

Dear Parent/Guardian

We hope this letter finds you and your families well. Although, as you know, we are unable to provide our usual program of transition activities for Year 6 students, we are still very much looking forward to welcoming them to George Stephenson High School in September.

As we enter the final half term, we thought it timely to write to you again with key information on uniform, equipment and free school meals as well as advice on how you can best support your child in getting ready for high school.

Please refer to the enclosed fact sheet on uniform, PE kit and equipment. For additional advice on purchasing uniform during the COVID-19 period please see below:

As with last year, we are not proposing any changes to our School Uniform for 2020-2021 and parents must purchase trousers and skirts from Emblematic only. They are bespoke for our school and branded with the school badge. This means that the school sweater and tie, trousers, skirts and PE polo shirt and sweatshirt must be purchased from our uniform supplier, Emblematic.

We have been in contact with Emblematic and are able to update you on the service they are providing within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their embroidery facility is currently open, with a reduced staff following all Government Guidance, therefore they are able to complete all current online orders. They are also taking school orders via email as normal to orders@emblematic.co.uk and will be offering the following options to parents this summer.

- Free delivery on all orders placed until the 1st July.
- After that, parents will either pay for delivery to home or use Emblematic's "Click and Collect" option (starting date to be decided). Parents will not be able to order with "Delivery to School" as an option.
- They have put measuring videos on their website, which parents can use to purchase the correct size, using measurements they have taken at home.
- They currently offer a free returns system, where parents use their website to return items, parents must then make a new order for the correct size (i.e. this is not an exchange service, as garments must be safely stored (Covid-19) before going back into stock).
- They are also offering a "Click and collect" option in the future from our Benton shop only (date and times to be decided), but plan to stop this mid-August, so we don't have the final rush of the summer with long queues which would be deemed unsafe.

Emblematic will continue to follow the guidance and decide if/when their shops can re-open and what other changes can be safely made. They have also confirmed that all their plans are working to time and that their manufacturers have not missed any delivery dates as yet, so they will have a full stock available all summer and don't foresee any shortfalls in supply for going back to School in September. That said, Emblematic have asked us to express to parents the need to order early (especially this year i.e. before 1 August 2020) so they can deliver all the correct uniform, with plenty of time available for exchanges.

The price list (which remains the same) is now available on the school website and through the Emblematic website. The Emblematic website has a printable order form. You can either order uniform either by visiting the shop in Benton or placing orders online which will be delivered to your home address.

Emblematic will work with parents where their son/daughter may need different length or waist sizes. Emblematic is also a supplier of workwear for businesses, meaning they have access to a number of suppliers from school ages to adults. If this is applicable to you, please contact the shop soon and start discussions on your requirements that that purchases can be sourced sooner rather than later.

Please refer to the GSHS Wynsors 2020-21 brochure, "coming soon" to our website for advice and guidance on the types of shoes which are acceptable. In addition, Emblematic have a link on their website (on our school page) to an e-supplier for acceptable footwear. However, it is not essential for you to purchase shoes from Wynsors or the e-supplier proceed by Emblematic.

Free School Meals

If your child is already in the North Tyneside school and receives free school meals, this will continue automatically. If your child's school is outside of North Tyneside, please get in touch with us and we will be able to provide you with the correct form to complete.

Getting ready for High School

In the meantime, there is lots you can do to help your child prepare for high school. Here are some suggestions:

- Look at the Year 6 Transition area on the George Stephenson High School website. Here you will find a student transition booklet which your child may like to work through as part of their home-schooling work. This area of the website also includes photos and names of key staff, timings of the school day, a map of the school and a video tour. Take a look at the introductory information and tasks on new subjects for Year 7 such as Spanish, i- Learn, Careers and Food. We have also provided a link to a fantastic transition project called, 'Think Big, Be Awesome' which includes lots of excellent resources for students as well as parents; there's even an opportunity for students to earn their first reward certificate at high school!
- Look at the resources on the BBC Bitesize website on 'Starting Secondary School' <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zj2grj6>
- If you are planning to walk to school, you could practise walking the route to school together.
- Support your child in revisiting any key areas, especially in English and Maths, which they find difficult.
- Encourage them to use the time they have to research areas of interest to them which can be further developed at high school.
- Talk to your child about careers and ambitions. They could create a timeline starting with the beginning of Year 7 and ending with their career choices, plotting key targets on the way.
- Finally, encourage them to keep reading!

