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# THE LATYMER SCHOOL

Founded 1624

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Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

## THE FUNDING OF THE LATYMER SCHOOL

### AN EXTRA – ORDINARY MEETING FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

### WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER IN THE GREAT HALL AT 7PM

You may be aware, as it has been well reported, that many schools are facing financial difficulty as a result of significant changes in government funding coupled with increased costs.

Latymer is one such school and we are now facing a very significant financial shortfall. We are looking for your help to alleviate the impact of this on your child's education by helping us to reduce the budget deficit which is currently £400,000 each year.

This has arisen because even though various governments have claimed they have protected education funding; they have not publicised that between 2012/13 and 2016/17:

- Post-16 or Sixth Form funding has dropped and in Latymer's case has decreased by in excess of £300,000 a year and
- We now have to pay for significant increases in employers' contributions for National Insurance, teachers' pensions and government directed pay increases without any additional funding and these account for an increase of over £450,000 per annum.

We are aware that more changes in the financing of schools are planned and that these may disadvantage schools like ours. These include the funding arrangements for voluntary aided schools construction, repair and maintenance costs and the development of a new national funding formula for schools.

Our efforts to date have reduced the potential deficit from over £750,000pa to the current level of £400,000pa and The Latymer Foundation is providing support to cover this deficit in the current year. However, this level of subsidy is not sustainable and we are therefore faced with the need to increase our income and/or cut costs even further.

We know that if we do not get additional funding in the short term we will be forced to make significant changes in the provision for our students.

This could mean bigger classes at GCSE and A Level, a more limited subject choice at GCSE and A level, restrictions on the availability of all kinds of resources and support for teaching and learning, a reduction in curriculum related visits and activities and the loss of some of our outstanding staff. It could also result in a reduction in extra-curricular activities including the opportunity to experience the outdoor life at Cwm.

We are striving to maintain the outstanding provision that has been a characteristic of our school over many years. The Senior Leadership of the school, the Governing Body and the Trustees have looked at ways of managing this reduction in income and increased costs. We have increased the annual intake of students, reviewed ways of working and increased efficiency across all aspects of school life. We continue



"Latymer is an **outstanding** school that provides an excellent all-round education for all of its students."

to scrutinise all school activities and use of resources for further savings. We have researched the way other neighbouring schools are dealing with the issues.

A meeting is being held at the school on **Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September** in The Great Hall at **7pm** when representatives of the Governing Body, The Latymer Foundation and School Senior Leadership Team will be present and you will hear more about the issues and strategies outlined above and have the opportunity to raise any questions and perhaps suggest ideas for the school to explore.

If you would like to attend and do have questions it would be helpful if you could email these to the head teacher at [campaign@latymer.co.uk](mailto:campaign@latymer.co.uk) by **Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016** in order to ensure all queries are addressed at the meeting and to make the best use of time.

We are grateful to the many parents who already make regular generous donations to the Standards Fund. Fund raising for the Latymer Standards Fund is a rolling programme and each year we invite all new Year 7 and Year 12 parents to contribute to the fund. Parents with more than one child at the school are contacted again as their next child enters the school. Some parents, already contributing to the Standards Fund make further payments for a second or third child. We are now appealing to **all** parents and carers of current students to support the school either by making a new or increasing an existing voluntary regular donation.

Typically, the amount you would pledge would be between £30 – 50 per month (£360/600 per annum) over the period your child attends Latymer. This averages out at between £1.89 and £3.15 per school day and is considerably less than the average fees of an Independent school. Donations made under the Gift Aid scheme, where a Gift Aid Declaration is also completed at the time of donating, will allow the school to reclaim an additional 25% from HM Revenue and Customs at no extra cost to you. In addition, any higher rate taxpayers can recover 15% of the gross donation on their tax returns.

Please find enclosed the necessary forms for making the above-mentioned donation. We should be grateful if you would kindly complete and return these as soon as possible to the Campaign Office at the school.

We regret having to write asking for further support but like many other schools, and as a result of external factors, Latymer finds itself in an extremely difficult financial situation. With your support we will all work to maintain the current standard of education and the school's heritage and tradition of success.

Many thanks in anticipation of your assistance.

Yours faithfully



Maureen Cobbett  
Headteacher



Jackie Hardie  
Chair of Governing Body  
The Latymer School



Ian Pilsworth  
Chair of Trustees  
The Latymer Foundation

Reply Slip: Please return to The Latymer School Office or email to [campaign@latymer.co.uk](mailto:campaign@latymer.co.uk):

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WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER IN THE GREAT HALL AT 7PM**

I have read the letter relating to the current financial situation of the school.

I \*do / do not plan to attend the meeting for parents on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in The Great Hall.

Name (capital letters please): .....

Parent of (capital letters please): ..... Form: .....

\* Please indicate if more than one parent plans to attend: .....

My/Our question is: .....

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