



JULIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Norwood site - Gabriel House, 16, Wolfington Road, West Norwood, London SE27 0JF

Streatham site – 226 Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 2RB

Tel: 020 8761 1894 Fax: 020 8664 7305

Website: www.juliansprimary.org.uk

Executive Headteacher

Alison Møller

Head of School West Norwood

Becky Coburn

School Business Manager

Sheila Reid

Head of School Streatham

Sarah Wilson

31st March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

School funding: *update*

As you are probably aware, the government is changing the way in which school funding from central government is allocated and has consulted on a new National Funding Formula for calculating funding for schools. The new formula will mean that most schools in London receive less funding per pupil. This is likely to start in 2018/19, although the exact dates and final amounts have not yet been determined. Lambeth schools are currently projected to be some of the worst hit in the country in terms of their funding and Julian's may lose as much as 2.8% funding per pupil overall, across 2018/19 and 2019/20.

In addition to the central budget cuts, the school is facing financial challenges from additional staff costs for e.g. NI contributions and the introduction of the apprenticeship levy and the way in which Lambeth is altering the allocation of certain funds. Over the past few years a whole host of services which were previously paid for by Lambeth are now provided to schools at a cost. More recently these have included road crossing patrol officers and the school improvement advisor service. These changes all flow from the general squeeze in budgets local councils have experienced over the last few years. The governing body is having to make difficult decisions about whether certain services continue to add value to our school; and if they do, whether other activities can be reduced or run more efficiently in order to fund the core offering.

Julian's School overall current funding position

Julian's is fortunate to be overall, compared to many other schools, in a relatively healthy financial position. Through good financial management over the previous years as well as our extensive building programmes which have brought additional funding to the school, we have managed to maintain some reserves and expect to end 2016-17 with a small surplus. We are also in the unusual position where our overall budget pot will be increasing over the next three years due to the school expansion programme - national funding is allocated on a per-pupil basis, so the fact that our school will continue to grow until 2020 means that overall our budget will also grow.

Despite our overall positive funding position, in the knowledge that our funding per pupil will be further reduced from 2018-19, we are doing everything we can to reduce 'back-office' running costs. We are also exploring ways to raise additional revenues, so that we protect the core school offering. We are not currently in the position that other schools are, where they have had to look at more radical cost reduction options.

The future position

The governing body and school management are looking ahead to the future and how we will manage an increasingly squeezed budget, as the new National Funding Formula takes effect, and as other costs (such as wages) gradually rise. While we have not yet taken decisions on future years' budgets, we will look to use our reserves to help to continue to provide as many of the additional activities and support that Julian's provides which contributes to our unique creative curriculum and extra-curricular programme. We will continue to ensure Julian's School is well managed financially and we envisage no major changes in the year ahead.

All our decisions will be guided by our three year strategic objectives, which are currently under review for the period 2017-2020. We offered parents/carers an opportunity to input into our new proposed objectives at parents' evening on 27th and 28th March; and the governing body will be considering what you told us and discussing responses with a view to finalising our objectives in the summer term.

What you can do

We are pleased to see that so many parents and carers have engaged with the national campaign to influence funding decisions at national level. For those who are not yet aware, there is a parent led campaign 'FAIR FUNDING FOR ALL SCHOOLS'. We encourage you to visit their website: <http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org/> to find out how you can get involved and support. We would also ask you to visit the School Cuts website (www.schoolcuts.org.uk) to consider signing the petition that is available online. It would also make a big difference if you would write to your local MP and lobby them about funding concerns and there is a link to how to do this on the same website.

In addition, if you have any ideas about how Julian's could become more financially efficient we would love to hear them. We have set up a 'suggestions box' in the entrance hall on both sites.

We hope you will appreciate our honesty regarding these issues. As always, if you would like to talk this through further, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Kind regards



Alison Moller
Executive Headteacher



Kate Edwards
Chair of Governors