



THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill
Purley
Surrey
CR8 3YP

30th June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

School Funding

I am writing to you to highlight the funding challenges continuing to face our school. You may have seen a number of stories in the media about this issue and it is important that you understand how your child's school is going to be affected.

In recent years it has become apparent that current budgets are unsustainable. The Governing Board and Senior Leadership Team at this school have been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made, for example trampolining, swimming and tennis will either not be available or will not be delivered by specialist coaches from September.

The government says that the schools budget has been 'protected' which means we are getting the same amount of money as in recent years. Unfortunately increased costs enforced on the school by the government are costing us tens of thousands of pounds each month. Local authority funding has also been reduced, which means services and support we relied on in the past are no longer available to us or have to be purchased using existing funds.

Funding pressures are being felt across all phases and in all schools, not just our own. Yet the Department for Education claims that schools can find £3bn further savings by 2019/20. In the future, we cannot guarantee that such measures will not impact on teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this. I have informed staff members that in September there will be a consultation process which will take place when we will analyse our teaching and support staff structures, consider changes to our curriculum offer, introduce possible changes to some staff members teaching commitments, all of which could regrettably lead to redundancies at The John Fisher School.

While our school works hard to ensure that financial pressures have as little impact on teaching as possible, rising costs and having to do more with the same amount of money means that many further difficult decisions are now going to have to be made in the next school year. The John Fisher School is currently unable to pay for the cost of repairs to machinery in Design Technology, unable to maintain our premises and there are no reserves available to improve our facilities or to purchase items which we may require in the future such as new minibuses, new computer hardware etc.

If you are concerned about how schools are funded and would like to do something about it then contact your local MP and raise your concerns. I will be discussing the school's funding crisis during our Expectation

Evenings in September. I would encourage you to open the following link to improve your understanding of the current funding crisis schools are facing:

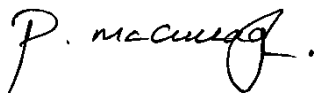
<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/watch-one-assistant-heads-call-arms-school-funding-cuts-a-message>

You may also wish to read the following article which was in the Guardian Newspaper last week:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/jun/21/headteachers-highlight-continuing-funding-crisis-in-letter-to-parents>

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McCullagh'.

Mr P E McCullagh
Headteacher



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4th July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing with sad and tragic news concerning our community.

Many of you may already be aware having read about a road traffic incident that took place in the early hours of Sunday morning in Croydon. The incident resulted in the death of one girl and six other young people injured, but not life threatening.

Tragically it was confirmed yesterday that it was a St Philomena's student, who has a sibling in our school, who passed away. Four of the young people injured were Year 11 students from The John Fisher School, some of whom remain in hospital. Representatives from the school will be visiting these students this afternoon and tonight. We are also supporting friends of those injured and we will be remaining in close contact with the families involved.

As a community with Christ at its heart we turn to Him during these testing times and ask for His strength and guidance as we come to terms with this shocking news. We at the school will be praying for the young lady who died, her family and friends. We will also be praying that the four students who were injured have a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'P. McCullagh'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping tail.

P E McCullagh
Headteacher



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Jemca Croydon



Dear Parents/Carers

Re: 'Chicken Run' A KS3 Charity Event - Sponsored by:

Liam Walsh (Year 12) and his grandparents have been involved with fundraising for Koning School in the little village of Ellendale on the edge of the Kalahari Desert in South Africa for 10 years. They began following a visit to their Parish Church in Banstead from a Polish missionary priest, Fr. Jarek Wasilewski who was raising funds to help the school.

This initial involvement has led to trips to the school in South Africa every two years, and further fundraising for the many problems that the hard-working headmaster and staff have to deal with in an under-developed part of Africa that receive little or no support or funding from Government.

As Mr Walsh states *'we met Vincent Molema, the Head, who showed us around and explained the improvements that would benefit the school. We were very impressed with Vincent's commitment to his school and his very honest and unassuming manner. We have remained friends ever since'*.

