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Dear Parent / Carer

I promised in my letter to you before the Spring Half Term that I would write with a financial update; the Chairman of the Foundation also promised to keep parents informed as to the progress made regarding donations to the Standards Fund.

These are very difficult financial times for all state schools, both secondary and primary. More and more schools are finding that they are facing a deficit for the first time including many primary schools who are asking for parental contributions to make ends meet. Clearly this is not a step any school wants to take, but these are challenging times.

In previous correspondence you were made aware that the current (2016/17) budget reflects a deficit of £400k which is being funded by The Latymer Foundation. The savings already made which are detailed below reduce this to £222k for 2017/18. Unfortunately, in 2018/19, Latymer will again suffer through a combination of a negative outcome from the proposed National Funding Formula (estimated reduction of £71k) and increased salary costs; consequently, the deficit will rise again to £334k.

I want to assure parents we have been looking at ways we can be more efficient and where we can save money. In 2016/17 we have made some significant cuts; we did not replace a history teacher nor half an English teacher. We have reduced the hours of our administrative staff and non-teaching staff, we have reduced the extra allowances we can offer teachers, reduced photocopying costs and changed our energy providers. These actions have made savings which are reflected in the 2017/18 budget figures explained above.

For the next academic year, we will reduce staffing and teacher allowances further. Sadly Latin, PE, Technology and Sociology will no longer be offered to students joining the Sixth Form in September 2017. This has been a very difficult decision, but the numbers opting for these subjects have been very low for a number of years and so the school can no longer support them. I have also had to ask staff to teach more and this could mean that staff will have less time for individual mentoring and extra-curricular activities.

In terms of income we have increased our lettings, but we would be very interested to hear further from parents or organisations who might be interested in hiring out our sports facilities, classrooms or other areas of the school, including our residential outdoor activity centre at Cwm. A new page on the school website, dedicated to Lettings, will be launched in the next couple of weeks. Please contact Mrs Ventham, the Business Manager, by emailing [lettings@latymer.co.uk](mailto:lettings@latymer.co.uk). We are also keen to look at sponsorship and would welcome conversations with any interested parties.

Clearly the other major source of income this year is parental donations. Following the appeal letters sent to all parents and carers in September and October 2016, we have made a good start and seen an increase in donations to the Latymer Standards Fund. The increased amount equates to about £70k this year, including Gift Aid reclaimed by the Foundation. This will help to reduce the deficit.



"Latymer is an **outstanding** school that provides an excellent all-round education for all of its students."

The Chairman of the Foundation has confirmed to me that we have seen an increase in the number and value of donations to the Standards Fund, for which we are most grateful. However, we still need help from those who do not yet donate. Therefore, in view of the ongoing situation and financial difficulties detailed, please take some time to review your giving going forward. Covenant Forms and Gift Aid Declarations can be found on the school's [website](#) if you decide to donate. Alternatively, please contact the Foundation Campaign Office at [campaign@latymer.co.uk](mailto:campaign@latymer.co.uk) or on 020 8887 8105 who will be happy to assist you.

*A leading newspaper recently, stated "You can see the cuts in the NHS, but the cuts in schools are just as dire. Schools are heading towards mass bankruptcy yet no one photographs the incremental damage done to children".*

I want to assure you that your children are in good hands and we continue to work hard for our students, but we are being forced to make difficult decisions every day about what we can and cannot afford.

I recognise how supportive the parents of The Latymer School are and I would like to thank you once again for the support you have given Latymer in the past. As we negotiate these difficult times we hope that you will continue to work with us to ensure the future needs of our students are met.

Yours sincerely



Maureen Cobbett  
Headteacher