

26 September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Mass Headteacher Action – 28 September 2018**

Further to my letter of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017, I am making contact to let you know that on Friday 28 September, I will be supporting hundreds of other Headteachers from across the country in support of a mass event intended to gain much improved funding for all schools. I am not taking a day out of school for this, but will be writing to the Prime Minister expressing my support.

Headteachers will have the full support of their Governing Bodies/Trusts as we continue to champion the best possible funding for all our schools. You will be aware of the challenges that schools up and down the country are facing. A mixture of rising costs and stresses on other support services has meant that for many years we have been being asked “to do more with less”.

Under a challenging period of austerity for the Government we understand that there is not a bottomless pit of money. Accordingly, schools have played their part to work even harder and with greater efficiency on behalf of the children and families that we serve.

It is clear to all Headteachers, however, that matters are unsustainable. Frequently, we do not have enough money to meet the demands placed on our schools. On the ground, services and resources are cut to the bone and class sizes are increasing. At times, some schools are even having to prop up their budgets with monies that should be targeted at those students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, or those that have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND); although thus far we have been able to avoid doing so at St. Edward’s school.

Under the umbrella of the campaign group ‘Worth Less?’ Headteachers have shone a light on the funding difficulties that we are facing. We acknowledge that the Government should be given credit for introducing a new National Funding Formula. Unfortunately, however, the formula itself is not adequately resourced/funded and therefore our budgets remain in an unacceptably poor state.

In July, the Institute for Fiscal Studies echoed what we have been saying for a long time and confirmed that, in real terms, school budgets have been slashed by 8% since 2010.

<https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/13143>

It is simply not good enough for the Government to state that “more money is spent on schools than ever before”, when independent evidence clearly states that in real terms, this is simply not the case. Headteachers will be petitioning at Downing Street to insist that the chancellor and his colleagues at the Department for Education use the upcoming autumn statement to invest properly in our schools and your child’s education. Many of the real terms cuts to our budgets should be reversed and urgent investment is required for SEND and post-16 budgets.

The support that schools have enjoyed from parents and carers has been very welcome and I will continue to update you on the funding picture for schools.  
Yours faithfully,

Mr M Antram  
Headteacher