



Malbank School & Sixth Form College

Rejoice in being the best that we can be.

Expectations update and shorts consultation - June 2026

30th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Malbank, we are proud of the positive culture we have built together. Our values of making the 60 matter, having pride in our standards and being polite and showing respect underpin all that we do as we prepare students for the next stage of their lives. We know that students succeed best when school and home work in partnership, and these shared expectations help us maintain a calm, purposeful and respectful environment in which all can thrive.

As we move towards the end of the academic year, I am writing to reaffirm our expectations for all students in relation to equipment, uniform and conduct and to clarify some changes to our approach – many of which will come into effect in September.

Equipment

Arriving at school fully equipped supports students to take responsibility for their learning and to make the most of every lesson. As a minimum, all students are expected to bring a **pen, pencil and ruler** each day. Additional items such as a rubber, whiteboard pen and highlighter are also beneficial but not mandatory.

We ask for your support in ensuring that your child arrives each day ready for learning with the appropriate equipment and in particular that when summer comes, they are fully stocked for the new academic year in September.

Uniform

A consistent approach to uniform promotes pride, equality and a strong sense of belonging within our school community and is something we have worked hard to build since we changed our uniform 5 years ago. Students are expected to attend school in full and correct uniform every day and to wear it appropriately. This includes correct footwear and having a blazer in school each day, regardless of whether a jumper is worn.

Where students arrive in incorrect uniform, they will be required to wear replacement or loaned items provided by the school. **In a change to current practice**, from September, if a student then refuses to accept this support and the matter becomes one of defiance, this will result in a suspension.

Expectations regarding general appearance also remain clear. Students whose hair does not meet our published standards (most notably natural hair colour) will be taken out of circulation and will not be allowed to attend lessons until the issue is resolved.

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We also ask parents and carers to give careful consideration to any requests from students for piercings over the summer. Facial piercings are not permitted at Malbank. From September, students will no longer be allowed to cover piercings with plasters. These are often removed shortly after being applied and are not an effective solution. The only acceptable alternative in the new academic year will be a clear plastic retainer. We are often told by parents that students "need" to keep a new piercing in place for six weeks, however with respect this is not our problem, and we have made our position clear. If a student chooses not to remove a piercing or replace it with a plastic retainer, this will be treated as defiance and as noted above with other uniform refusals, will result in suspension.



Following my presentation to Governors last night, the Governors agreed to allow me to consult with students, staff and parents about introducing tailored grey shorts as an additional optional item of uniform for students. Shorts would need to be grey, made of the same material as standard school trousers and feature a zip and button/clip at the top (please see image left as an example). Please note that moving to consultation does not mean shorts are now allowed – I will update you again after the consultation closes.

To share your thoughts please click the following link – this consultation closes on Friday 10th July at 3.15pm.

[Parent Survey: Optional Tailored Grey Shorts for School Uniform – Fill in form](#)

Conduct, language and punctuality

We expect all students to conduct themselves in a way that reflects our values at all times. This includes showing respect and kindness to others, following staff instructions promptly, attending lessons on time and engaging positively in their learning.

In a recent letter I made it absolutely clear that there is zero tolerance for swearing or the use of inappropriate language towards staff. Such behaviour undermines the respectful culture we are committed to maintaining and will be addressed firmly through immediate suspension.

We are also strengthening our expectations around punctuality to lessons. Students are expected to arrive on time, so they maximise their potential in each and every period. From September, once classroom doors are secured by our maglock system, any student arriving late without a pink slip (given to clarify a reasonable reason why they are late) will be recorded as **internally truanting** as they have made the decision to be late. This is a significant breach of our expectations and leads to a damaging loss of learning time whereby students enter a lesson in progress, disrupt it in doing so, and are already behind in their understanding - limiting their chance of succeeding in that lesson. Students who repeatedly engage in internal truancy will move through a new escalating series of sanctions, which in some cases will lead to immediate suspension.

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Please be reassured that all of the points in this letter are intended to further strengthen the culture of a school we are already proud of, and we thank the hundreds and hundreds of students who behave perfectly every day, are beautifully equipped and dressed and embody all we stand for as a school. I also thank the parents who back and support us in our role of helping young people mature, grow and take responsibility for their actions – I had some fantastic feedback in support of my swearing letter and the parental appetite for the phone free system we will implement in September is incredibly positive. Thank you for backing us in what we aim to achieve together on behalf of your children.

For the small minority of students who do not consistently meet our expectations, the message is very clear. The overwhelming majority of Malbank students meet these standards every day without issue, and all students are expected to do the same. Where individuals choose not to work with us, this may result in suspension and should it fail to improve – permanent exclusion as we will not compromise on these expectations.

We ask that you take a few moments to discuss these expectations with your child and support us in ensuring they attend each day prepared, punctual, polite, and ready to learn. Where support is needed with uniform or equipment, please do contact the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Harrison

Headteacher

Malbank School and 6th Form

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