



## **Sustainability first: pre-loved uniform shop opens at The Westgate School, Winchester**

**After operating out of cupboards and living rooms for years, a group of parent volunteers at the Westgate School, Winchester, is now opening a second-hand uniform shop on the school site. Its official opening will take place at The PSA Christmas Fair at 11am on Saturday 7th December, opened by our local MP, Dr Danny Chambers.**

The PSA uniform team has collected and sold pre-loved uniform across The Westgate School's primary and secondary phases for around five years. As awareness of this service grows and with the increased focus on Slow Fashion, the PSA worked with the school to identify a shop location and a permanent base for the uniform stock.

### **Caring for our planet, supporting our school**

"Children grow fast and as parents it can feel like we're buying larger sizes every term and clearing out our outgrown uniform to make space. Many of the donations we receive are in great condition and parents are very happy to be able to reduce textile waste and buy uniform at a reduced price. It's good for the planet, good for parents, and good for the whole school community as money raised is put back into the school through the PSA," says Jo Gibson, PSA uniform lead.

"I am delighted and impressed to see the dedication and commitment from this team. The uniform volunteers at The Westgate School have shown what can be done when people come together with a shared vision and commitment to supporting others," comments Danny Chambers MP.

The PSA uniform team, made up of parent volunteers, is dedicated to making second-hand uniform accessible to families through both online and table-top sales. It also provides uniform free of charge to those most in need, such as refugees and those suffering financial hardship.

Mrs Dean, Headteacher of The Westgate School, comments: "I am very grateful to our Parent & Staff Association – and in particular the pre-loved uniform team – for their ongoing support to our school community. Sustainability is one of the school's development objectives and this initiative demonstrates how everyone doing their bit paves the way towards our long-term social and environmental responsibility goals."

The Westgate School Parent & Staff Association raises funds to support pupil learning and wellbeing across both Primary and Secondary phases, and its recent fundraising activity has provided funding for a 3D printer, playground equipment, musical instruments, and author visits.

