



05 June 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

Uniform, Mobile Telephone and Attendance Updates/Reminders (Years 7 to 11)

I hope that your children enjoyed their half-term break, despite the rather hot weather. I'm sure the slight drop in temperatures (if not the rain) has been a welcome relief as we head into our final half term of the year.

In the same vein as people remarking that Christmas seems to arrive earlier in shops every year, I suspect that I am not alone in 'raising an eyebrow' at the amount of 'back to school' advertising - weeks before students have even broken up. Most parents and carers tell us that they are cautious of buying new uniform items for their children so early (to avoid their children growing out of them before Christmas) and I am fully aware this advertising might detract from the summer break for you and your children.

Nevertheless, I am writing to confirm uniform arrangements for September to provide adequate lead-in time regarding the various items students require for school and to draw your attention to some clarifications and updates to the uniform list.

Details of the full uniform requirements can be found [here](#) on the school website. In essence, most aspects of uniform remain the same but, importantly, there has been additional clarification regarding 'school shoes' and a change to the design and supplier option for the school skirt:

School Shoes

A reminder that students should wear plain black, flat, leather/leather-look shoes. Apart from during PE, black (or any) trainers and boots from any manufacturer, should not be worn on the school site, unless otherwise directed by staff. This includes Converse-style 'Chuck Taylors' and Nike-style 'Air Force 1s'.

School Skirts

From September 2026, if your child wishes to wear the school skirt, this must now feature an official embroidered school shield on the waistband, which should not be folded over and should be visible. School skirts can now only be purchased through the [official school supplier, PL Schoolwear](#). The cost of the school skirt is £24.

Mobile phones

In line with our ambition to address the challenges of mobile phone use, from September we are beginning a new phase of our 'phone free learning environment'. Parents of students with siblings joining Year 7 in September, will be aware this year group will no longer be allowed to bring a 'smart-phone' to school (other phones will still need to be secured in a phone pouch).

However, I would like to confirm that students in the new Year 8 through to Year 11 can continue to bring their 'smart-phone' to school and, as is currently the case, ensure it is locked in their pouch. We appreciate your support in this important expectation, whichever your child's year group.

Attendance

As we head into the final half-term of the year I would also like to reiterate the messages in Mr Beattie's recent assemblies and e-Bulletin posts about the importance of high attendance. On the face of it, 90% attendance sounds reasonable; however, this equates to having one day off every two weeks, which, clearly, is unacceptable and will have a long term detrimental impact on learning and examination success. If students are not in school they cannot receive the education they require with expert instruction and appropriate feedback.

To this end, we will be trialling a number of additional intervention and communication updates regarding student attendance over the next few weeks, as we refine our attendance strategy for the next academic year. This includes additional text messages to parents/carers detailing the percentage attendance figures and total number of days absent for students where there are concerns, along with further offers of support for those that need it most.

As always, I appreciate your continued support helping us to help your children achieve as much as they possibly can in every aspect of their education at Ashlyns. I would like to see as many students as possible achieve an attendance record which they can be proud of and would expect this to be at least 97%.

As a school community, it is important we all continue to have high expectations of our students - how they dress, behave and conduct themselves. This might seem insignificant but is a key learning point to help them prepare effectively for life after school. As always, your support in this matter to show that school and home are suitably aligned is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Shapland', written in a cursive style.

James Shapland
Headteacher