



HEADTEACHER

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Dear Parents and Carers

LATYMER STANDARDS FUND

The Latymer Standards Fund was launched in September 1998 to deal with an immediate shortfall in funds caused by the loss of Grant Maintained School status, a national change, and thereafter to provide a buffer to reduce the impact on standards of cyclical variations in government funding for schools. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from parents and carers since starting of the Fund; this is to update you on the use made of donations so far and to offer some thoughts about the future.

Initially the Standards Fund was used to cope with the loss of public funding. However, between 1999 and 2011 this Fund has also been used to support major projects such as upgrades to the sixth form social and study accommodation and refurbishments to boys' and girls' changing rooms. Significant funds were also used towards the costs of transforming one of the gymnasia, no longer needed, into a high-specification multi-purpose studio, commissioned in 2010 and now called the Seward Studio.

The current government pledged that revenue spending on schools would remain cash-neutral. In one sense, this pledge has been kept, but funding for sixth formers has been cut drastically. Schools, according to the Department of Education terminology, finish at age 16, so funding for sixth formers educated in schools will be brought down over three years to the level of funding for students of that age in colleges and other institutions. This reduction in income will be painful. We are certain to lose a minimum of £300,000 per annum in 6th form funding and £150,000 per annum in capital funding. Despite these restrictions, we aim, as ever, to provide a first class education and the support of the Standards Fund is critical to our ability to maintain standards, as we understand them.

There are no plans for a major capital project over the next few years but we do intend to resurface the playground, further improve the library, refashion the 'concert entrance', and renew the Small Hall lighting.

The governing body very much appreciate parental contributions to the Standards Fund over the past twelve years. These gifts have had a significant impact on the maintenance of standards at Latymer. The funding challenges are increasing in the short term.

If you would like further information, please contact Niki Aresti in the Development Office.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher