

July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a fantastic year where our students have helped us to continue to create a culture of courtesy, kindness and respect in our school community. We have endeavoured to ensure that our inclusive school routines and high expectations for students' conduct and punctuality have been the foundation of our 'Work Hard – Be Kind' philosophy. We will continue this excellent work into the new academic year.

Over the last few weeks, some parents/carers have contacted us to ask for clarification around our uniform expectations in advance of September 2023. This communication is to support parents/carers sourcing and buying appropriate items of uniform, such as footwear, and to ensure that there are no concerns around piercings or hair colour for the first day of the September 2023 term.

To help with certainty around these issues, please read the following information.

Our expectations are clear on piercings and allow for one discreet stud in each earlobe, no facial jewellery - a clear plastic retainer in the nose is acceptable. Please do not allow your child to get a facial piercing or additional ear piercing near the end of the summer holidays as this will mean that the piercing cannot be removed at the start of term.

We are also clear on expectations around nail varnish, false nails and false eyelashes. We allow clear nail varnish only and we do not allow acrylic or gel nails. We also do not allow false eyelashes. Please do not allow your child to apply coloured nail varnish, false nails or eyelashes that cannot be removed in time for the start of term in September.

In addition to this, we expect our students to have natural hair colouring. This is important to consider especially if you are thinking of allowing your child to dye or braid their hair during the summer holidays. All unnatural hair colouring and braids will need to be removed before the start of term in September.

Finally, what are considered school shoes has become complicated by the variety of companies advertising their products as school shoes. These companies often do not consult schools on what schools have defined as a school shoe. I want to support all our families with this. Our website clearly identifies what a school shoe looks like with images, and we describe a school shoe as, 'plain black with minimal decoration, firm-soled, water resistant and polishable'. We do not accept footwear that is sports branded eg Nike - including Nike Air Force, Adidas, Reebok or other similar brands and this includes brands such as VANS, Converse and TOMS. We do not accept canvas footwear, including sports branded ankle boots, or trainers as school shoes.

If you are concerned that what you might purchase is not considered a school shoe at Denefield, please refer to the school [website](#) or contact the school before you purchase the footwear. Remember that companies are labelling their products as 'school shoes' without consulting schools.

Please see below for the links to our policies and guidance on school uniform:

- Denefield's uniform policy can be found [here](#)
- Denefield's uniform page can be found [here](#)

Details for Thursday 20 July are:

8.30am to 8.40am – tutor

8.40am to 9.30am – P1

9.30am to 10.20am – P2

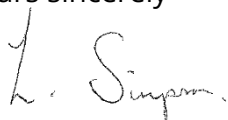
10.20am to 11.00am – break

11.00am to 12.40pm – tutor/assemblies.

There will be further communications regarding the outline for the first week of term for our students returning, which begins on Monday 4 September. Mr Towill will also write to you shortly to give you some general information and explain some improvements.

I hope that you all have a restful and pleasant summer holiday, and I look forward to the start of term in September.

Yours sincerely



Mr L Simpson

Director of Behaviour and Culture