



May 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES IN THE CDT WORKSHOPS

I am writing to advise you of our Health and Safety policy for all pupils who are working in our CDT workshops.

Following direction from Scottish Borders Council Health and Safety officers, we now require all pupils who are working in workshops to be wearing footwear which offers **protection over the whole of the both the top of the foot, as well as the sole**. This will ensure that the foot is given some protection should something be dropped onto it, or if something is stood on. **The vast majority of existing school shoes will be fine**. The main problem comes from “ballet” style shoes which have paper thin soles, and which barely cover the toes.

We do not expect pupils to wear recognised safety footwear, simply that the shoes they wear in the workshop cover the top of the foot and have some thickness and rigidity to the sole.

Pupils will be welcome to continue to wear their existing school shoes around the school, and bring a compliant pair to change into before they enter the workshop if they need to, however we will not be able to store these spare shoes between lessons.

The health and Safety officer indicated that trainers would be acceptable, so pupils will be welcome to wear their PE footwear, as long as they meet the standards set out above.

We have not made this change lightly, and I fully understand the fickle nature of young people and fashion. However this change is in response to a perceived safety risk, and safety must always be our number one concern. I have been advised that pupils, who do not come to class with the appropriate footwear, should not be allowed to take part in practical activities, and this will be enforced by the department.

I apologise for any inconvenience this causes you, but hope you can understand the thinking behind it. I also hope by sending this information out at this time, it will be able to help you in your planning for next term.

Thank you in advance for your understanding on this decision, and hope that you can help me to make the experience of all our pupils as safe as possible. Should you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to email me gw09woodcockneil@glow.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Neil Woodcock'.

Neil Woodcock
PT Technologies