



Trinity School

A Church of England
Academy

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Sheila Johnston and Derek Kay
Co-Headteachers

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: School Funding

There has been much in the news recently about school funding, both locally and nationally; we wanted to write to you to provide an update on how the pressures faced nationally in relation to school funding are affecting Trinity School.

Although the Department for Education tells us that there is more money spent on education in England than ever before, we have seen a steady reduction in our funding over the last six years and this has been very challenging. In the academic year 2012-13 Trinity received £5,691 total funding per student in the 11-16 school and £4,633 per student in the Sixth Form. In the current academic year, 2018-19, we received £4,721 per 11-16 school student and £3,989 per Sixth Form student. That is a reduction of £970 per 11-16 student (and we have 1400) and £644 per Sixth Form student (and we have 300).

At the same time as this reduction in funding there have been significant cost increases, as well as inflationary pressures. To give just a flavour of these, schools have been given no extra funding for pay rises decided nationally; a 1% rise adds in the region of £60,000 a year to our costs. Increased pension contributions have added £98,000 a year to our staffing budget; increased National Insurance contributions another £100,000 a year. There has been no additional funding allocated to schools to cover any of these. At the same time there are increased demands on our budget as we seek to provide effective pastoral care to support children's emotional health and wellbeing against a backdrop of severe cuts to Local Authority provision.

Like other schools locally and nationally we have had to reduce costs just to stand still. That has meant a reduction in staffing, fewer resources for our students and the inability to offer the full range of courses that we used to run. In 2012-13 we had 101 full time equivalent teaching staff; in the current year we have 88 and this will fall to 85.6 in September. We have 200 students more now than in 2012-13 yet have 13 fewer teaching staff to work with them. This has meant increased class sizes at all key stages which makes it more difficult to support students' individual needs. We have, of course, ensured that we are as efficient as it is possible to be in managing all non-staffing costs. This situation is not unique to us; you will be aware from press coverage that this, and more, is happening in schools across the country.

We strive to use the resources we have in the best interests of our students but are acutely aware that it is becoming more and more difficult to deliver the level of provision and support that our students and their families deserve. We have written letters to politicians locally and nationally and will meet our local MP again in the coming weeks to argue the case for additional funding for schools, for the benefit of the students in our care. The funding situation in schools is serious and cannot go on.

You will know that it is rare for us to write a letter such as this but we felt it was important that parents and carers understand the impact the current situation is having on our school. Headteachers nationally are campaigning for a better deal for schools when future spending plans are drawn up in the Comprehensive Spending Review over the coming months. We encourage you, if you feel able to do so, to make representations to our local MP, and the wider government too, to help ensure that matters improve.

Your sincerely

D Brian Armstrong
Chair of Governors

Sheila Johnston
Co-Headteacher

Derek R Kay
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