

July 2026

Dear family,

Thorns Collegiate Academy, with the involvement of students and families, continues to improve and we continually look at how we can collectively ensure that when students leave us at the end of Y11, they do so with both the academic and social skills for success. High standards and a sense of pride in our academy are paramount to supporting that outcome. As such, uniform plays a significant part in standards and pride.

We recognise that the majority of students arrive at school looking smart and wearing the correct uniform. We will continue to reward students for wearing correct uniform.

We absolutely want to support families and so Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust has been reviewing the uniform policy to reduce costs to families by streamlining the number of branded uniform items that are expected. This is a timely review given that Government guidance regarding school uniform becomes applicable from September 2026.

The number of Thorns branded items is reduced to four:

- Tie
- Blazer badge
- Teal coloured PE T-shirt*
- Teal coloured quarter zip PE long sleeved sweatshirt*

As part of this review, from the start of the summer term 2027, polo shirts will no longer form part of the academy uniform. We want to reassure you that this change will not affect any students before this date and so they may wear their TCA polo shirt during the first half of the Autumn term.

This decision reflects national expectations to reduce the number of branded items and simplify uniform requirements, helping to ensure families have greater flexibility and lower costs when purchasing uniform.

The academy uniform from September 2026 is as follows:

- Blazer with academy badge sewn onto pocket
- Academy tie
- White blouse or shirt
- Plain black smart trousers (no skinny trousers, jeggings, leggings or jeans),
- Plain black smart knee/ankle length skirt (no tube skirts or jersey skirts)
- Plain black tailored shorts (no football shorts, jersey shorts, cycling shorts, black denim shorts or hotpants). This is an addition to the current uniform.
- Plain black v-neck jumper. But a jumper must not be worn instead of a blazer.
- Plain black polishable leather/leather look shoes, ankle boots or ballet pumps
- In adverse weather, a suitable coat can be worn over a blazer. Hoodies are not acceptable.

- Salwar Kameez and headscarves may be worn and should be plain in colour– students are still required to wear the academy blazer and white shirt and tie.
- Turbans, Patkas and Kippahs may be worn and should be plain in colour.
- Tzitzits may be worn.

PE

- Teal coloured PE T-shirt*
- Teal coloured quarter zip PE long sleeved sweatshirt*
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms (no large, branded logos)
- Plain black shorts (no large, branded logos) and mid-thigh length. No Lycra cycling shorts or hot pants are permitted
- Plain black skort (no large, branded logos)
- Trainers
- Long hair must be tied up and nose studs and earrings/ear studs removed

In order to reduce expense, should your child still wish to wear their current GCSE PE and/or Dance kit, or black TCA branded PE kit they will be able to continue to do so. The change will be effective for these students when new kit is required. **Please note the only hoodies that will be acceptable during this period of transition will be the black TCA branded PE hoodie.**

We will continue to allow students to wear their PE kit on the days they have PE or Dance lessons.

Ties and badges can be purchased via Arbor and collected from Reception.

* The PE T-shirt and quarter zip long sleeved sweatshirt can be purchased from [The Sports Shop](#) – Kingswinford, 790 High St, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 8AA. Tel: 01384 295941.

We know for many the cost of replacing uniform in the summer term is hard when children will insist on growing during the summer break (!) and so most prefer to buy uniform ready for the new academic year. Hence, we are sharing the expectations from September to allow families and students time to ensure they are ready for the start of the Autumn term.

Please contact your child's Year Head if you would like support regarding uniform.

Yours sincerely,



N. Jones
Principal