

7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to share our plans for a Cultural Dress Day on Thursday 17th October 2024, an initiative inspired by our Black Lives Matter Committee to raise awareness of the diverse cultures represented within our school community. This special day is a celebration of the unique backgrounds and traditions that make Haileybury Turnford such a vibrant and inclusive environment.

On this day, students are invited to wear traditional or cultural clothing that reflects their heritage. We encourage families to choose outfits that are respectful, appropriate for the school setting, and aligned with our school's ethos. Some examples of traditional dress might include:

Kente Cloth – a brightly colored, handwoven fabric traditionally worn by both men and women in Ghana

Dashiki – a colourful tunic commonly worn by men and women in West Africa.

Kaftan – a long, flowing robe worn by men and women across the Middle East, North Africa, and West Africa, adorned with intricate designs.

Sari – a traditional garment worn by women in India

Agbada – a wide-sleeved robe worn by men in West and North Africa

Sherwani – a coat-like garment worn in South Asia

Kilt – a knee-length skirt worn by men in the Scottish Highlands

Both students and staff are encouraged to participate in Cultural Dress Day, celebrating their culture through traditional attire. Please note, however, that this day is **not a non-uniform day**—only those wearing traditional cultural clothing may wear non-uniform. Casual clothing such as football jerseys, leggings, jeans, or t-shirts are not permitted. Students must still wear their school shoes, unless their shoes are part of their cultural dress, school lanyards and ID cards.

For students who will not wear traditional cultural clothing, they are expected to attend school in their full school uniform. This is not a day for wearing casual clothing, and students who are not in appropriate dress will be asked to return home and change into their uniform.

We appreciate your support in ensuring the success of Cultural Dress Day as a respectful and meaningful celebration of our diverse school community. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to contact a member of your pastoral team.

Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to a wonderful day of celebration.

Yours faithfully

**Mr D Zancan**

Teacher of Social Sciences & Personal Development and Community Coordinator

