



# THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

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

Peaks Hill  
Purley  
Surrey  
CR8 3YP

17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Re: School Fund

I hope that the school term has started well for your son and we are looking forward to working with you during the academic year ahead. Unfortunately, we are now in greater need of financial support than ever before as a result of increasing pressures on the school budget.

As you will probably be aware from the media, a funding report was launched in parliament on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September which lay bare the impact of over a decade of chronic underfunding of England's schools. Despite all the rhetoric on additional investment in schools, it is clear that school budgets remain under enormous pressure. Independent research has shown that there has been an effective 13-year real-terms freeze in school funding, representing an unprecedented period of, at best, flat investment in a generation of students.

- As a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic, I can report additional costs such as enhanced cleaning and safety measures of £24,542.
- We managed to keep the school open for most of the academic year last year unlike most other schools, but with additional supply costs of £78,000 resulting directly from the coronavirus pandemic. This was as a result of a staff members having to self-isolate.
- I can also report lost income from the letting of facilities of £21,000 as we could not permit visitors on site.
- In order to provide remote education when schools closed nationally during the pandemic, the school had to purchase laptops for staff totalling £70,000.

The cost of managing the coronavirus pandemic and/or lost income from lettings or other activities has created unanticipated pressures. There is also pressure created by unfunded salary costs over the last two years of £80,000.

The school has therefore had additional costs of £252,542 in two years. The combination of these costs of £252,542 and the reduction of £21,000 in income means **the school has a loss of £273,542 in two years**.

The capital funding the school receives is insufficient to develop and improve our buildings to meet the needs of the students. In recent years the school has had to replace the roof on its Founders building, its Design Technology building, replace all of the windows in the Science building and we are currently in the process of replacing the roof on the Old Gym.

Our mission at The John Fisher School is an emphasis on all-round development, so that all our students are well prepared for the wider world beyond school. As well as the excellent academic opportunities,

we also provide an immense range of extended activities to develop each individual. Our decision making is driven entirely by what is best for our young Catholic gentlemen and by doing so we enhance their life chances. There is a strong emphasis on cultural capital and through our Enrichment Programme, we offer all students a wide array of opportunities to develop additional skills ranging from: competitive sports, drama (Shakespeare Schools Festival), chess and the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award. We offer a variety of sports at all levels with highly successful teams in rugby, cricket, football, basketball, cross country running and athletics. Government funding provides the school with the resources for day-to-day teaching and learning but it does not contribute towards the wide range of extra-curricular activities that makes The John Fisher School so special. Unfortunately, we are not able to subsidise the extra activities and we are asking parents/carers to help us so that we can continue to provide the rich and diverse experiences that are a hallmark of The John Fisher School.

In these difficult times I am reinforcing my appeal to parents/carers to join me in donating to the School Fund to help fund the numerous opportunities for development outside-of-the-classroom. I hope that we can come together as a community to support each other so that every single student has the same opportunity.

Over the years the generous donations of our parents/carers have become our lifeline, supporting the huge extra-curricular programme, for example, in music and sport, of which we are rightly proud. All of this is now under severe threat without the financial support from you as parents/carers.

***How can you help?***

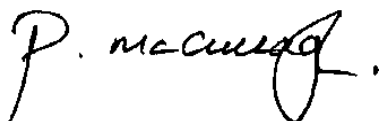
For one child at our school we would ask for a contribution to the school fund of **£300 per annum** and thereafter £150 per annum for each additional child.

We would also ask you all to sign the Gift Aid Declaration, and those of you who are income tax or capital gains taxpayers can help the school further by enabling us to claim back the basic rate of income tax on your donations. Last year we claimed a further £19,500 from the Inland Revenue.

Payments can be made annually, termly or monthly by standing order. We would kindly request that you complete the form by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. You can access the form from the following link: [Standing Order and Gift Aid Declaration Form](#)

Sincere thanks in advance for supporting our school.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P E McCullagh  
**Headteacher**