

The *Style* Clinic

Key Wardrobe Pieces for Essential Chic



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This is the time of year for browsing through the new magazines with a cup of coffee and anticipating the Spring fashions. Eagerly awaited after a long and cold winter, the energising colours and fabrics uplift the mood and enhance positivity.

This month, The Style Clinic is looking at the key wardrobe pieces for essential chic. Every woman, whatever her lifestyle, needs outfits for certain occasions – a lunch with friends, a job interview or meeting, a date (or romantic dinner), a black tie event. With some classic staples in your wardrobe, you can solve the 'what shall I wear' dilemma that has plagued us over the years and you can look chic and glamorous every day. Add some pieces from the new season and your look will be complete.

The Trench Coat

A brilliant trans-seasonal piece, the trench coat is indispensable. It has the ability to look both under-stated and sexy and there is a shade and a cut to suit every lifestyle.

Wear it with the belt tied to emphasise the waist and give it a more edgy look. If you don't want to draw attention to the waist, tie the belt at the back.

Ensure the fit is perfect and always go for the best you can afford and look out for details that enhance – epaulettes are great if you have narrow shoulders for example.

Celebrate the new season and discover trench coats with leather or fabric sleeves.

Check out Burberry's made to order range where you choose the style, colour and lining.

The possibilities are endless.



Burberry Trench

The White Shirt

A white shirt looks effortlessly stylish. It lightens and brightens the complexion and can be dressed up or down. Choose a shirt that suits your style and personality – sharp and crisp for a classic look and detail such as oversized cuffs to add individuality or ruffles for femininity.

Shirts in fitted or semi-fitted shapes (lycra is a good addition) will be universally flattering but ensure that it fits properly on the shoulders and bust – it shouldn't gape.

Wear with a couple of buttons undone to reveal a hint of décolletage. Again, look for detail and styling – the choice is limitless.

Trousers

Another vital wardrobe staple – the perfect trousers do exist but you need



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to try different shapes to find the right ones for you. Follow a few basic rules and the task will become easier. Avoiding detail and pockets and having one lean column of colour is instantly lengthening and flattering for most of us. Length is crucial - if you want to make your legs appear longer then ensure the trouser breaks onto your shoe and that there is no more than a finger width between the floor and the hem.

Dress up for a more glamorous or formal look with wedges or heels or wear with white plimsolls or converse trainers for a more casual look. Ring the changes this season and wear a pair of coloured trousers as a nod to the colour-block vibe pair with your white shirt if too much colour feels scary.

The LBD

The LBD is still a favourite - the right style can make you feel chic, glamorous, slim and sexy and it's a great canvas for adding your own signature with some statement

jewellery and accessories, an oversized clutch bag and some heels will transform the look. Choose a wrap style if you have curves, the drapey fabric will flatter and skim and the lower neckline will enhance your cleavage.

A sheath dress looks sophisticated and chic but is better suited to leaner women.

The Cardigan

Great for wearing with wide legged trousers or a dress for a classic look or with skinny jeans for a more relaxed approach, the cardigan is a vital garment especially for trans- seasonal wear and our cooler summer days. A cashmere cardigan adds a much admired touch of luxury. Wear with a gorgeous silk evening skirt for a stylish and enviable look. Colour will be everywhere this season so go for it!

I shall be putting all this into practice and more at a workshop at The Greenhouse at Holloways of Suckley on February 10th so join me there!



Email events@holloways.co.uk for more information



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