



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL

LICHFIELD

November 2015

Dear Parent,

In common with most schools, we have a Trust fund which is used to support our students throughout their time at the school. The Trust Fund is managed by trustees comprising of current members of staff, Old Edwardians, parents and Governors in order to ensure that donations are spent in a way that maximises the benefit for all students. Support is given to projects which are going to have an immediate impact upon students' education and for which funding is unlikely to be available from other sources.

In the last few years this has supported big projects such as the change to an online Careers Library upstairs in the LRC and the digital language laboratory for students. The Trust Fund also supports the running of one of the two school minibuses. These are used on a daily basis for a range of student involved in sports teams, offsite visits and curriculum links between schools. The Trust Fund also helps to celebrate the achievements of our students and recently supported the photographs displayed in Bader Hall.

Our Challenging Context

As a school, we are very concerned about our shrinking school budget. It is under increasing pressure to maintain the curriculum, facilities and wider opportunities for students. We have already reduced staffing levels and taken measures to reduce costs, being very careful to measure the potential impact on students.

- Even with reduced staffing levels this year we are facing a constant battle to avoid ending the year in a deficit position for 2015-16. The school has no funds in reserve.
- The national funding formula (which successive governments have promised to review) means that our school receives up to £500,000 less per year as a Staffordshire school than a similar sized school in Sutton Coldfield which falls under Birmingham funding.

The support of the Trust Fund

We firmly believe that the learning environment, the curriculum, support for students and opportunities beyond the classroom should be of the highest quality. We do our very best to provide this but we do need your support. If you ask your son or daughter about their views of the different classroom areas or the areas which need renovation then I'm sure you will hear what a difference the environment can make to their time in school.

We are now in the position of needing to turn to the Trust Fund for increasingly basic needs; items that you would ordinarily expect to see coming from the school budget. Recently, the Trust Fund supported us with:

- The replacement of blinds in a number of classrooms. These are essential for practical working conditions and learning taking place with use of our interactive whiteboards.
- A replacement carpet in one of our classrooms with another being done at half-term. This sounds very basic but combined with new blinds and decoration it can completely transform a classroom.

Our request

We are asking families to consider an annual donation of £10 for each of the two youngest children on roll here in any one family. Alternatively, a one-off or monthly/ annual donation for an amount of your choice

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could be made. Payment can be made via the Parent Pay website where you will have two payment options. One is to donate with gift aid and one is to donate without. If you choose the option to gift aid your donation then it is essential that you complete your name and address when prompted. If you are not able to pay via the Parent Pay website then you can make your payment by cheque made payable to King Edward VI School. If you wish to gift aid this donation then please complete and attach the gift aid declaration form (enclosed) to the cheque and return both to Mrs Z MacKinnon in our Finance Office.

We are determined to ensure that all our students have access to the facilities and resources which they deserve. All our students deserve to learn in a positive, welcoming environment. Over the next few years, there is a Staffordshire plan for additional school places which will mean some new buildings and possibly an opportunity to reshape or modernise our existing facilities. In the meantime, we do all work hard to keep the school in the best possible condition and we are fortunate that our students are also keen to be a part of this. Plans for future projects will always link to student priorities and their views are regularly sought via the school council.

The number and variety of facilities, opportunities and extra-curricular activities we offer are amongst the strengths of King Edward VI School, but they rely on funding, as well as the enthusiasm of students and the good will of staff. All donations, however much they are, would be very welcome. Please respond.

If you would like further information about the Trust Fund, please contact Mrs MacKinnon at the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rutherford', written in a cursive style.

Ms J. Rutherford
Headteacher

