



## **Wesley College - New Uniform**

### **Q&A**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The design concepts of the new uniform aim to connect students with the traditions and history of Wesley whilst, at the same time, reflecting a modern, innovative, progressive school in contemporary 21st century Australia.

The current Wesley College uniform introduced in 1996 was designed more than 18 years ago by Prue Acton and, since then, only revisions to the cut and design of items have been made and more modern yarns and fabrics used. In considering our current academic and sport/performance uniform and potential scope for a new uniform, the College surveyed in excess of 1,800 members of our community between March and May 2013 including current and past students, parents and staff.

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments on the design and quality of both academic and sport/performance uniforms, what they like and dislike about the existing uniforms, what changes or additional items they would like to see and about the First Teams uniforms.

The full list of responses extended to over 400 pages of comments, with well over 1000 individual comments made in some areas.

In summary there was somewhat equal measure between overall satisfaction coupled to a desire for a number of specific improvement opportunities and an interest in exploring a new contemporary design.

During June/July 2013 the College released an Expression of Interest and Design Brief for a new Wesley College Uniform and subsequently appointed acclaimed Australian designer and Executive Designer for RM Williams, Jonathan Ward, of the Jonathan Ward Collective including Noone Imagewear (academic uniform) and Champion Teamwear (sport/performance uniform).

## **New Uniform - Q&A**

### ***Why is the school introducing a new uniform?***

The current Wesley College uniform, designed by Prue Acton is approaching two decades of age with the benefit of select minor enhancements over the years, particularly as regards the introduction of new yarns / materials.

Two decades on, Wesley is well due to revisit the question of what meets the contemporary requirements of the College and its students into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Reflecting an outstanding design response from the Jonathan Ward Collective, Wesley College is undertaking a complete change of academic and sport/performance uniforms specifically tailored for body shape for boys and girls rather than the existing unisex - there will be no element of the existing uniforms reused within the new design.

### ***What are the major differences between the current uniform and the proposed new design?***

The most defining point of difference with the new uniform is our choice of a deeper and richer purple (darker aubergine hue) and gold both enhanced by a more tailored elegant and classic design style for both girls and boys including the introduction of a fine pinstripe feature in the blazer, shirts, girls dress and skirt. Also reintroduced from our College uniform history is a darker charcoal for both boy's shorts and pants and girl's pants and skirts.

### ***What is the timeline for introduction?***

The new uniform for new students to the College will be available from October 2015 for the 2016 year (new uniform for existing students will be available from January 2016 for the 2016 year) through to complete change over across all year levels for the start of the 2018 school year – a three year period from notice to full changeover.

With notice of uniform change in late 2014 and availability of the new uniform for purchase from late 2015 for the 2016 year existing families are encouraged to balance uniform needs knowing the timing of the new uniform release in September/October 2015.

New students to the College in 2015 at any year level who will be required to purchase the current uniform will be assisted with the purchase of the new uniform by a \$500 tuition fee invoice credit spread evenly between the 1 April 2016 and 1 April 2017 invoices (a \$250 credit on each invoice).

### ***Do I need to purchase new uniforms for all my children eg I have a student in Year 11 in 2016 - they will only get two years use out of it?***

Existing students will change over during 2016-2017 enabling year 11 and 12 students in 2016 to complete with the current uniform.

The transition period of three years from notice to full changeover will enable uniform change to be somewhat aligned to the new clothes requirements for growing children while enabling Senior School students in year 11 in 2016 to complete their time at Wesley in the current uniform.

New students to the College from 2016 will be required to wear the full new uniform. The current uniform will be withdrawn from sale as both new and second hand from end 2015.

***Can my son/daughter keep wearing their current uniform?***

Yes they can but there is no mixing of the current and new uniform during the transition period - students must be in the full current uniform or the full new uniform.

All students will need to be in the full new uniform from the start of the 2018 year.

***Can new uniform be mixed with old uniform eg new blazer, old shirt and trousers?***

No - students MUST either wear the current full uniform or the new uniform, not a mix of both. This applies to both the academic and the sport/performance uniforms. Obviously, sporting teams, in particular First Teams will move to the new APS competition sport uniforms from start of 2016 to ensure consistent presentation of our APS competition teams.

***What will the cost be?***

Final pricing will be determined post manufacture and supply tenders (which will be released late 2014) by mid-2015 closer to the release date.

The College anticipates that new uniform pricing will closely align with the current uniform pricing.

***Are both the academic and sport uniform being replaced at the same time?***

Yes - as both the academic and sport/performance uniforms formed part of an integrated design process they will both be available for release late 2015 for 2016.

***Can parents give input into the final design?***

The design process has been informed by a comprehensive College wide survey during 2013 and overseen by a Steering Committee including multi campus / multi mini school representation along with select Members of Council and College Executive.

The new uniform presentation to our Wesley College Community will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of October where our community will be invited to provide comment and feedback prior to the finalisation of the proposed design for both the academic and sport/performance uniforms.

Wesley community comment and feedback on the new uniform is welcomed and should be directed to the College via the following email address:

[newuniform@wesleycollege.net](mailto:newuniform@wesleycollege.net)

***Are there fewer individual items in the new design?***

Yes – a key element of the design process was to rationalise clothing options, particularly across sport but also to introduce and formalise as part of the approved uniform select items widely sought by students and families (eg: all weather outdoor coat).