



12 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

On behalf of all Alford Academy staff I wish you and your family a Happy New Year.

It's great to be back into school and for our senior pupils, the prelim assessment diet is underway. Please find a link to the information issued previously by Mr Gardner and on the school blog which gives useful advice, tips and expectations around prelims and study leave
<https://alfordacademy.edublogs.org/prelims/>

As previously communicated, in October and November of last year, we have tightened up on our expectations around school uniform and I thank parents for their continued co-operation in encouraging their child(ren) to wear school uniform as we begin the new term. School uniform is smart, economical and encourages identification with the school. Moving forward, SDA/CLAN teachers will be asked to speak with any young person not wearing uniform and Principal Teachers of Guidance and Depute Head Teachers will follow this up, should there be continued concerns.

Uniform Expectations

All pupils are expected to maintain a high standard of appearance and to wear school uniform during school hours and when representing the school. **Please note pupils in school for prelims or to study should be in school uniform.**

The school uniform consists of:

- White shirt
- Alford Academy school tie
- Black V-neck jumper with school logo (S1 – S3)
- Black blazer with school logo (S4 – S6)
- Black skirt/trousers (not jeans/leggings)
- Black shoes or black trainer-type shoes

School knitwear and blazers can be purchased via our supplier Academy Uniforms via this link
https://www.academyuniformsltd.co.uk/index.php?route=product/category&path=62_65

School ties are available from the school office, please phone or email us for information.

Some families may be entitled to a school clothing grant of £150 per eligible child per financial year. More information about this can be found at:
<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/assistance/school-clothing-grants/>

PE Kit Expectations from 1/11/2021

1. Pupils attending PE classes are expected to bring an **appropriate change of clothing.**
2. Whether indoors or outdoors this change should include:

- T-shirt
- Shorts, Tracksuit bottoms, Sport Leggings
- Sports Sweatshirt (optional, dependent on weather)
- Appropriate Trainers (must be a change from school footwear)
- Appropriate swimwear and towel for swimming (goggles are optional)

PE Kit should show an appropriate measure of modesty. School uniform will not be considered as a change of kit. Pupils who fail to bring all or part of their appropriate PE kit can borrow items from the spare kit held in the PE department. If a pupil continues to come to PE lessons without kit, staff will follow the Faculty's PE Kit procedure, outlined on the [school blog](#).

All students should ensure that all jewellery including watches are removed for PE lessons and students with long hair must ensure they are able to tie this up.

We operate a 100% PE Kit Policy which means all pupils bring PE Kit to every PE lesson. Full details can be found on the school blog.

School Uniform/PE Kit - Exceptions

- If any pupil in S1-S6 has PE **period 1** then they are allowed to attend school in their PE kit. At the end of the lesson, they should change into school uniform.
- Pupils in **Senior school (S4-S6)** who have PE on **more than one occasion during the school day** may remain in PE kit throughout the day.
- Pupils with PE **in the last period of the school day** will be allowed to leave school in PE kit.

Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme

From the 31st of January young people aged 5-21 will be eligible to receive free bus travel. To receive free travel, you must have a National Entitlement Card (NEC) or a Young Scot NEC which has to be scanned each time you board a bus. **PLEASE NOTE THAT AN EXISTING YOUNG SCOT CARD WILL NOT WORK AND YOU NEED TO APPLY FOR A NEW CARD TO BE ELIGIBLE.**

If you are over 16, you will shortly be able to apply direct for a new card to <https://getyournec.scot/>

For under 16s, the parent/guardian must apply for a replacement card via the Parents' Portal in order to give their consent for the travel element. If you have not yet signed up for Parents' Portal and would like information on the benefits and how to sign up, please see the attached information.

(NB replacement NEC cards ordered direct will be sent to home addresses so pupils will need to get them activated by the school office to use in the canteen).

Further information about the benefits available with a Young Scot Card can be found on their website <https://young.scot/>

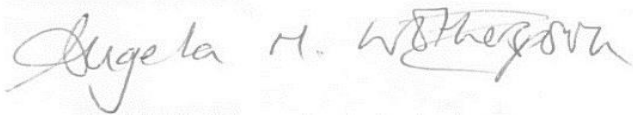
Lastly, I thank you for your support of the ongoing covid mitigations in place for schools, some of which are summarised below:

- If your child does develop any symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school – they should have a PCR test as soon as possible. Further information on testing, and the rules around self-isolation, can be found on www.nhsinform.scot

- If your child is in secondary school they should continue to test regularly (twice a week) and record the result on the online portal www.covidtest.scot
- Secondary schools are able to order and supply sufficient LFD test kits for staff and pupils to test twice a week during term time and prior to return after a school holiday.
- If you require additional LFD test kits for yourself or other family members these are available by collection from COVID test centres or pharmacies, or delivery by ordering online. More information can be found at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): getting tested in Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)
- Wear a face covering in line with guidance, keep your distance, keep rooms ventilated, and wash your hands with soap and water regularly. You can find more advice on www.nhsinform.scot

I wish you a happy and healthy 2022 as we all look forward to lighter mornings and the return of spring.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela M. Wotherspoon". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Angela M. Wotherspoon (Mrs)
Head Teacher