



31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

### **School Funding in Schools and Academies**

In line with all Hertfordshire Headteachers, I am writing to you on behalf of the staff and Governors of our school.

As we are sure you are aware given recent press and news coverage, many schools nationally are facing a funding crisis. This could mean larger classes, staffing reductions and significantly reduced opportunities for students across the education sector.

At Goffs, as a result of strong financial discipline within a forecast five year financial plan, we have the reassurance of a very solid financial surplus which will continue to protect the school from the worst impact of these cuts in the immediate future. However, if the national funding cuts continue as they are currently, with no additional money coming into the sector, that surplus is not going to be able to buffer our school long term. As one example, our review of the funding we have been allocated for 17/18 highlights:

- A reduction in Lower School funding of £33,000
- A reduction in Sixth Form funding of £24,000
- With the introduction of the much talked about National Funding Formula, our school is projected to lose c. £103,000 over 3 years

As I note above, we are in the very fortunate position of being able to weather this in the short term. Such deep reductions in funding are, however, unsustainable long term as they would be for any organisation.

We have now faced several years of ongoing budget reductions. The Government would have you believe otherwise – they say school funding is protected and that there is more money in the education system than ever before; which there is, for the simple reason that there are more children in the system. The truth for our schools is that we are receiving the same amount per student for an 11-16 year old as we have done for a number of years – the so called ‘flat cash settlement’, whilst the costs of running our schools has been rising year on year. Our funding for post 16 students has been reduced in real terms for a number of years – by c.12% in the past 5 years.

Since 2012, schools have been faced with these rising costs but with no extra money in the system:

- 5.3% increase in local government employer pension contributions

- 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 following the Government completely changing GCSE and A-Level specifications, with associated costs for staff training

These cuts have resulted in the funding that we receive for each student being reduced in real terms by 35% to 45% per student, because the costs for schools have risen.

Schools will be affected in different way and as you are seeing in the national press, will look to make efficiencies by increasing class sizes, removing courses with low uptake, reducing the amount of support that they can offer to students and reducing training for teachers. Funding previously used for extracurricular and other activities to enhance the learning experience for young people has been cut or removed in many schools.

Against this background, in the last three years Goffs has achieved many outstanding successes , and continues to work hard to avoid having to implement the above actions, accessing our financial reserve in order to be able to maintain our educational provision to the highest standards supported by the dedication and commitment of the staff in our school.

We also have a strong track record of innovation, and in this respect have this week advertised for a Director of Income Generation to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy of income generation, designed to make a substantial contribution to enabling Goffs to maintain and enhance our facilities and educational provision for our students.

However, as I note here, the current funding of all secondary schools is untenable and reaching crisis point. The Hertfordshire Headteachers Association has decided to give the parents of all Hertfordshire schools the information they might require in order to express their own views on this important subject via their local MP. This information is detailed below. I would ask for your support with writing to our local MP and to key Government Ministers. As a collective across Hertfordshire we have the opportunity to bring a very strong message to bear regarding the education of all of our children.

In the meantime and as always, the welfare of your 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 that they succeed.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Alison J Garner', written in black ink.

**Alison J Garner**  
**Principal**

**Local MP contact details:**

Broxbourne: Charles Walker MP

charles.walker.mp@parliament.uk

**County councillor contact details** can be found

here: <https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/CountyCouncillors.aspx>

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**You may also want to consider contacting:**

Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening

greeningj@parliament.uk

The Minister for Schools, Nick Gibb

gibbn@parliament.uk

Prime Minister, Theresa May

[mayt@parliament.uk](mailto:mayt@parliament.uk)

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Phillip Hammond

hammondp@parliament.uk