



9th May 2018

Dear Parent

I am writing to provide you with a lot of information about the wonderful opportunities that lie ahead with our new school as well as some challenges we face with continual financial pressures. With regard to the decisions to be made with finances, no decision has yet been made and the information I am providing you with is mainly to do with our thoughts and ideas. As you can imagine these are difficult decisions. We must though make sure our statutory functions come first and we meet all that is required by the way our funding is administered.

First some things to look forward to! We are fast approaching the next exciting stage in the development of MCS. In the Autumn Term, we will be moving into our new school. It has been three years (and more) in the making and I am sure like us, you are very excited. Students and staff have had opportunities to look around the new building and as the build comes nearer to completion, we are hoping for more tours. Once open, of course, we will organise tours for the whole community to come and have a look at our wonderful 21st Century School. May I thank you for all your patience and support throughout the whole process.

The new school will be equipped with the latest technology and facilities. Students and staff have been engaged in looking at different resources and have also been consulted on all aspects of furniture and fittings. Mr Bird, our Deputy Head has led all the consultation process with our student council, staff and governors.

At this moment in time, as we fast approach the opening of the new school, we are in direct liaison with MCC and Interserve about the exact timings of the move. The Governing Body has recently received information that the new school will now be ready on the 14th September for students, with Year 7 and Year 12 coming in on that day and the rest of the student body starting on Monday 17th September. This is four days behind our original plan because of a delay in the build. The 10th to the 13th September will be 'Moving Days' and staff training days on safety and safeguarding in our new build.

On June 20th of this academic year however, Interserve have what is called a 'Test day' on the readiness of the build to open for students on the 14th September. After this date we will reconfirm the dates for the start of the Autumn Term. If for any reason, the start day has to be moved back in time because of further delays, we will communicate with parents on June 22nd with an amended schedule. The dates will be agreed by the Local Authority and the Governing Body. We will not have any new information before this date.

This new facility and the opportunity it presents has come at a fortuitous time and at the same time, a challenging time. The school has over the last four years received cuts in its funding centrally and whilst the Local Authority has been able to support the school through the period we all know as 'Austerity', the recent cuts to funding are no longer sustainable. The Governing Body has had to consider a wide range of cuts to our service.



The priority for the process to support the school with its budget constraints is to protect our most valuable resource, our staff and the statutory teaching and learning curriculum. Saying that though over the last four years we have reduced staffing costs and have rationalised provision to make sure we are as a cost effective and efficient as we can possibly be in our staffing.

For the next academic year, to make sure we can move towards a balanced budget, we will no longer be able to provide a variety of 'added-extras' beyond our core functions. Our Extra-Curricular offer we will maintain as best we can but we will have to consider whether we can continue with the late afternoon bus service to students staying on for extra-curricular activities. We may also not be able to meet the associated costs with sports related off-site fixtures and tournaments. We will try as best as we can to make sure extra-curricular sports matches at school continue because they will generate no transport or cover costs. Our PE Faculty is also looking at fund raising activities to generate funds to support our students being part of national and international tournaments. We may also have to ask for voluntary contributions to run these opportunities. The same cuts will apply to other extra-curricular areas where there is no self-financing opportunity. In terms of other savings to our school, we have cut back on all our contracts with service providers and have driven hard bargains to ensure the utmost value for money. The school is also looking at other fundraising opportunities with the Friends Association.

We will also look at changing the way we carry out some functions to save money. We have developed a system for electronic communication with all parents using 'SIMS In Touch'. This system will be used to replace Constant Contact. For the system to work effectively we ask that all parents make sure we have your correct email address. We are also considering the use of a number of other technological devices and platforms as a way to reduce costs.

The Governing Body remain committed to all students being given the opportunity to learn to lead their lives and will work to ensure that, with the resources available we can provide the very best. We will continue to provide our core and statutory functions. We will continue to provide as wide and as dynamic a curriculum that meets the enthusiasms and interests of all learners. We will continue to train and develop our staff and continue to look at trying to do everything we can for every child.

These are challenging times across our school and across the public sector as austerity continues to lead to cuts in our funding. With the LA and your support, we can find a way through this and still achieve what we want for every child.

Thank you for your continued support and help and especially to all those parents who volunteer and assist at the school.

R V Davies
Headteacher