



23 March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have seen and heard extensive coverage of the financial crisis affecting most schools in England. Whilst the Government has increased overall funding for schools, rising costs have meant that schools are experiencing a *reduction* in funding in real terms.

Along with all schools in Poole, St Edward's had high hopes that the Government's Fairer Funding Formula would result in financial gains; however these are far lower than anticipated, and do not help us to fully meet rising costs. Added to this, the school has to pay the new Apprenticeship Levy; and the Local Authority has top-sliced our budget in order to recoup their own losses arising from the Government's withdrawal of the Educational Services Grant (ESG) for statutory duties. In total we calculate that we will lose around £300 per student going forwards.

On top of the withdrawal of funding, and rising costs already mentioned, we face increased costs of staff recruitment, which is a countrywide issue; increased costs of supply teachers, and increased costs of the changing curriculum from Year 7 to 13, in every subject. Finally, schools are increasingly having to support the mental health of children, the decline in which is another urgent National concern, and the provision for which, beyond schools, is scarce. St Edward's along with all schools recognises that public services need to shoulder their fair share of the burden of public debt; and with cuts come limitations on what we can do or provide.

We are currently working hard to make efficiency savings wherever possible in order to continue to flourish as a school. With such a reduction in our financial income, we will need to preserve our core focus on teaching and learning, but there may be restrictions upon wider opportunities and facilities that we can offer our students.

I will update you later in the year, as the way forward becomes clearer; but in the meantime I am asking for your understanding and support. You may like to register your concerns about school funding with the Secretary of State, Justine Greening, and your local MP, asking them to consider an urgent solution to investigate the impact of the present crisis on our schools.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Antram
Headteacher