



Budget Pressures

17th May 2017

Dear parents,

As you will be aware from recent press articles and letters we have sent home to you, the education system is under enormous financial pressures. Here at Ocklynge we are feeling these pressures more keenly than at first expected. Our budget settlement for the financial year 2017/18 was approximately £85000 short of the expected figure.

As a consequence of this shortfall we have had to amend our planned future developments and redirect some of our resources to basic needs. I have detailed some of these effects below.

Firstly, we will be unable to reduce our class sizes in years 5 & 6 next year as we are unable to employ additional teachers. Further we will have to redeploy our additional maths teachers back into class as class teachers. This will mean that from September 2017 we will be unable to run Pentagon groups in any of our year groups. Instead all class teachers will teach their own class maths through detailed and differentiated quality first teaching.

Another effect of our funding shortfall is that we will be unable to continue our classroom refurbishment to the same extent as last year. Other options are currently being considered.

Our annual spend on curriculum areas and resources has also had to be dramatically reduced. We will be prioritising the curriculum subjects for development this year and purchasing minimal curriculum resources in order to be able to afford basic general stock etc. A further impact of this curriculum squeeze on funding is that we will need to adjust and think differently about our events and visitors. This may mean that we have to request slightly increased financial contributions from you towards our learning adventure starters and fabulous finishes. We will also need to start charging minimal amounts for concerts and performance tickets. It is with great regret that we find ourselves having to make these additional requests but we must in order to maintain the quality of the curriculum we currently deliver.

Finally, I would like to make it very clear that the issues we face are completely unrelated to our Ofsted inspection, judgement grading or academy conversion. The cause is a shortfall in schools funding for all, but particularly schools in East Sussex.

I would welcome any thoughts or ideas from you that will help us alleviate the situation. I will keep you fully updated with any further developments.

On a more positive note, I will be writing to you later in the week to tell you of the astonishing work of our Friends of Ocklynge School (PTFA). Please look out for that letter.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Reynard

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