Every year the school faces some challenges in regards to the College Uniform from a minority of our school community.

The College Council has determined that this College has a uniform and it is an expectation that all students enrolled will abide by the expectations of the college with respect to the College Uniform. All parents/guardians and students sign a Uniform Declaration to support the College uniform policy as part of a condition of enrolment. It is extremely disappointing when a few students challenge College policy and come to school out of uniform or wear the uniform disrespectfully. As we transition into the new uniform we are seeking parent and guardian support in its implementation and advise that if your child requires uniform items to be replaced that you should purchase the new items and not second hand items or the “Old uniform” (except for Year Twelve students). Our uniform supplier PSW has reduced the price of the current (Old) uniform to clear their stock. The old jumpers may be worn under the new jumpers next year for additional warmth but will not be part of the new uniform.

2015 is the year all students will transition to the new uniform. This information has been communicated to students, parents/guardians in a number of ways and at different times in the last three years. Communication has included information in all enrolment packages (for new students) and re-enrolment packages (for all current students), newsletters, letters with reports posted to parents/guardians and the College website.

It has been repeatedly brought to the attention of students at assemblies by Assistant Principals and Sub school teams.

This article provides the opportunity to outline to new and current parents/guardians a historical snapshot of the uniform review. The College undertook a uniform review in 2010 and parents/guardians, staff and students were all given the opportunity to have a voice in the design, quality and items of the new uniform in this three year journey. 2013 was the first phase of implementation of the new uniform with all Year Sevens and new students to the College expected to be in the new uniform. In 2014 we have all Year Sevens, Year Eights and new students (2013/2014) in the new uniform.
With any change in uniform there needs to be an implementation date, it is for this reason that College Council duly informed parents/guardians and decided on a two year transition period. The reality is that any implementation date will result in objections from some families that the date does not suit them. It should therefore be appreciated that it will never be possible to suit all, be it in regards to items of uniform or implementation dates. Objections about the new uniform now is a bit too late as commitments have been made to suppliers and much time and effort by many has been devoted to the preparation for and the implementation of the new uniform taking in to consideration the input of families at the commencement of the review and during the planning stages. We are proud of the positive comments from the community and students currently in the new uniform. We are seeking students and parents/guardians support in its implementation.

There are some optional items that parents do not need to purchase. Please refer to the student planner/diary for a list of these.

There seems to be some confusion about aspects of the new uniform and the transition. Please note the following:

- Blazers are an optional item however as of 2015 it will be the only jacket as part of the uniform.
- The current spray Jackets (navy, navy and yellow) will no longer be part of the school uniform and parents are advised not to purchase these. PSW our uniform supplier have informed us that there have been requests for the spray jackets despite their recommendations. They have been instructed not to sell these.
- Ties are a compulsory item with the new college winter uniform.
- Contrary to belief PSW have stock of ties and blazers. Due to the lack of space in the school uniform shop, a blazer in every size is on hand for students to try on and the correct size will be brought to the shop for the student to collect on the next trading day. PSW are more than happy to support families with a layby system in readiness for 2015.
- Of particular concern at the moment is the short skirts of some of our students. Skirts are to be of a modest length and at least to the knees. The easy test of this is that the skirt touches the floor when the student kneels down. Really short skirts do not present a good image and disrespects the uniform and others around who are made to feel uncomfortable, e.g. when the student bends over or walks up stairs. We are asking parents and guardians to address this matter with your daughters and to support us in our endeavours to have our students looking their best in their uniform.

Staff do not wish to do battle with you or your child over uniform and nor would they need to if students complied with the uniform policy and parents supported and respected the policy. The College has always been sympathetic and supportive of families with genuine hardship and will continue to do so with confidential welfare support.

Please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Principal Mrs. Daphne Clements (Chairperson - Uniform Subcommittee) if you need clarification about the implementation of new uniform, or the relevant Assistant Principal, Sub school Team member or Student Wellbeing Coordinator at your child’s campus to discuss other matters related to uniform.

We hope we can all embrace our school value of “Community – we are all in this together” and thank you for your support.

Assistant Principals:

Daphne Clements & Stuart Boyle (West)

Julie Kennedy & Craig Jamieson (East)