Keeping in touch

To help us to communicate with you as effectively as possible, please follow the link on the Year 6 Transition area of our school website to provide us with your contact details.

If you have any queries about your child's move to George Stephenson High School, please email us on enquiries@gshs.org.uk

Best wishes to you and your families,

Mrs L Dunn
Assistant Headteacher

Mr M Bell
Transition Co-ordinator

UNIFORM, PE KIT AND EQUIPMENT FACT SHEET

DAILY UNIFORM

Navy blue school sweater with school badge*
School tie (clip on only)
Black school trousers with school badge* or
Trutex pleated black school skirt with school badge/or school check skirt*
Plain white school shirt with collar
Black tights / black or white socks
Sensible plain black school/ Shoes with a low heel
A plain dark outdoor jacket or coat

**students in all year groups must only wear the authorised branded trousers, skirts and sweaters available from Emblematic Ltd – www.emblematic.co.uk*

GIRLS SPORTSWEAR

Black school polo shirt (short sleeved – PE indoors)
Black school sweatshirt (outdoors)
Black shorts (plain – no stripes)
White socks (PE indoors)
Black football socks (Games)
Training shoes (non-mark soles, not plimsolls)
Football boots (advisable)
Shin pads (advisable)
Tracksuit bottoms (PLAIN BLACK – NO STRIPES) (optional)
Black Leggings (optional-from Emblematic) with school badge
Gum shield (advisable)

BOYS SPORTSWEAR

Black school polo shirt (short sleeved – PE indoors)
Black school sweatshirt (outdoors)
Black shorts (plain – no stripes)
White socks (PE indoors)
Black football socks (Games)
Training shoes (non-mark soles, not plimsolls)
Football or rugby boots (advisable)
Shin pads (advisable)
Tracksuit bottoms (PLAIN BLACK – NO STRIPES) (optional)
Gum shield (advisable)

ALL UNIFORM AND KIT MUST BE NAMED

We do NOT allow:

- Hoodie-style jackets/sweatshirts, tracksuit-type or sports tops, or denim jackets for outdoor wear.
- Polo neck shirts, tee-shirts and shirts with a sports type collar (shirts must have a collar and be large enough at the neck to allow the top button to be comfortably fastened at all times).
- Any colour, other than white, for shirts.
- Brown or any other colour of shoes.
- Trainers, trainer-type boots, boots, ankle boots, cross trainer shoes, ANY sports branded shoes (e.g. Nike, Adidas, Puma, Umbro, La Coste, Converse, Vans etc.), canvas shoes of any kind, plimsolls or sandshoes – no coloured laces, logos or labels.
- Designer shoes of any kind e.g. Vivienne Westwood
- Fashion belts or scarves.
- Non-school sweaters or cardigans.
- Non-school trousers or skirts.
- Hats to be worn in school.

- Hairstyles which follow extremes of fashion such as shaved heads, patterns or dyed hair (only simple, plain headbands or hairclips are allowed for girls). We reserve the right to determine what is a reasonable style or colour of hair and to insist that students with inappropriate hairstyles have them restyled or coloured, or remain in isolation until their hair is acceptable.
- Excessive amounts of makeup.
- False eyelashes.
- Expensive fashion items, which are not appropriate for school.

Jewellery

- Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 may wear one ring only (on either hand), a maximum of two ear rings, one in each earlobe (simple studs or sleepers) and a watch.
- Any other rings/studs/bars used in face, mouth, ear or body piercing are not allowable in school for health and safety reasons.
- Ear expanders must not be worn.
- All jewellery must be removed for PE/Games.
- Necklaces and bracelets should not be worn.
- We reserve the right to confiscate or insist that students remove any item which contravenes these guidelines or which is a potential safety hazard. Students who refuse to remove such items will remain in isolation until they do so.

Equipment

Being well organised with books and equipment is essential if students are to learn effectively.

The school will provide most of the equipment and books needed for learning. **As a minimum, students must bring to every lesson a blue or black pen, a pencil and ruler.** A spare pen, rubber, pencil sharpener and a few coloured pencils are strongly recommended. Correction fluid (Tippex) is not allowed. **Every student must have an appropriately sized strong bag to carry his or her own and the school's equipment.** There are specific requirements relating to Health and Safety in certain practical lessons, of which students will be made fully aware.

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