

“Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievements of all the students who attend the school.”

Ofsted

Tuesday 5th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well and in good health and have enjoyed a pleasant summer break.

We are looking forward to greeting students back to school tomorrow and a warm welcome goes out to our new Year 7 students, who will be starting their new secondary school. I have no doubt that the President Kennedy student community will welcome and support them in their exciting and new journey to secondary school.

We have been incredibly proud of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who received their long-awaited exam results in the summer. Yet again, Year 11 students achieved amazing results and achieved above City averages across all grade thresholds and achieved nearly a third of a grade better than similar students nationally. 91% of Year 13 achieved their first choice destination; whether that was university, employment or apprenticeship. We now have President Kennedy students studying in global and nationally acclaimed universities, such as Harvard, South Korea, Oxford and Cambridge. Please visit this [link](#) to see some wonderful examples of Year 13 success stories.

As you are aware we take great pride in our high standards here at President Kennedy School, which is so important in preparing young people in the wider world and preparing them for the workplace. In preparation for the start of the new term, we ask for your support in speaking to your child about the importance of the following:

Registration and arrival to school:

We recognise that there has been a number of disruptions to the start of school in the mornings, including the recent bus strikes and nearby road works which has hindered some parents in bringing their children to school on time. Please can I remind parents/carers and students that:

1. Students are expected to be **in school at 8.40am** – which is when the first bell sounds.
2. Students are expected to be in registration with their tutor at **8.45am** promptly– which is when the second bell sounds for the start of registration.
3. Students who arrive after the registration start time of **8.45am**, with no parental contact or explanation, will unfortunately receive a 30 minute detention that same day, after school with their college.

Attendance:

We know there is a crucial link between attendance and exam grades and confidence of our students. In our recent Year 11 exam results this summer, data has highlighted the impact on students' results. Students at President Kennedy School who achieved **95% attendance made seven times more progress than those students who had attendance of below 95%**. We know that if students attend school, our teachers here at President Kennedy School make an exceptional impact on their self-esteem, exam grades and life chances. The start of the new academic year allows us all to reset the attendance button and renew our target of 95%.



Please be aware of the following:

1. Students who have been unwell do not need to have 48 hours off school. Students should attend as soon as they feel better.
2. Our pastoral colleagues will contact you and make a welfare call on the first day of absence and we can also provide further support by our attendance officers visiting home.

Uniform:

Students displaying PRIDE in the way in which they wear their school uniform is an important aspect of school life at President Kennedy School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their continued support in ensuring high standards of uniform and for ensuring that their children follow the school's uniform policy. I have also attached the school uniform flyer which outlines the school policy on items of jewellery, make-up, nails, piercings and items of clothing allowed and not allowed, including lengths of skirts. We will obviously contact parents/carers if there are potential issues with uniform so we can see how this can be rectified and how we may support. I would like to thank you in advance of Wednesday, in ensuring that your child is ready with correct uniform and that items which are not allowed (including nail varnish, acrylic nails, false eyelashes and facial piercings) are removed in time for the start of the new year.

School Support:

We also recognise that times are challenging for families and finances. If you need support with school uniform then do please contact us, as we do have items of uniform that can be provided, including shoes, blazers, ties and shirts. We now have a free breakfast open before school 5 days a week; students can also access free sanitary products from the college areas as well as from Student Reception. We can also subsidise any school trip and we can also provide access to free laptops for students to use at home. College homework clubs also allow students to use computers at school and use free printing for any homework. If you require any support please do contact us at school via the college email addresses. All communication will be kept confidential:

Year Group	Specific Email Address
7	Year7info@pks.coventry.sch.uk
8	Year8info@pks.coventry.sch.uk
9	Year9info@pks.coventry.sch.uk
10	Year10info@pks.coventry.sch.uk
11	Year11info@pks.coventry.sch.uk
Post 16	Post16@pks.coventry.sch.uk

Mobile Phones:

We are incredibly passionate that our school environment, from within the school gates, is mobile phone free. Whilst we understand and recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday modern society, we maintain that as part of our Behaviour Policy, mobile phones are not to be used on the school premises by students.

There are some clear principles as to why this is important for our school community, which I have outlined below.

