Dear Parents and Carers

SCHOOL UNIFORM TRANSITION

Recent communication regarding the transition from our original green shirts, to our re-branded navy and teal shirts has caused concern amongst some members of the school community.

On behalf of the School Board, I believe it is important to remind ourselves of the process which has taken place to arrive at this point. The Business Plan, which was compiled after public consultation in 2015, included re-branding our logo, stationery and uniforms as we began our IPS journey. Alongside this aspiration, we consulted with community members in the design of the new uniforms. A two year window to phase out the green shirts and have every child in the new uniforms was discussed as part of the open community consultation for which a number of parents and carers participated. It was further discussed at the P&C and ultimately passed by the School Board. The new uniforms were available Semester two of 2015 and subsequently in calendar terms, this time frame takes us to mid 2017.

The School Board always anticipated that parents would be planning for the transition to ensure that students were prepared for the change. This is important to us all to ensure they both feel a sense of belonging and adhere to our dress code.

The P&C made the decision to discount the green shirts ($10) up to and including the first semester of this year on the understanding that they would no longer be considered uniform as of the transition. The old uniform has not been available for purchase since this time (even at the discounted rate) due to the proximity of transition arrangements. Of note is that second hand navy and teal uniforms will be available for sale at the start of 2017.

It is apparent that despite the consultation aspects, some of our community are not prepared for the change and the recent communication of this previous message has caused some unintended concern. For obvious reasons the transition must have an end date and the two year timeframe was considered at the time, including through consultation, to be appropriate. Noting that strictly speaking two years does not occur until semester two of 2017, the dress code will not be enforced until that time allowing those with concerns additional time to make transitional arrangements. Families with personal circumstances making it difficult to comply with the new dress code and the timeframe, are advised to continue to make contact with the school to discuss their position, as many have already done in recent months. A wide range of options have already been made available to parents, including but not limited to; time payment and purchase of second hand uniforms.

As outlined, the School Board and administration have consulted with the school community regarding all aspects of the transition to the re-branded uniforms. It is unfortunate that this issue was surfaced in open forums unnecessarily alarming some people when it may have otherwise been discussed and resolved. Individual conversations with school administration are always welcomed. I trust that this letter adequately communicates both the history to date as well as clarifying the position for 2017.
The new dress code will be finalised by Board in the first half of 2017 and we aim for a smooth transition for all students to the re-branded uniforms. Ultimately the Board have the interests of our children at heart. Our new school identity contributes to that sense of belonging and is an important part of creating our culture.

Thank you for those who continue to contribute positively to our school community and I am sorry if anyone who did not take part in the consultation process feels that previous communication was insufficient.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season with many exciting things to look forward to in 2017.

Regards

Paul Steel                Jenn Allsop
Board Chair               Principal
9 December 2016