



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We are sure you are well aware from recent headlines of the financial difficulties faced by schools. We are writing to you to give you an idea of how these issues are affecting our school and how they might impact Parmiter's in the future.

School budgets have been under pressure for some time and there is little sign of relief in sight. Parmiter's is of course neither alone nor, by any means, among the schools facing the most serious challenges. The National Association of Headteachers (NAHT) has indicated that seven out of ten school leaders consider that their budgets will be untenable by the academic year 2019/20. In July last year, the Department for Education re-allocated £1.3 billion for schools from existing budgets, over two years. This is simply inadequate, given that nationally, there is a £2 billion gap in funding each year until 2020. Meanwhile, independent analysis by the Institute of Fiscal Studies has concluded that the amount of spending per student in England's schools has fallen 8% since 2010 and funding for Sixth Form students has fallen by 21%. It is clear that additional resources are desperately needed to address this looming crisis and the government must act without delay.

At Parmiter's, we are proud that the funding constraints have not impacted adversely on the quality of teaching in the classroom or in other areas. Our students' outstanding public examination performance last summer and what it enabled them to go on to do after Parmiter's was testament enough to the quality of teaching at our exceptional school. When The Times published the league table of the top 500 best performing schools, we were delighted to be placed 80th and 4th among partially-selective schools.

I know that you and your children - our students, recognise and appreciate the immense and valuable contribution that staff make to the exceptional extra-curricular programme that Parmiter's offers, involving clubs, trips and so many other activities. Such opportunities, however, are under threat by our real-term shrinking budget allocation. The impact of this will be to place additional workload on already hard pressed staff.

While we can assure you that we will continue to do our utmost to manage the budget in a way that results in minimal impact on our students' learning experience, it is impossible to be certain as to how long such a situation is sustainable. The Senior Leadership Team will work tirelessly to mitigate the serious challenges presented by inadequate funding, despite often being faced with having to make difficult decisions, some of which may have a direct impact on colleagues.

Please be assured that we will take whatever measures and action may prove necessary to preserve the quality of the staff we employ and to maintain the standard of education we provide at Parmiter's, while, of course keeping you fully informed. It goes without saying that our students and their education in a safe and happy environment remain our top priority.

Yours sincerely

M Jones
Headmaster

A Mehmet
Chairman of Governors

C Partridge
Chairman of Finance & Resources