In 2014 John Fisher students from Years 7 & 8 raised £1600 to allow the school to dig a well to provide clean and available water. This has transformed the school, allowing for the irrigation of the vegetable plot which is providing healthy meals for the children, and clean water to drink.

The next project is to provide chickens and the means to look after them. This will mean that meat can be added to the children's sparse diet. Fundraising is needed for the equipment and labour costs to achieve this. However looking further forward, the next target is to purchase a tractor so that the playing fields can be made suitable for games.



How can The John Fisher School help?

We would like each student in Years 7-9 to run/jog/walk a mile in the 'Chicken Run'. We would ask that each student raises sponsorship money for doing this, **and it would be fantastic if every student raised at least £5. This could be from relatives, friends or work colleagues but ideally not simply parents/carers giving them £5.**

If helping children far less fortunate than themselves is not incentive enough, a £30 Amazon Gift Voucher will be given to the student in each Year group who raises the most money. Also, the form which raises the most money will receive a 'form party' during the last week of term at lunch time. Kennedy Cup points will also be awarded to the Houses that raise the most.

Friday, 7th July will be the date of the sponsored mile. Headteacher, Vincent Molema, is visiting England at the time so will be in attendance on the day. That Friday will be a mufti day in order to raise funds for the cause, but also to allow the students to complete their mile without getting changed. The timetable for the day will see Year 9 complete the mile, in their form, during periods 1 and 2, Year 8 during periods 3 and 4 and Year 7 during their games lessons.

We are delighted that Jemca Croydon (Toyota and Lexus) one of the school's commercial partners, is sponsoring the event. They have agreed to donate £250 if all form groups complete the 1 mile, as well as additional donations for every student/parent/carer who tweets via Twitter about completing the mile using the hashtags **#chickenrun** , **@toyotacroydon** and **@jemcacargroup**. **We encourage all students to do this to raise as much through match funding as possible.** In the meantime, please do follow Jemca Croydon and The John Fisher School (@thejfschool).

All we ask is that each student completes the mile. They do not have to run it. Every student will be taking place regardless of monies raised at that point. Once the money is collected, we ask that it be handed into Form Tutors the following week. They will record how much each student has raised. The final total and individual winners will be announced on Friday, 14th July.

Your support is much appreciated; together we can make the lives of children in this part of South Africa considerably better.

Mr J Dawkins (Year 9 Director of Learning)

Mr D Fell (Year 8 Director of Learning)

Mr I Jones (Year 7 Director of Learning)



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29th June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 Work Experience - Monday 3rd July – Friday 7th July 2017

As you are aware, your son will be participating in his Work Experience programme next week (unless he is Barcelona). Here are some final reminders to help get your son prepared. It is advisable that your sons' work experience is contacted out of courtesy before the placement to confirm his attendance and start time.

Your son should not wear school uniform but follow the suggested dress code given.

Your son will be issued with a 'WORK EXPERIENCE LOGBOOK' which he must complete during the placement.

The employer will also be asked to complete an evaluation form, which your son will hopefully be able to use towards references in the future. A copy of this will be sent home to each parent/carers so they can read about their sons' experience.

Your son should enquire about meal arrangements for the first day unless he has been told that there is a restaurant/cafeteria facility on the premises.

It is very important that your son arrives at his work experience placement on time. It may be necessary for your son to practise the route over the weekend.

If your son has either a medical appointment during the week or is unwell, he should contact the work experience supervisor at the placement first and then inform the school.

If your son has any problems during the placement he should contact Mrs Cody at the school on 0208 660 4555 extension 2203

Finally, I know we may rely on your son being a positive ambassador for the school and his family throughout his work experience, which should be both an enjoyable and beneficial time for him.

There will be a de-brief session once work experience is finished, which will allow the students to evaluate what they have learnt. Students should be prepared to come into school on Monday 10th July for the morning with their logbooks.

If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to either ring me on 020 8660 4555 Ext 2252 or email me at: slaventure@suttonmail.org

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Laventure'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SJY Laventure M.Sc.
Deputy Headteacher