Evidence from across the world and over many years in Alder Grange, clearly proves that there is a close link between children wearing school uniform - in full and properly - and what they achieve personally and academically. Wearing the school uniform is an important factor in establishing a pride in and identify with, the school and at the same time minimises social divisions between pupils. The vast majority of students represent Alder Grange well, with the very high personal respect they show towards themselves, and the school in the way they wear the uniform.

However, this has to be worked on by all of us. The uniform code states clearly that plain black shoes must be worn; this applies to both male and female students. Girls’ shoes should not be of a type without a heel back and again should be black in colour. Since Technology is a subject that all students study throughout their school career it is important from a health and safety viewpoint that they wear safe, suitable footwear.

The retail outlets that are found in any shopping centre or high street show students wearing uniform with black trainers often stating the ‘back to school’ slogan. Popular brands which, when worn outside of school, do look fashionable, are:-

- K-Swiss,
- Adidas,
- Gola,
- Nike,
- Reebok,
- Puma,
- Fila,
- Kappa.

We would ask you not to buy these or any other brand of trainer even if it is not listed above. Another type of footwear is the ‘Timberland’ brand; again these are often blue, tan or grey in colour. Any footwear that is not black shoes is not acceptable.

**Trousers or skirts should be mid-grey in colour, and tailored, not elasticated.** Skirts must also be of a reasonable length, about knee length.

Finally, for safety reasons, no jewellery should be worn in school other than a small single stud in each ear and a watch. Students can expect to have inappropriate jewellery confiscated, and in some cases returned when parents come to school to collect it.

However, some small changes to the uniform have been agreed for implementation next term.

From September all pupils should be wearing shirt and tie. Short-sleeved shirts are perfectly acceptable, and school jumpers will be optional until the October half-term. From October half term until Easter 2012, all students should wear full uniform, including the school jumper. Students can now also wear tailored, long mid-grey shorts as an alternative to skirts/trousers.

A description of the full school uniform can be found in the student planner:

- Navy blue blazer
- School blazer badge
- Plain sky-blue tailored shirt with stiffened collar
- School tie - **Year 11 can wear their Year 11 ties.**
- Plain mid-grey tailored trousers/skirts - **trousers or skirts should be mid-grey in colour, and tailored, not elasticated.** Skirts **must also be of an acceptable length that takes the skirt length to the knee**

- Grey or white socks/black tights
- Plain black (non-trainer like) shoes - **this applies to both male and female students. Pumps or trainers are not acceptable as school shoes.**
- School Jumper
Below is a copy of the P.E. uniform, for your information:

**P.E. Uniform:**

**Compulsory Kit**
- Navy Shorts
- Navy Polo Shirt
- Navy/Sky Rugby Socks
- Towel
- Shower Gel
- Swimwear
- Trainers / Appropriate Footwear e.g. Football Boots for pupils doing Football and Rugby.

**Optional Kit**
- Navy Tracksuit Top
- Navy Tracksuit Pants
- Navy Rain Jacket
- Navy Rain Trouser

These items can be bought at our main supplier Amins on Bank Street Rawtenstall.

We would request that expensive and brightly coloured designer jackets are not worn to and from school. We recommend that outdoor coats should be a plain dark colour, but with brightly coloured patches which show up well on winter mornings and nights. Hair adornments should be of a simple design in blue, grey, white or black. For safety and security reasons no jewellery should be worn in school other than a watch and single stud earrings.

Any ‘fashionable hairstyles’ or ‘head shaves’ which pupils may want to try over the summer need to be arranged so hair is of an appropriate length (i.e. clearly visible) at the beginning of the new term. Nail extensions are **not allowed**, these should be removed in time for the beginning of the new term.

We understand that many of our students wear foundation and other facial products for very understandable reasons such that they can protect their self-esteem due to skin changes that affect young people. However, some students take this to extreme and we would call upon your support by encouraging them to take a more sensible, mature approach to their personal presentation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting us in the management of our students’ uniform across the year. The vast majority of students represent Alder Grange well with the very high personal respect they show towards themselves and the school in the way they wear the uniform.