



High Street
Arlesey
Beds
SG15 6SL
Tel: 01462 732002
Fax: 01462 733249

Email: gothicmede-info@bestacademies.org.uk

Pride in ourselves, pride in our school, pride in our Community.

26th April 2017

Dear Parent or Carer,

School Funding

I am writing to you on behalf of the Governing Body of Gothic Mede Academy, as you may have seen a number of stories in the press around school funding. There have been worrying headlines and we felt it important that we let you know, as far as we are able to at this stage, how this will affect our school and to reassure you that the quality of teaching is at the forefront of our approach.

All schools nationally are facing detrimental changes to their funding and Gothic Mede Academy is no exception. We have been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions having to be made, including around staffing and how we buy in activities to extend the curriculum. Whilst it may be widely reported that there is more money in the education system than ever before, this is simply down to the increase in children in the system. In reality many schools, including our own, are now facing budget reductions.

Schools continue to be expected to absorb additional costs, despite reduced income streams. Since 2012, schools have been faced with these rising costs but with no extra money.

- 2.3% increase in teachers' pension employer contribution costs
- 3.4% increase in National Insurance contributions from April 2016
- 4% teacher salary increases (1% annually)
- new courses and resources costs as a result of the change in the National Curriculum in 2014 and changing expectations at key assessment points throughout the school, with associated costs for staff training.

For 2017/18, the above are combined with:

- A reduction by 50% of the Education Services Grant (this is additional funding that academies and local authorities receive for centrally provided services such as human resources, school improvement and education welfare services).

The intrinsic core values which run like a backbone through each classroom and corridor of Gothic Mede exist because we aim to ensure that every child is supported effectively in both their learning and their own personal development. The staff team work tirelessly to create opportunities for pupils to find a time and space in which to build relationships with others, develop a talent and learn how best to express themselves, their strengths and struggles. We have tried our best in recent times to ensure that staffing levels are sufficient to maintain this level of provision for each pupil.

Although we may receive some additional funding that we can use for capital projects (such as building and improvements) the budget for these day to day resources remains under threat. It is because of our concern that parts of our provision are under threat that we are writing so that you may understand that, without improvement in this situation, additional time, resources, support and interventions for children may no longer be available; we may no longer have the resources to deliver them.

The welfare of the children is our central concern and every individual staff member in our school will remain utterly dedicated to your children, to ensuring they are happy and they succeed. However, we do need to let you know about the realities that we are facing. More information about school funding can be found by searching for 'Fairer school funding' online or by visiting the letters page on our website.

Steve Stanbury
Chair of the Local Governing Body

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Vice Principal: Nicola Davis
Chair of Governors: Steve Stanbury

