



Looe Community Academy

*A Specialist College for the Performing Arts,
Maths and Computing*
Sunrising, East Looe, Cornwall, PL13 1NQ
Tel: 01503 262625 * Fax: 01503 265435
Email: enquiries@looe.cornwall.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss H.R. Jenkins BSc

Our Ref: HJ/HWI

30 March 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

Academy Update and Uniform Review

As the Spring Term draws to a close it is timely to celebrate some of our recent achievements.

We converted to Academy on 1 February, and as you would have seen from the press articles and the website, the start of the Academy era was very much reliant on the firm foundations of everything we achieved as Looe Community School. Directly controlling resources enables us to improve the learning environment and sustain our rich curriculum offer. Additionally, the Academy's charitable status will be used to enhance the community dimension for Looe and the surrounding area, which is why we retained that part of our name.

The success of last year's fantastic exam results continued as our early entry GCSE students secured passes in Maths, Geography, History, ICT, Art, Drama and Textiles. Amazingly 1 in 4 boys in Year 11 have already achieved A* or A in GCSE Maths.

Those of you that were able to join us for the Little Shop of Horrors were treated to a spectacular performance as our cast, crew and extras brought to life the story's characters on what was a most awesome stage set. Similarly, the Olympic Fashion Show was simply amazing as our budding fashionistas produced stunning outfits that were elegantly paraded by our models that simply owned the catwalk, supported by dancers.

Our fundraising efforts have exceeded a staggering £3,000 so far this Academic Year, with local and national charities benefitting, including Ellie's Haven, Children's Hospice South West, Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Pearl of Africa, Sport Relief and Lifeblood: The Thrombosis Charity.

In this year of the Olympics, it is delightful to congratulate Matthew Clowes on his magnificent achievement of 4 gold and 2 silver medals in the National Swimming Championships. It will be a pleasure to welcome back sailing champion and double Olympic medallist Joe Glanfield, who is breaking away from his Olympic training duties to share some of his time with us as he returns to motivate, inspire and raise student aspirations. He will round off the Academy's "Be the Best You Can Be" programme by presenting medals to all the participants in May.

I would like to thank you all for supporting the Academy and I really do welcome the feedback that you provide, as this helps to shape our continuous improvement programme. On that note, it is timely to seek your views on our intention to revise the Academy's uniform. Governors would prefer to change to blazers with embroidered badge, tailored trousers/skirt and a collared shirt/blouse finished with an Academy tie and smart black shoes that are polishable. An optional jump-worn under the blazer is also being considered. There will be no change to the PE kit at this time.



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Through their tutor groups, many students have indicated a preference to “dress for success” and they associate that with a more formal look. Students will get an opportunity to comment individually in due course.

Governors fully understand the wider implications of change, including cost, quality and availability; due regard will be made for these. Sourcing the uniform will be an important factor, and we will look to offer you the choice of a local supplier and an internet provider; we will ensure that a practical purchasing solution is available for all parent/carers.

Uniform providers have advised that modern blazers are cost-effective, lasting for more than one Academic Year. They are machine washable, quick drying and Teflon® coated for stain resistance; they are also very crease resistant. Initial indications are that prices range from £20 to £28 depending on size, style, quality and supplier and the aim will be to secure the best value for money. In comparison, our current fleece is £15.

Against the cost of the current uniform, there is also an opportunity to save on shirts/blouses, with many high street retailers and supermarkets offering packs of 3 for £7 compared with the current embroidered shirt/blouse at £6 each. Ties will be about £4.

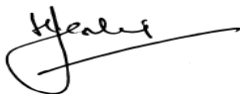
Governors will look specifically at how the uniform might be phased in to get the most out of existing clothing, but this will be limited to those uniform items that already comply with the current policy, so, for example, fashion trousers/jeans/skirts, canvass shoes and trainers will not be permitted.

It would be very much appreciated if you could provide feedback on this important aspect of Academy life, to help Governors make an informed decision. The attachment will provide an insight to your views, but there is a free text option at the end so that you can comment fully.

I look forward to welcoming back our students on Monday 16 April.

I wish you a very happy Easter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miss Heather Jenkins
Headteacher

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