

Name: Julian Dawson

My socks are sweaty inside my shoes. My toes squirm around in my socks. It's almost like I'd just jumped in a puddle, but this puddle was a puddle of sweat. I itch my neck as my shirt scratches along the hairs on my skin. My pants are too big and I don't like the colour. We have to wear ties that we need to retie every morning. Our jumpers are made of wool, but it means you have to constantly itch and readjust your cuffs. Well, I think the days of scratchy, big and ugly school uniforms are well and truly over. We need to step out of the old days and start to encourage free thinking from students.

My first point is trusted sources have proven you perform better in tests, examinations and academics if you are wearing clothes you choose, and wearing clothes that you find comfortable. The trusted journal *Social Psychological and Personality Science* conducted a 2015 study on just that, on 60 undergraduates in America with five experiments. The students wrote how they thought if they looked better or worse compared to the average American, then answered

Name:

a ten-question survey, with non-academic questions. One was concrete and the other was abstract. The example question reads as follows: "Voting is best described as:" followed by either the abstract "influencing the election" or the concrete "marking a ballot". The results were surprising. Students who wore their normal uniforms were more likely to choose abstract options; and on the other hand, students wearing casual clothes ^{like T-shirts, thongs and tracksuit pants -} were more likely to choose concrete options.

Next, when you have breaks or you have Physical Education, the uniform is super restrictive and is not at all comfortable. Also, most private schools have two separate uniforms, one for days including sports training and PE, and a formal uniform for every other day. But if schools welcome casual clothes, you won't have to worry about two different uniforms. You can be in unrestrictive and comfortable clothing all day. This will also make it more flexible for teachers changing around PE lessons to fit their needs.

Finally, we're all about creativity and ^{teachers} telling students to be creative, and be who they want to be. They talk about it constantly and frequently, yet the school won't back it up.

Name:

If you want to encourage creativity and free thinking, let students choose which clothing they would like to wear.

I do get what some schools arguments would be. They want to keep class in their school, keep a tradition which has been going since the beginning of schools in Australia. I am suggesting a model which I hope and think all schools will like. You could change school rules to only wearing 'uniform' during prestigious school events, like for private school intercollegiates, Chapel and maybe Assembly services, ANZAC and Remembrance Day services and formal presentations like valadictory days.

So, in conclusion, school uniforms are ugly, uncomfortable and sometimes suggestively make you perform worse. It will make PE teachers and class teachers have the ability to be more flexible with changing lesson times. But with my model, if schools would like to retain class and keep life long traditions, then you can wear school uniforms where and when the school deems it necessary.