



Arthur Mellows Village College

Graded Outstanding consecutively by Ofsted (November 2009 and December 2014)

"Constant improvement provides students with outstanding opportunities to learn"

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Head of College: Mr M Sandeman BSc (Eng) PGCE (Science)

MSA/dsa/lets/funding

April 2017

Dear Parents

SCHOOL FUNDING CHANGES AND EFFECTS ON LATE AFTER SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORT

You may have seen or read about the ongoing situation with national school funding in the news recently so I am writing to update you on how these issues impact upon our school.

- The government are looking to change the way that money will be allocated per pupil (this is the new National Funding Formula (NFF)). The NFF aims to spread funds more evenly regardless of geographical location. Whilst we agree that this is a fairer way to fund schools, what is clear is that the Government does not have enough money in the system for this to happen without many schools losing out.
- Although Peterborough as a whole is designated to receive a predicted increase of 2.2%, the amount that Arthur Mellows will receive in cash terms, as a result of the NFF, is forecast to reduce by £50,000 per annum. This is in the context of a funding formula where other schools already receive up to £1,500 per pupil more than we receive for our students. At this stage the Government is under pressure to reconsider the new formula based upon concerns raised about its effect across the country.
- The College's costs are going up; National Insurance and pension contributions have added 8% to our staffing budget. Utilities and services have all increased significantly. From April 2017, all schools will have to pay a 0.5% Apprenticeship levy.

To respond to the funding crisis, we have had to look carefully at our expenditure. We are already a very efficient school, as recognised by national benchmarking data, so it is not possible to make further savings without affecting the service we provide to students and parents. As a result, and with regret, I must inform you that from September we will not be able to afford to run the late bus that runs on a Tuesday at 4.30 pm and, therefore, students attending after school clubs on that day will have to make their own arrangements to get home. This could be using public transport, riding bikes or organising lift shares with other students.

The other major impact will be on the range of subjects we can offer at GCSE. Going forward we will not be able to sustain options in Year 10 when only a few students choose a subject. This means that a small number of students in Year 9 who have recently been choosing options may not get their first choice.

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Head of College: M Sandeman

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Registered office: Helpston Road, Glinton, Peterborough, PE6 7JX



Partner School with
Cambridge University



naceo
National Association for
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Challenge Award
FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROVISION FOR
ABLE, GIFTED & TALENTED PUPILS



Specialist
Technology College



Other cost saving areas being considered could include:

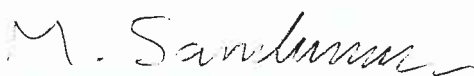
- Larger average class sizes at Key Stage 4
- After school activities
- Holiday revision sessions
- Wider student support services
- Staffing and senior management capacity
- The range of non-statutory support for SEN students
- Fee to be charged for administration of Work Experience

As you can see, the school is facing significant financial challenges and I wanted to share this with you so that you begin to understand why things will inevitably have to change as a result of this. I will of course be working with Governors to ensure we do whatever we can to limit the worst effects of the cuts. Gilmour McLaren, Chair of Governors, and myself have already met with the Schools Minister, Nick Gibb to raise our concerns in person, so that he is aware of the negative impact such cuts will have on Arthur Mellows. I would also encourage you to get in touch with your local MP who has expressed support for the College, to ask him to continue his challenge on behalf of schools in the area.

You can also find more information at www.fairfundingforallschools.org - a parent-led website.

I am sorry if this letter makes for some difficult reading however I feel it is important to let you know of the challenges we are facing at the College with regards to funding so you can better understand what is happening. As the Headteacher of a school which has an extremely strong track record of success, I can reassure you that we will do all we can to mitigate the effect on student outcomes.

Yours sincerely



MR M SANDEMAN
Head of College