



Cranbrook
School

5 May 2016

TO ALL NEW PARENTS

Dear parent or guardian,

We are writing on behalf of the school and its Governors to bring you up to date with developments regarding its curriculum, staffing and funding for the future.

As you will know from coverage in the local and national media, secondary schools in the state sector are facing and dealing with a severe financial squeeze.

Grammar schools are particularly vulnerable because they have large Sixth Forms although they are relatively small schools. When Sixth Form funding is cut, as it has been, they are therefore disproportionately affected. To be specific, Cranbrook School's budget for the Sixth Form has reduced by £450,000 in the last four years. Other grammar schools have been compelled to take similar steps to those we have taken to deal with this problem. They have slimmed down their curriculum offer and they have reduced their levels of staffing.

There is no sign of any improvement in our per capita funding – the long-awaited National Funding Formula still seems a distant prospect. To ensure our financial viability for the future then, we must reduce our expenditure quickly and effectively. To preside over a deficit budget is not an option for an Academy or any well-run state-funded school. Thus, our salary costs have to reduce. These account for 80% of our overall outgoings and therefore represent a cost which will yield the most significant savings. This means having fewer staff and slightly fewer optional subjects on offer at GCSE.

We would welcome any inquiries you may have about the curriculum we will provide for your child. We also look forward very much to seeing you at our Year 9 Welcome Evening on Friday 24th June.

Please may I stress one vital point: our continued, fervent support for all things creative and expressive. Some people may have the impression we are determined not to continue with our traditional commitment to sport and music in particular. Nothing could be further from the truth! In music, we will continue to have the Orchestra and other instrumental groups, all our peripatetic staff, our excellent productions and the frequent musical performance we have got used to in St Dunstan's Church and the Queen's Hall Theatre. Likewise in sport, our Games offer will remain second to none. Fixtures against top schools, regular practices and coaching in our main sports of Hockey, Cricket, Netball, Rounders and Rugby- and a host of others. None of this changes when GCSE and A-level in PE and Music come out of the curriculum. There is and always has been a rich, creative life at Cranbrook – we are totally committed to this continuing.

Please continue to support us and join with us in looking forward to an exciting 500th anniversary. The beginning of a new era indeed!

Kind regards,

Dr John Weeds
Headmaster

Mr James Peace
Chairman of Governors