



THE LATYMER FOUNDATION AT EDMONTON

Registered Charity No 325078

September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Supporting The Latymer School following Government funding cuts and increased costs

I am sure that you have already heard a lot in the media about the financial pressures facing schools in this country and more recently the prospect of further reductions in 'real terms' in the coming years.

I am, therefore, very grateful to those parents/carers amongst you who have contributed to the Latymer Standards Fund. Your generosity has enabled the school to maintain many of its activities and improve its facilities during this time of continuing financial difficulty.

However, the problems are not going to disappear in the foreseeable future. This makes our Standards Fund even more important and it is essential that we continue to replenish our reserves.

What has been done to address these issues to date?

In addition to our efforts to raise funds through appeals to parents and alumni, the Headteacher and her staff have worked hard in the past year in order to make the school more efficient and many savings have been achieved. We are also looking at ways of generating income and you may have seen publicity linked to the letting of some of our facilities.

In spite of these efforts, some very difficult decisions have had to be made; three undersubscribed subjects have been removed from the Sixth Form curriculum, class sizes increased and the timetable structure modified. A small number of teaching and non-teaching posts have been removed or had the hours allocated to them reduced.

Nevertheless, the school continues to do its best to provide a balanced curriculum and a first class education with a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for our students.

Despite these efforts, the annual deficit will remain at £300-£400,000 for at least the next few years.

How The Latymer Foundation has helped through deployment of Standards Fund money.

Capital projects

In the two years 2015 - 2017 Trustees invested circa £800,000 in refurbishing the Sixth Form area and lower school classrooms, providing new smartboards and field sports facilities which would not be funded by the Local Authority. It also covers the upgrade of 50-year-old lighting fittings to modern LED fixtures and resolving health and safety issues in the Technology Department.

In addition to finishing off earlier works, the capital programme for 2017/18 includes: Providing better medical room facilities; further work on the LED lighting programme; resolving health and safety issues re the showers; Great Hall lighting; electrical fuse boards; and renewal of fencing to improve site security. Parents and visitors had commented on the poor external lighting around the school, and we are improving this too. The Standards Fund will be providing £116,000 towards the overall cost of this programme.

Supporting the operational costs of running the school

Using about £700,000 from the Standards Fund reserves as a revenue subsidy has enabled The Latymer Foundation to support the operational activities of the school over the last two years (2015 - 17) compensating in part for reductions in government funds and government imposed payroll cost increases.

However, changes linked to support staff pensions and the 'Apprenticeship levy' will increase our costs by around £75,000pa from 2017 onwards.

The revenue subsidy allows the Governing Body and School Leadership to do more work towards a balanced budget. Current estimates suggest a further £700,000 will be required to maintain school operations in the subsequent two years 2017 - 2019.

Without further parental donations, the Foundation reserves available for this purpose would be exhausted within 3-4 years.

What about the future – government priorities?

Looking forward, our funding from the government is unlikely to get better as the school does not match the three key criteria which underpin government cash allocation. The government priorities are to support **schools where results are low** and help those with large numbers of **students with special needs** or whose families match government criteria regarding **'social deprivation'**.

Latymer is not failing (in fact we remain one of the most outstanding schools in the country); we have only a small number of students with special needs and a small percentage of pupils' families match the social deprivation criteria. Therefore, we receive very little additional funding as a consequence of these priorities.

The government is also changing the way schools are funded and they are introducing a Common Funding Formula. There were problems with their first attempt and more work is in hand. However, it is unlikely that we will benefit from this change. In fact, the signs are we could be worse off.

To give an example of how government actions make Latymer's ability to balance its books harder: At the end of the Summer term, we were advised that a large proportion of teaching staff have been awarded a 2% pay increase effective from September 2017 - there was a 1% increase anticipated. There is no sign that the money we receive from the government will increase to cover this 1% additional and unexpected cost; therefore, we will have to meet it from our existing budget.

In addition to revenue funding issues, the government capital funding system was scheduled to change this year, but this was deferred to 2018/19 and so schools such as ours will have to compete by bidding against other schools for specific projects. This could mean no capital funding being provided depending on the relative merits of bids submitted by other Voluntary Aided schools nationally. The irony of this system is that schools which have allowed their infrastructure to decay most will benefit first.

What can you do to help?

I ask any parents or carers who have yet to contribute to the Standards Fund to reflect on this note and, if circumstances permit, join those who have already committed their support.

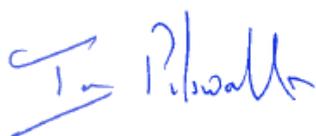
Please fill in the donation forms available at [The Latymer Foundation Campaign](#) on the school websiteevery little helps!

There will be meetings in September where Trustees, Governors and staff will canvass support from the parents/carers of new Year 7 pupils (some of whom have already committed early to the Standards Fund) to maintain the fund raising momentum created in the last 12 months.

In the meantime, thank you to **all** parents/carers who have made contributions to date; please do continue this support throughout your child's time at Latymer. Without this continued support we will not be able to maintain the standards and ethos of our school.

Happily, we can reflect on the school's continued exam success this summer and, with your financial support, perpetuate this through your sons' and daughters' future achievements.

Yours sincerely



Ian Pilsworth
Chair of The Latymer Foundation