



Bishop Wordsworth's School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2ED

Telephone: 01722 333851

Fax: 01722 325899

E-mail: admin@bws.wilts.sch.uk

Website: www.bws-school.org.uk

Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

29 March 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you will no doubt be aware, this year is a very tough one for schools across the country in terms of budget setting. The national media has been carrying headlines which eloquently express the difficulties that are faced by schools when they are faced by the toxic combination of falling budgets and spiralling costs – and that is before the impact of a new National Funding Formula for Schools, the outcome of which is as yet unknown.

Bishop's is affected by the same cost pressures. The removal of our Education Services Grant, together with rapidly increasing employers' costs has left a hole in the school budget for 2017-2018 of considerable size. We have to live within our means, and to do so next year means that we have to cut costs – and because our budget is very lean that means that the cuts will impact on the curriculum and staffing. What is more, in common with most school sixth forms, ours runs at a loss annually. That is where some (but not all) of the cuts must fall.

To achieve the economies needed (we need to save around £150,000) we are planning to take the following steps:

- Teach Key Stage 3 Art classes in tutor groups (in other words halve the number of teaching groups)
- Reduce the number of sets at Key Stage 4 in the core subjects (in Year 10 from September 2017 and Year 11 the following year)
- Reduce the staffing on Games lessons where this is possible
- Not offer some non-core A level subjects at Year 12 which have relatively low take-up and are not required for HE progression (Year 13 students will complete their courses as planned in 2017-2018). In the next academic year this will apply to Business Studies, PE (BWS only) and Classical Civilisation. If your son has one of these three subjects as an AS choice on his sixth form application, we will assume that he wishes to take up his reserve subject unless you indicate otherwise by Friday 7 April 2017
- Reduce Teaching time at A level and introduce a system of supervised study time to compensate

In addition the staff will have a pay freeze during the 2017-2018 academic year, which will save over £30,000 on its own.

None of these are easy options, but the governors have opted for a range of measures that are the 'least worst' – in other words they will reduce our costs as necessary but cause the least damage in doing so. We will (of course) need to review the position again ready for the 2018-2019 academic year; the additional boys joining Year 7 in September will attract lagged funding which will help, but there will also be additional costs to take into account too at that stage.

I regret the necessity of these measures, but hope that this gives you a clear picture of what is planned.

Yours sincerely

S D Smallwood
Head Master