

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I trust you have all had an enjoyable festive season and survived the heat.

Late last year I sent you an important letter, outlining School Council Policy regarding the wearing of school uniform.

School Council, along with staff at the college, are dedicated to providing the best possible learning environment for your sons and daughters, and an important element of this is having firm expectations for all who are part of our school community.

During the period of transition between the old and new uniforms, high expectations will be in place for every student as we believe they all deserve the opportunity to wear the Mount Eliza SC uniform with pride. For those choosing to continue with the old uniform, changed expectations will include the requirement that where uniform is in poor condition, incorrect shoes are worn, or for the girls, dresses are shorter than the 'on the kneecap' rule, uniform must be replaced. The uniform shop still has reasonable stock of the old uniform, and as is always the case, parents should contact the school for assistance if needed. All students should wear plain black, lace up leather school shoes. Photos of acceptable styles are in the diary.

Another significant change to the policy is that notes from parents when students are out of uniform will generally not be accepted. It is our experience that the majority of students are always in full and correct uniform and we are really grateful for parent support in this regard. When students come out of uniform it is often the same students repeatedly, and in many cases, they are choosing to wear the wrong shoes or top without good reason. If this happened in the workplace, they would be sent home and we believe we do them no favours by allowing excuses in this regard.

A reasonable 'adjustment' period will be provided over the next few weeks to support students and families to meet expectations, and parents of students in incorrect uniform will be contacted directly to resolve the problem together. Following that period, any student out of uniform will continue their learning outside of their regular classes until we can work together to rectify the problem. We do not expect however, that after the long holiday break and some very clear communication regarding expectations, any student will arrive at school out of uniform. Again, please contact the college if we can be of assistance.

A few other points:

- the expectation is that students leave home in full and correct uniform, and remain in uniform until they return home.
- if shoes have a deep section of lacing, they will be skate style shoes, not school shoes, and these are not permitted.
- a black college backpack is compulsory with the new uniform. For students not in new uniform, a plain black backpack is expected. Handbags are definitely not allowed as they are functionally inappropriate and part of everyday wear rather than school uniform.

We are all looking forward to a great year at the college in 2014, and along with improvements to the uniform, much work has occurred over the break with grounds and facilities, ready to welcome our students back on Thursday.

I appreciate your continued support on behalf of our students.

Angela Pollard
Principal