



Bowerhill, Melksham  
Wiltshire SN12 6QZ

**Tel: 01225 792700**

**Fax: 01225 790759**

**Interim Principal**  
Aidan Blowers

[www.melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are writing to inform you that the Melksham Oak School uniform is going to change with effect from September 2019. We understand that this is significant and might evoke strong reactions. We want to assure you that the decision has been strategically and methodically thought through, with all members of our community in mind. Our students have worn the same uniform for 10 years and we feel it is the right time to make a positive change. We want our uniform to reflect the 'Pride and Progress' we as a school have been focusing on and striving for in recent years. A well thought out school uniform can play an important role in creating an inclusive school community and fostering a sense of belonging. In line with this, the new uniform will be comfortable, smart, practical and affordable.

After consultations with staff, governors and most importantly, the students themselves, the overwhelming consensus was to change to a smarter uniform that students would feel proud to wear but which is still practical and affordable. Our primary concerns when designing the new uniform are to keep it practical for learning, comfortable for our students to wear and affordable for parents. We currently have the cheapest uniform amongst West Wiltshire secondary schools and this will not change. Consultations with suppliers and research into the different aspects of the new uniform have found that it should cost around £3 more in total.

The new uniform will be a navy V-neck jumper, white school shirt and a Melksham Oak tie. The expectation will be that this is worn with black smart trousers (no denim, no chinos, no leggings, no jeans - jeans are defined as a trouser cut often with external seams, externally stitched pockets and sometimes rivets; these will be prohibited) or a knee length black skirt and tights. We will be moving to flat black shoes: No trainers, pumps, daps, boots, sandals or canvas. They should be leather/faux leather in appearance.

We have assembled a working group of students from a range of years who will be designing the new school tie. The students are a pivotal part of this process and it is vital that they are able to contribute to the design of the new uniform.

The changes will come into effect in September 2019. The new uniform will be an expectation for students in Year 7-10 (2019-20). We understand that current Year 10s (Year 11 2019-20) may have invested in polo shirts/sweat shirts that still fit – they can choose to wear these. They will be expected to wear smart school style trousers/skirt and follow the new footwear expectations and should not mix and match the old and new uniform.

We know that uniform is an evocative subject. We have not taken this decision lightly and we hope to give adequate time for everyone to prepare for the change. If you have any questions, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance. There will be more information in the near future to keep you up to date with these changes.

In the meantime we hope to have your support and backing.

Yours sincerely

Aidan Blowers – Interim Principal