contact to remind all students, parents and carers of the importance of good attendance along with some key reminders with regard to the school uniform policy.

There is a clear link between good attendance at school and achievement in terms of GCSE results at the end of Year 11. The time spent in Years 7-10 will establish good routines and learning habits, laying the foundations for success. Those students with 100% attendance across the whole academic year as well as those with 100% across Terms 5 and 6 will have their achievements celebrated at our Term 6 Achievement Award Assembly as part of our end of year celebration as well as our planned attendance award lunch. In light of COVID-19, please be reassured that our monitoring doesn't include the period of national lockdown and those students who have been absent due to COVID-19 testing or self-isolation will not be disadvantaged by this absence so long as it was reported to us correctly. We are currently in line to have record breaking numbers of students with across both reward categories.

I would also like to lay down a challenge to all students to aspire for 100% attendance next term, with those also achieving this across Terms 5 & 6 being celebrated. Currently this figure for Term 5 at the halfway point stands at 356 which is exceptional. In addition, 256 students have had 100% attendance since September, another terrific achievement; we are on course for a new school record. Thank you for your continued support at home as we work together to support the development and engagement with learning following our return to school.

If you have any questions about our attendance policy and supporting interventions, please see the supporting information on the school website (assessable via the link below), it is especially important that students hovering around the 90% threshold are in each and every day, as this is the level at which students are classed as being persistently absent from school. Any student whose attendance is less than 95% statistically is likely to underachieve and we do not want this for any of our students. Your son/daughter should be able to tell you their headline attendance percentage as they track this fortnightly in their student planner, you can also access their current figure via ePraise and My Child At School (MCAS).

[Microsoft Word - Att Policy - Dec 2020 \(fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk\)](https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/att-policy)



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As we approach the end of Term 5, I just wanted to thank those of you who participated in the recent behaviour review. The staff, parent and student feedback are now being reviewed and I will be working on this over the next few weeks to identify our next steps in preparation for further raising expectations and standards across the school community as well as further developing the pastoral support we provide for students. The initial review of the parent's results is overwhelming positive with parents reporting positive responses across the survey.

I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the message that your son/daughter's form tutor may be contacted if you have any concerns or depending on the nature of the concern, please do also contact the pastoral team. We will always want to support and secure a resolution to any issues in school, and it is important that we are also aware of anything outside of school which may be affecting a student in school.

Please do also ensure that you are accessing ePraise and My Child At School (MCAS) as these enable you to monitor you son/daughter's homework, attendance, behaviour and other linked documents (reports in MCAS) as well as your parents evening bookings via ePraise. The initial survey responses indicate that there is a desire across all stakeholders for negative consequences to be logged in ePraise and I will be exploring this over the next few weeks.

I would also like to ask for your continued support with our school uniform policy. The vast majority of our students comply with the uniform guidance, but it is important that we are fair and ensure that all of our students do the same.

When we return after half term the summer uniform continues to be worn consisting of a sky blue Fitzharrys polo shirt plus a school jumper, or suitable coat, for cooler days (no hooded/sports tops are permitted) although the coat may not be worn instead of a school jumper in class. Alternatively, if the weather remains cool, our main school uniform may still be worn with the remaining requirements with regard to trousers, skirts and shoes all unchanged. In terms of skirts, they must be a loose-fitting style and not a fitted/elasticated type. If your daughter is wearing a skirt, please ensure that it is an appropriate length. Thank you for your continued support regarding footwear; black trainers are not part of our policy (no Nikes, Adidas, Vans, Converse etc.) and the shoes must be leather, no canvas uppers, to offer additional protection when in the school workshops and laboratories as well as the current wet weather. We have a range of new shoes which will be issued if students attend with incorrect footwear.

Finally in terms of uniform, I would like to confirm our expectations regarding hair colour, fake nails/eyelashes and piercings. Hair colour must continue to be of the natural tones (no blue, reds, purples etc.) and fake nails and eyelashes are not appropriate to be worn in school. Please also avoid coloured nail varnish as this is a particular issue when cooking in Food and Nutrition from a food safety point of view. Our expectations regarding nose studs and facial piercings remain unchanged; they are not allowed. We have had a number of students in Year 9 and 10 who have had a nose piercing recently and after half term they will need to be removed. Please note that in line with the policy the Head reserves the right to send students home who are not appropriately dressed. Details of our uniform guidance may be found on the school website via the following links:



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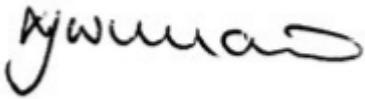
Fitzharrys School Uniform Website link: [Uniform \(fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk\)](http://fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk)

Additional guidance document: [PowerPoint Presentation \(fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk\)](http://fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk)

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain the high expectations and standards we have for all students at Fitzharrys. The rules have not changed and for the overwhelming majority it is a case of maintaining what they are doing in terms of securing excellent attendance, behaviour, and their uniform.

If you would like to discuss any issues raised in this letter, or require further clarification before purchasing items of uniform, please do not hesitate to contact either your son/daughter's Tutor, Head of Year, Student Well-being Manager, or myself at the school.

Yours sincerely,



Ali Williams.  
Assistant Headteacher; Personal Development



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