



TO CARE
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BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL
A Specialist Business and Enterprise College
with Applied Learning

Dear Parent / Guardian

Headteacher: Mrs H J Phillips

National School Funding Issues

I want to provide you with an update on current issues relating to school funding.

As you will have seen in the news, despite intense lobbying of the Government and Department for Education, schools are still not being provided with adequate funding and resources to deliver the level of provision and support that is expected and that our families and children deserve.

Current Concerns

- Since 2010 school budgets have been reduced in real terms by 8%.
- Increasingly, schools are being asked to support with children's emotional health and wellbeing. Frequently, we do not have adequate resources to meet a growing need.
- Often, the most vulnerable students in our schools – those from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – are bearing the brunt of cuts and schools are struggling to provide the levels of support that they need.

These issues are affecting all schools. They are common features across our education system up and down the country. Levels of concern are so widespread amongst headteachers that we are all working together with a united voice.

In September 2018, over 2000 headteachers campaigned at Westminster in order to underline the seriousness of the current situation. This action was unprecedented.

We continue to recognise that there is not a 'bottomless pit' of money and also acknowledge that many local MPs from across the political spectrum are taking a supportive approach. We must make clear, however, that the current response from the Department for Education is inadequate.

Why we need to meet the Secretary of State for Education to discuss the issues

- Headteachers want to contribute constructively to overcome current funding issues.
- Headteachers want to reflect the serious concerns expressed by families regarding inadequate levels of resources and provision especially for our most vulnerable students.
- Headteachers want to ensure that schools receive a much better deal when future Government spending plans – the Comprehensive Spending Review - are drawn up over the next few months.
- Headteachers want to indicate serious and rising concerns relating to the wider pastoral and social care that schools are expected, by default, to provide against a background of severe cuts to Local Authority provision.

Headteacher colleagues and I, feel fortunate that we have been so strongly supported by parents and guardians as we campaign for a much improved level of funding for our schools and students. We urge you to continue to make representations to your local MP and to the Department for Education and wider Government to ensure that matters improve.

Yours faithfully

Mrs H J Phillips
Headteacher

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