

Headlines

Chichester High School for Girls Specialist in Arts & Science



Together we aspire
Together we achieve

March 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this edition of Headlines which will have the 'belt and braces' approach. It is being posted to all parents along with Highlights and the annual parent survey but it will also arrive in your computer's 'inbox' as we are trialling our first email delivery to parents. Thank you to everyone who has provided their email address. We hope to be using email more often in the future as a means of communicating with parents, but we do appreciate that not every household has access to email so we will still make paper copies available. All editions of Headlines and Highlights can be found on the school website www.chichesterhighschoolforgirls.co.uk



Summer Uniform



The summer term starts on Monday, 19th April. This year we have simplified the rules about summer uniform, and we hope the changes we have made will be better for everyone.

Summer uniform – Summer uniform may be worn during the whole of the Summer Term and in the Autumn Term up to October 1st. Since polo shirts have been part of the summer uniform for several years and almost all pupils have them, these rules apply to every pupil from Year 7 to Year 11.

Summer uniform -School polo shirt may be worn. School polo shirts are worn 'untucked'. They can be purchased at Pupil Reception.

Blazers should be left at home.

On cold mornings school jumpers may be worn over the polo shirt. If the state of the school jumper is unacceptable i.e. shredded cuffs, pupils will be asked to remove them.

Navy trousers or uniform skirt as usual. Skirts must not be rolled up and must be worn properly. Please ensure that all zips and buttons are in place so that the skirt can be done up properly.

Tights (navy, black or skin tone), knee length or ankle socks (navy, black or white) or bare legs.

Trainer/low-cut socks may be worn (navy, black or white).

Plain hair accessories e.g. hair band (in navy, black, red or white).

Plain black school shoes

Plain black or navy sandals may be worn as long as they have a heel strap.

Pupils must not

- Wear a belt
- Wear a vest/t-shirt under blouse or polo shirt
- Roll skirts
- Wear jewellery apart from a watch and a small pair of studs or hoop earrings worn in the ear lobes.
- Wear boots, or trainers (unless in a PE lesson)
- Wear nail varnish on fingers or toes
- Wear extravagant hair accessories e.g. flowers, braids

NB: If pupils choose not to wear the Summer uniform, then they must wear a blouse **and a blazer** (jumper optional).

We will be having 'correct uniform' as a special focus across the school for the first two weeks of the Summer term so that all pupils understand the uniform rules.

Thank you to all parents who already support us in our endeavours to raise uniform standards. We would encourage more parents to ensure that their daughters leave the house in the correct school uniform. Please also stress to them, as we do at school, that they should be in correct uniform as they travel to and from school.

Pupil Attendance

Since September Mr Woodall, one of our Assistant Headteachers, and his ICT team, have been working hard to upgrade our computer hardware so that software called PARS can be installed. PARS is a powerful programme that will allow us to move forward significantly within school, but will also improve communication between school and home. PARS has many features and these are being trialled and implemented gradually across the school.

- All pupils are now registered electronically in every lesson. This allows key staff to check that pupils are in all of their lessons, and arrive on time. Any pupils who are 'delayed' on their way to a lesson, or who choose to truant for a lesson, are quickly identified and appropriate action is taken. By September, we hope that parents will be able to log in to their own portal from home to check their daughter's attendance record.

Since February half-term, when we moved to electronic registration pupil attendance across the school has improved.

- We are piloting electronic recording of rewards with Year 9 pupils. This pilot had been successful with Year 9 tutors and the pupils themselves and they have provided very useful feedback. This pilot will now be extended in the summer term.



School Website

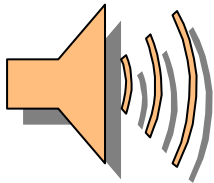


During the 'snow days' we realised how important our website had become as a means of keeping everyone informed on a daily basis. As a result of this change of use by parents, pupils and staff, we are completely redesigning our website. We would now like you to tell us what you need from our website as a parent so that you can access the relevant information quickly and easily.

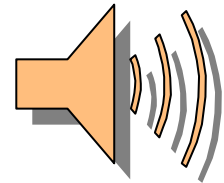
At the last coffee forum parents were asked for their opinions and they gave us some very useful ideas. We would now like to extend this invitation and ask all our parents what they would find useful.

We have set up an electronic parents' survey which lists key questions about our new website. You can access the survey on www.chsgmoodle.org.uk and by clicking on the Parents link.

Please do take a few minutes to give us your views. Your feedback will help us design a site that is more useful to you.



Sounding Board



We are seeking about twenty parents from each year group who would be happy to be used as a regular 'sounding board'. We would contact you occasionally with a new idea or question and ask for your feedback, e.g. we could ask you whether you would like an 'on-line' booking facility for parents' evenings rather than relying on your daughter to book appointments with teachers.

Your feedback will be useful and will help us to bring about school improvement.

If you would be interested in becoming one of our 'sounding boards', please send an email to office@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk giving the following information:

Your full name
Daughter's name
Year group
Tutor group
email address you would use in the 'sounding board' surveys

If we are inundated with offers of help, we will aim to get a representative sample of parents, e.g. an even spread across the tutor groups.

Parents' Survey

You will have received, by post, at the end of the Spring Term, a copy of the annual parents' survey form with a covering letter from Mrs. McGuffin. We are keen to receive your feedback so that we can improve the things that are important to you. Please do take a few minutes to fill out the survey and return it in the sealed envelope to your daughter's Form Tutor.

It has been a short but extremely hectic term. Whilst the snow was right at the start of January and only lasted a few days, we are still 'making up for lost time'. The Year 11 students, their teachers and their learning mentors have been particularly busy as we get closer to the start of GCSE

examinations. Thank you to Year 11 parents who have attended extra meetings at the school and supported students by encouraging them into school on time and helping us to chase coursework.

Thank you too, for all your support this term, whether it was as a member of the audience at Gym and Dance Bites, helping at the Chi High Has Got Talent, picking your daughter up at some very late hour after a theatre visit, or being a taxi or morning alarm service.

May I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Oliver-Watkins
Headteacher