

15th October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to share our plans for a **Cultural Dress Day** on **Thursday 23rd October 2025**, 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
- **Modern British cultural dress** – for example, costumes inspired by the 1960s “Mod” movement, 1970s disco style, or 1990s Britpop era

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 contact a member of your pastoral team.

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

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Goodes
Senior Vice Principal



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