1. **It's about learning:** We want all students to be focused and concentrate fully in their lessons.
2. **Safeguarding:** This protects students. It is important that students are safe, ensuring that no photos or videos are taken and/or shared by students.
3. **Health and well-being:** Having a healthy break from your phone is important. Research shows that there is a link to increased anger, depression, anxiety, sleep problems as well as increased stress levels amongst teenagers, with 41% of students saying that they feel overwhelmed by the messages and notifications they receive.

Enrichment Activities:

We are incredibly proud of the range of enrichment activities that President Kennedy has to offer and the start of a new year is always a good time to consider what new experiences students may want to take part in. Involvement in extra-curricular activities brings numerous benefits, including meeting new friends, building confidence and raising self-esteem, developing team work and problem-solving skills. Please look out for the President Kennedy School newsletter which is emailed every Friday and available on our website. These celebrate the wonderful success stories of the amazing students here at President Kennedy School and the superb opportunities our staff provide for the students.

Communication:

As you are more than aware, working closely with parents/carers is crucial to the success of any student during their school journey and this relies heavily on excellent communication between home and school and school and home. As a result, we have decided to use Class Charts which is an online system that enables users to track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day.

You will receive a separate letter later this week outlining what this involves for you as parents/carers, as well as information on downloading the App and how to access information about your child's progress.

We recognise that many of the success stories here at school is only possible with the wonderful support of our parents/carers and wider community. Thank you again, for your continued support on behalf of all the staff here at President Kennedy School.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely



Ms S Rooke
Headteacher

Attached: Uniform Regulations

Main Uniform, Essential Items and Equipment

Navy blazer with school logo	White shirt or blouse
Girls - Navy trousers (cotton/polyester/viscose straight cut or boot cut, not skin tight or skinny) or Navy <u>knee-length</u> , straight or pleated skirt to be worn	Boys - Mid Grey trousers (cotton/polyester/viscose straight cut, not skin tight or skinny)
Navy, Grey or Black socks/tights	Plain Black shoes (not boots)
or Girls - Plain Navy knee length socks or tights	
School tie	Coats must be plain Black, Grey or Navy
School bags of a suitable size (must be able to carry exercise books and equipment)	School Planner* Calculator, compass, crayons, pocket English Dictionary, erasers, pencils, pens, protractor, ruler, reading book (*school planners are provided to students at the start of the school year)



Optional Items

Navy cotton cardigan (girls) with school logo	Navy cotton jumper (boys and girls) with school logo
Hijab - Plain Navy or Black	Turban - Plain Navy or Black
Technology - full apron, Art - protective clothing (e.g. an old shirt)	

WE EXPECT OUR STUDENTS TO WEAR THEIR UNIFORM WITH PRIDE

Uniform Regulations Year 7 to Year 11

PE/Games Kit

Essential Items

Navy and gold rugby top with or without school logo (essential for playing Rugby in PE lessons)
Navy tracksuit top with school logo (essential for outdoor PE, if student does not have rugby top)
Navy Shorts
Navy polo shirt with or without school logo
Navy sports socks (must be worn for PE)
Training shoes (not pumps)
Football/Rugby moulded boots (boys all years; girls for years 7, 8 & 9). <u>Please note moulded boots are essential to enable students to play on the school's 4G pitch.</u>
Hair tie or bobble (essential for health & safety purposes)

Optional Items

Plain navy tracksuit bottoms with or without school logo
Plain navy leggings with or without school logo (girls)
Navy and gold skort with school logo or plain navy skort without logo (girls)
Gum shield for rugby
Shin pads for football



Sports branded items are not permitted. Strictly no jewellery to be worn for PE/games.

WE DO NOT ALLOW

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leather or denim jackets, jeans, leggings or jeggings, skin tight, skinny or cropped trousers Trainers or pumps, boots, canvas shoes, high heeled shoes, open toe shoes More than one item of jewellery, including multiple piercings (earrings must be small studs only, barbell earrings are not permitted) Facial piercings, tongue piercings Brightly coloured scarves, headbands, socks or belts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T-shirts visible under shirts Extreme hair styles or brightly coloured hair Excessive or brightly coloured make up, including coloured nail varnish, acrylics or artificial nails, false eyelashes or eyelash extensions Skirts that are above the knee Hoodies, sporting or tracksuit tops and baseball caps |
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All uniform items are available from:



Cat Ballou Originals Ltd

1-3 The Burges, Coventry, CV1 1HN

Tel: 02476 555499

www.catballou.co.uk

andy blair®

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