



31st January 2017

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Headteacher

Robert Elsey

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may remember we wrote to you last year to outline the school's financial position and the need to set up a school fund for parental contributions. This year you have helped us to raise nearly £20,000 and we would like to offer our huge thanks for your support. We would also like to give you an update on the current position.

The continued austerity measures are having a significant impact on school budgets. Funding per pupil is cash flat, meaning we receive no inflationary increase. This means the school has to absorb any cost increases by generating savings. We believe the net impact of this for the next financial year will be in the region of £250,000, this is on top of the savings made in previous years. This will have a significant impact on the running of the school.

As we did last year, the school and governors have written to and met with both the local authority and the local Member of Parliament to discuss our concerns. In particular data from the DFE shows that in the last financial year we were funded at £136 per pupil below the local authority average and nearly £1,000 below the national average (equating to over £1,000,000 difference). As a successful school we lose out on considerable funding targeted on improvement. The government have announced a review of the school funding formula last year and this may impact on 2018 funding.

This year parental contributions to the school fund have generated nearly £20,000. This money has been vital in protecting the education we deliver. We used the money to protect subject budgets so that lessons had sufficient resources to meet the needs of our students. Your donations allowed us to fund a new Key Stage 3 curriculum in English; a new course in hospitality and catering; text books for RE, Geography and History; practical equipment for science; IT equipment for the Sixth Form and a great many other items that would simply not be available without your help. Thank you!

We are very proud of our students and the success they achieve - last year's data showed us to be in the top 7% of schools nationally. These are standards that we are committed to maintaining and we would appreciate your support. **For each family, the school is asking for a voluntary £60 annual donation. This can be paid either as a one off annual payment or through a monthly direct debit for £5.** If you already have a direct debit set up, then thank you; this will continue to run as normal. Of course, should you feel able to donate more, then

you would not be limited to this amount, and equally we will be grateful for whatever help you are able to give us.

We want to make this as easy as possible, so we have created an Edgbarrow page on the Justgiving website: <https://www.justgiving.com/edgbarrowschool/>. You can choose to donate through a one-off payment or to make a monthly donation. There is also a link on the school website. **We would be very grateful if you could also tick the relevant box to add Gift Aid.**

Whilst we will not be recording payments against students' names, we are asking that you complete the form below to acknowledge receipt of this letter. Tutors will chase the return of the form, but not money, in order to ensure all parents have received and read this letter.

We would also ask if you as parents could investigate whether your employer has funds available to support schools and would be grateful for any information in relation to this.

Our priority is the education of your children and to support this we are hoping that, where possible, our fantastic parent body may be able to make a further, significant contribution to maintaining our high standards. We will also write to you later this year to explain how the school intends to close the funding gap.

Yours faithfully



Mr R P Elsey
Headteacher



Mr G Oakley
Chair of Governors



Mr A Johnson
PTA Chairman

X.....

REPLY SLIP: Please return to form tutors

Student Name _____ Tutor group _____

I/We acknowledge receipt of the School Fund letter dated 31st January 2017

Signed..... (Parent/Carer) Date

Should you have any queries or comments regarding this letter please send them to: schoolfund@edgbarrowschool.co.uk . We will then create a frequently asked questions area on the school website with responses.