



2 April 2009

Dear Parents

SCHOOL FUNDING CUTS
PLEASE SUPPORT US BY WRITING TO YOUR MP & THE MINISTER OF STATE

I regret the need to write to you requesting your support in light of a serious concern with regard to the allocation of funding for the education of 16-19 year olds in the region.

Schools across Hertfordshire received an email on 31 March 2009 which informed us of a significant cut in our budgets, ranging from £30,000 to £110,000. This cut took place in spite of alternate figures being supplied to schools first in January, and then again early in March, which indicated higher budget levels. All Headteachers and Governors have been working hard to accommodate the cuts that were already in the pipeline of just above 1% a year for the last 2 years. In light of this very late cut (the new budget year for schools commences on 1 April), we will find this extremely difficult to manage without a significant impact on students' learning.

Whilst recognising the current national financial crisis what has particularly caused distress in schools is the very late timing and therefore the lack of opportunity to manage the necessary reduction. Schools had been promised a 3-year budget cycle, to enable stability for children's education. The Local Authority were not consulted or given any warning to allow them to respond or support schools. We are seeking your support in writing both to your MP, and to the Secretary of State, addresses for whom are listed overleaf.

All secondary schools in Hertfordshire are writing to parents, and to their MPs and Ministers, to request a reversal of this last-minute cut in funding, which may be necessary in future years but which should be planned. Schools need time to make adjustments to staffing and other budgets to minimise the potential damage to children's learning. We would be extremely grateful if you could please take the time to write, outlining your concerns. It is particularly powerful if you write a personal letter so that the Secretary of State recognises the depth of concern.

Yours sincerely

Helen Hyde
Headmistress

Percy McCloskey
Chair of Governors





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Rt Hon Ed Balls MP
Minister of State for Children Schools & Families

Rt Hon Jim Knight MP
Secretary of State for Schools & Learners

Ms Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Schools & Learners

Department for Children, Schools and Families
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Ms Claire Ward MP (Watford)
Labour

Mr David Gauke MP (South West Herts)
Conservative

Mr James Clappison MP (Hertsmere)
Conservative

Ms Anne Main MP (St Albans)
Conservative

House of Commons
London
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