



Heathfield

Community College and Sixth Form

Pride . Ambition . Community

9 July 2018

BLW/cab

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you with an update, as we come towards the end of the year, on the East Sussex Schools Funding campaign. I hope you will have seen that we have continued throughout the year to push for a better solution for our students and staff based on fair and adequate funding for schools. Whilst there are clearly many demands on the country's limited funds and many competing issues for attention in the news, school funding and the lack of it has significant lasting impact that we know matters greatly to our parents and community.

You may be aware that on 15 May 2018 six Headteachers and representatives from the Local Authority went to Westminster to visit the constituency MPs. The main purpose of this meeting was to try and increase understanding about why the apparent additional funding and the Funding Formula had not delivered the anticipated boost for East Sussex students.

The Headteachers spelt out six main areas where effective pressure could be brought to bear on either the Department for Education or the Treasury, or both!

- The need for any further teaching and support staff pay rises to be funded outside of the current schools' budget.
- A need for far fewer individual "projects" with time consuming bidding processes, but instead all available funding to enhance basic school funding for all schools.
- A need for a review of SEND funding.
- A review of 6th Form funding.
- A full review of capital funding would ensure the condition of the school estate and our buildings is able to be improved and maintained going forward.
- A review of the apprenticeship levy.

There is a growing acceptance that the National Funding Formula has not done the job it was meant to do for a number of East Sussex schools, there is an awareness that even with a potential maximum increase in funding of 3%, rising costs are far outstripping this and in some cases leaving schools worse off.



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Headteacher: Ms Caroline Barlow B.A. (Hons)

At this time of year the decisions around recommendations for teachers pay awards are made. There is a growing lobby, in line with our points above, that any additional increase must be met outside existing school budgets. We all want to give our teachers better reward for the job they do with our young people and make it an attractive career for young people in the future but without the additional funds any increase will inevitably lead to job losses.

Some reports suggest the Department for Education are starting to put pressure on the Treasury around this issue. If parents and carers wanted to continue their active support then a meaningful dialogue with constituency MPs to encourage them to lobby, as they assured us they would, on this topic would be most timely. We would not wish for them to feel that our attention has been distracted elsewhere at this time!

Particularly at this time of year we are grateful for the support that parents give to our teachers; the appreciation you show for the work they do with our young people is highly valued. We will continue to do the very best we can for our students, ensuring they are well cared for, happy and able to achieve highly. We are proud of what we are able to achieve together as a positive community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Barlow', written in a cursive style.

MS C BARLOW
Headteacher