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Dear parent/carer,

I hope you are well and have managed to stay somewhat cool during our recent heatwave. As we approach the end of another successful school year, it is time to both celebrate our achievements as well as look to the year ahead to where we can get even better. It is with this in mind that I write to you with some clarity on how we will address infringements to the school uniform policy from September.

First and foremost, the behaviour of students at Kings is consistently good. This has been most recently evidenced by a Learning Trust School Review which reported that “There is a very clear ethos which reflects the school vision of *Work Hard and Be Kind*” and “There are high expectations of student conduct and behaviour which have led to a calm and purposeful environment.” The report also highlights that “Students are supported to meet the school’s high expectations” and, as a result, “Student conduct around the school and in lessons contributes to a productive learning environment”. We as a staff are delighted that an official school review has highlighted the positive behaviours we see day-in and day-out at Kings.

Uniform Update

Within any policy, reminders and clarifications are sometimes needed in order to stay on top of new trends and to ensure standards remain high. With this in mind, please see below for how uniform infringements, specifically to do with hair, nails and piercings will be dealt with from September.

Hair

Our Behaviour Policy states that hair must be “natural colours only (no bright reds, pinks, blues, etc.). Students who arrive at school with hair dyed an unnatural colour will incur sanctions.” Please note that from September this will be amended to also prohibit *extreme hairstyles*, such as hair dyed into two or more overtly different colours, designs shaved into hair, etc. It will also clarify that students who arrive to school in breach of this policy will receive a uniform log and lunchtime detention from their form tutor each morning until the problem is resolved.

Nails

Our Behaviour Policy states that nails must be of “natural tones, with no bright or garish designs. False nails are not permitted and students will be asked to have them removed and will be issued with lunchtime detentions until this takes place.” From September, our policy will clarify that students with unacceptable nails will receive a uniform log each morning from their form tutor until the problem is resolved.

Piercings

Our Behaviour Policy states that piercings are “restricted to one small stud in each ear lobe, no other piercings are permitted. Historic facial piercings must be replaced with a clear stud. No jewellery is permitted during PE lessons; all studs will be expected to be removed.” From September, our policy will clarify that students with unacceptable piercings will be asked to remove them upon entry into school. Students who cannot remove them will receive a uniform log each morning from their form tutor until the problem is resolved.

Online Behaviour – Updated DfE Guidance

Please see below for updated guidance from the Department for Education regarding online behaviour, which will be reflected in our updated Behaviour Policy for 2022-2023. Whilst parents, and ultimately the police, are primarily responsible for sanctioning poor online behaviour, the school will sanction students where it feels one or more of the following criteria set out below have been met.

“Many online behaviour incidents amongst young people occur outside the school day and off the school premises. Parents are responsible for this behaviour. However, often incidents that occur online will affect the school culture. Schools should have the confidence to sanction pupils when their behaviour online poses a threat or causes harm to another pupil, and/or could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school, when the pupil is identifiable as a member of the school or if the behaviour could adversely affect the reputation of the school.”

As I stated at the beginning of this letter, behaviour at Kings is consistently good. It’s important that we as a school and as a community continue to have high expectations of and for each child in our care because every conceivable aim of education is supported by better behaviour.

I wish you a restful summer and we look forward to seeing students back in September.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Ferguson
Vice Principal
Kings College