

July 2026

Dear Parent/Carers

As we approach the end of this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the school and reinforcing school standards and expectations with your child/children. We continue to positively drive standards to allow us to focus on learning and academic success.

To help ensure a smooth start to the new academic year, we would like to remind you of the key changes taking effect from September, along with our expectations for student equipment and uniform, which are outlined below.

### Key Changes for September

#### 1. Single Lunchtime

A reminder that from September, we will move from a split lunch to a single lunchtime for all students. This change will strengthen our sense of community by creating more opportunities for friendships, clubs and whole-school events, while providing calmer, more consistent routines with enhanced supervision and support. It will also improve the school day by reducing congestion, protecting learning time and expanding access to homework, revision and wellbeing support, ensuring lunchtime is a positive and enriching experience for every student. Extended communications regarding this change have been shared with parents and pupils.

#### 2. Mobile Devices

In line with updated government guidance, we will become a completely mobile device-free school from September. All mobile devices must be switched off and kept in students' bags **before** they enter the school site and cannot be accessed again until they **leave** the school site. This is a change from our current arrangements, where students have been permitted to use their devices before and after the school day on the school site.

From September, mobile devices must not be seen or heard anywhere on the school site. Any device that is seen or heard, including one kept in a pocket, will be confiscated for 24 hours. For the purposes of this policy, mobile devices include mobile phones, smartwatches, smart glasses and headphones. The school gates at the top of the school represent the threshold for the school site.

### Equipment List

All students are expected to have the following items in their bag each day to support learning. Tutors will check and support students to ensure they are fully equipped each day and will contact home should there be any concerns.

# Getting ready for September



## Equipment checklist

- Water Bottle
- Pencil case
- Black or blue pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Rubber
- Ruler (at least 15 cm)
- Highlighter (any colour)



(Casio FX-85GT CW)

RESPECT | RESILIENCE | RESPONSIBILITY

## Uniform and Equipment for Years 7-11

Our uniform, including house ties, plays an important role in fostering a sense of pride, belonging and identity within both our House family and the wider school community. If we have any concerns about a student's uniform, we will contact home promptly so that the issue can be resolved quickly and avoid unnecessary behaviour points. If you anticipate any difficulties with uniform, please let your child's tutor know as soon as possible so that we can work together to find a solution.

If a student arrives at school or tutor time wearing incorrect uniform, they will be directed to Student Support so the issue can be addressed. Students will be expected to change into the correct uniform where possible. Appropriate exceptions will, of course, be made where there are genuine medical reasons.

School uniform - [Monkhouse](#)

School ties - Collect from Student Support and paid for with £4 cash or via [Parentpay](#)

PE kit - The Sports Shop, 39 High Street Portishead - [form](#)

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Outerwear | <p>Weatherproof coat.<br/>Coats, gloves and hats are to be removed for lessons.<br/>Hijabs and durags must be plain in colour.</p> <p>Reminder: Denim coats, fleeces and sweatshirt garments, hoodies are not allowed.</p> |
| Blazer    | Maroon blazer from Monkhouse. To be worn at all times unless directed otherwise by staff.                                                                                                                                  |

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clip-on Tie       | House ties.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| White Shirt       | White, collared shirt with buttons to the neck. Shirts must be tucked in at all times except during social time on the courts/field.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Trousers          | <p>Grey tailored trousers and of a length, material and style appropriate to an academic working environment with no fashion elements.</p> <p>Reminder: No leggings, jeggings, tight Lycra/tight-fitting trousers or pockets on legs, zipped pockets, very narrow or very wide-bottomed trousers.</p>                                                                  |
| Skirt             | <p>Grey knee-length pleated skirt.</p> <p>Reminder: No tube, Lycra, skater-style or elastane skirts. Skirts must not be rolled up at any time.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Shorts (optional) | Grey tailored knee length shorts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Jumper (optional) | Grey v-neck jumper with maroon stripe (available from Monkhouse only).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Socks             | White, black or grey ankle socks (no colours).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Tights            | Black, natural or grey.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Shoes             | <p>Black shoes.</p> <p>Reminder: trainers, shoes with heels and shoes made of canvas and other non-waterproof materials are not allowed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| PE Kit            | <p>St Katherine's branded top, shorts, jogging bottoms, leggings and skorts.</p> <p>School socks are red, white and black hooped socks. Plain black long socks are an acceptable alternative.</p> <p>Training shoes suitable for physical activity and studded boots. Shin pads are compulsory for football.</p> <p>Reminder: no cycling shorts or similar shorts.</p> |
| Make-up           | <p>Students may wear discreet makeup and nail varnish.</p> <p>Reminder: false nails or false eyelashes are not permitted. If your child has had nail extensions over the summer holiday, please ensure these are removed before the return to school. Students with excessive makeup will be asked to remove it.</p>                                                   |
| Body piercings    | <p>For Health and Safety reasons, the school does not permit body piercing apart from small studs/small hoops in ear lobes.</p> <p><b>Reminder: We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that body piercings usually take a minimum of 6 months</b></p>                                                                                                |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | <b>to heal. We would therefore strongly recommend that students do not get any piercings over the summer that cannot comfortably and easily be removed for school in September.</b>    |
| Hairstyles | Unnatural hair colours, 'extreme' hairstyles, or hairstyles that do not meet health and safety requirements for practical lessons are not allowed.                                     |
| Jewellery  | Rings, bracelets, badges and necklaces may be worn. Jewellery must be easily removable for practical lessons. Any jewellery deemed unsafe or excessive must be removed when requested. |

If your son/daughter is eligible for Free School Meals or in receipt of Pupil Premium funding please contact [school@skdrive.org](mailto:school@skdrive.org) to confirm how we can support your child/children with uniform and equipment.

Thank you once again for supporting our standards and we look forward to welcoming students back in September.

Wishing all families a pleasant summer break.

Yours sincerely



Alice Humphries  
**Assistant Headteacher**