



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Dear Parents/Governors/Colleagues

## **National Funding Formula – A Critical Consultation**

As you will have gathered, the Department for Education is consulting on new arrangements for the funding of schools across the country. The proposed model for funding is supposed to be fairer for all schools, in theory establishing a more level playing field. Historically the shire counties have been poorly funded, so it would be reasonable to assume that schools in these areas should benefit. We, at Bishop's, should be better off as a consequence of the proposals.

Sadly, this is not the case. The proposed model is punitive towards grammar schools like BWS; as things stand, if the model remains unchanged, we stand to lose at least a further £80,000 per annum when the new funding arrangements are introduced, probably in 2018-2019. With the additional cost pressures of increased employers' NIC and pension payments, together with the removal of the Education Services Grant this means that we face a cut of the order of £200,000. That is simply unmanageable and unsustainable. We need to do all that we can, together, to bring about a change of heart in Westminster and Whitehall.

That is where we need your help. It is really important that as many staff, governors, supporters and friends of the school respond individually to the second stage of the NFF Stage 2 Consultation.

The consultation documents can be found at <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/> and there is some helpful information at [http://www.bws-school.org.uk/documents/lt/National\\_Funding\\_Formula\\_Consultation.pdf](http://www.bws-school.org.uk/documents/lt/National_Funding_Formula_Consultation.pdf). Please take the time to read the latter document before you submit your comments to the DfE. Please note that the closing date for responses to the consultation is 22 March 2017.

**This is a really important issue for the future of the school, and indeed for over 100 grammar schools across the country which are affected in a similar way. If we work together I am sure that we can bring about change and the result may well be the outcome that we all want – a fair and sustainable level of funding for ALL schools.**

Yours faithfully

Stuart Smallwood  
Head Master