



Dear Parent/Guardian,

In June of this year the Education Minister launched a public consultation seeking views on school uniform policy and stating that uniforms should be affordable, comfortable and sustainable.

In the consultation the Minister stated ... *'Ultimately my aim is to ensure we both respect the rights of schools to design uniforms that adequately reflect the ethos of their school, but also support parents in addressing the rising costs of school uniforms.'*

He also confirmed that school uniforms play an important part in:

- *the engagement of pupils with their school*
- *promoting a sense of identity, pride and unity*
- *supporting the ethos of the school*
- *ensuring that pupils from all backgrounds feel welcome*
- *protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way*
- *promoting good relations between different groups of pupils*
- *supporting the safe-guarding policy of a school, making it easier to identify any individuals who should not be on the premises*

The Board of Governors of Glenlola Collegiate also believes that uniform plays an important role within both the School and the wider community and sets out its rationale clearly in our *'Uniform Policy'* (available on the School website).

In recent years, the Board of Governors has conducted a thorough review of its Uniform Policy in order to **maximise affordability and cost-effectiveness for parents/guardians while retaining the known benefits of school uniform.**

Measures it has taken to achieve this are:

- *the 'New to you' service which provides the opportunity for parents/guardians to purchase nearly new items (including blazers) for no more than £5 per item*
- *a reduction of the number of compulsory school uniform items which parents/guardians need to buy*
- *the introduction of choice and flexibility for some items*
- *working with suppliers to ensure best value for money*

Following on from the work that the Board has done, I am writing to seek your views by asking you to complete a survey (link below).

<https://forms.office.com/e/8FaPTLH9D0>

### **Educating Girls in Bangor for over 125 Years**

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Headmaster: W E Thompson BSc MSc MEd PGCE PQH(NI)



**Glenlola  
Collegiate  
School  
Bangor**

I should be grateful if you would take the time to share your thoughts on this important issue by 4pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

In order to ensure that the survey responses are as representative of the parent body as possible, I urge you to participate.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

W E Thompson  
Headmaster

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