

25 February 2015



Dear Parents/Carers

### **School Funding**

We have received the information that follows from the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) which explains to parents the financial pressures that schools and colleges are facing in their planning for next academic year.

School funding for 5-16 year olds has been protected over the duration of the current parliament but at a 'flat cash level' which has meant that the funding rate per pupil has remained static and has not kept pace with general inflation and pay rises.

There are further and very significant rises in costs for the coming academic year which will make it extremely difficult for schools to retain their current level of provision. From September this year there is an increase of 2.38% in the amount that schools must pay towards the pensions of the teachers they employ. From April 2016 an increase of 3.4% in the employers' National Insurance contribution will mean schools having to find around an additional £1,100 for each teacher they employ and slightly less for each other member of staff. On top of this, schools will need to fund the agreed pay rises for teachers and other staff. ASCL calculates that these increases will add just over 4% to what it costs us to run a school. Schools that are academies are also facing a funding cut with a reduction in their Education Support Grant of £53 per pupil. The impact of these financial constraints is most likely to reduce the opportunities schools are able to offer their students.

We have calculated that we will have to make savings of around £232,000 from the current funding levels in order to maintain a balanced budget. This is clearly very challenging for us, but we are looking at areas where savings can be made and further income can be generated.

If you have any questions or concerns about the funding situation we face, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher

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