



Penistone Grammar School Advanced Learning Centre Never Stop Flying

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Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education

Ref: EGA

Date: 27 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: National Funding Formula

At the end of last term the Government announced a reallocation from within the Education budget which freed up £1.3bn for schools. Earlier this term they announced the details of what the impact of this would be along with the New Funding Formula.

The great news is Penistone Grammar School is one of the biggest gainers as a result of the new formula. The Government's indicative figures suggest the school should receive an additional £878,000 next year and an additional £1,164,000 the following year compared with the current school year. This is fantastic news for the school and will transform the opportunities available for our students.

I held off writing to you about this as the Government requires the new funding to go through the local funding formula which, without change, would significantly reduce the gains we would make. However, having sought clarification from the Local Authority, a note written on behalf of Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director – People Directorate, states: "We would try our best endeavours to ensure that Barnsley's formula is closely aligned to the national one and that expected gains in funding are passed on to schools". This is really encouraging and, whilst a process needs to be gone through to get agreement to change the current local formula, the ambition to work to the spirit of the new formula is a move in the right direction.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you who submitted responses to the consultation, wrote to MPs, put yourself forward for interviews and for the many offers of support we received. This was a whole community effort and shows how, when we stand together, we really are a formidable force. For our school to get the largest percentage increase of any school in the country suggests our arguments were listened to and highlights how badly this funding change was needed.

Whilst there are many people too numerous to thank and it always feels uncomfortable picking out particular individuals, there are three people who really went above and beyond the call of duty in pulling together the detailed arguments and the overall campaign. On behalf of all of us, I would like to offer special thanks to David O'Hara (former Chair of Governors), Jo Higgins (Principal) and Carole Mason (Assistant Principal) for their commitment and drive, without which this fabulous outcome may not have been so positive.

I know we can rely on your support should anyone attempt to thwart our school finally getting the funding it deserves. Over the coming weeks we will be working with the Local Authority to see how best to address the legacy debt the current unfair funding regime has left us with. However, we can now move forward confident that the long term financial security of the school is assured.

Yours sincerely

Eugene Gallagher
Chair of Governors