



The Peele Community College

Accept Challenge Achieve Success

Headteacher: Miss Elizabeth Smith BA (Hons)

31 March 2017

Dear Parents

School Funding Changes

You may have seen or read about the on-going situation with national school funding in the news recently. I am writing to update you on how these issues impact upon our school. This is so that you begin to understand why, as a result of this, things will inevitably have to change.

- The Government are changing the way that money will be allocated per pupil (this is the new National Funding Formula (NFF)). The NFF aims to spread funds more evenly regardless of geographical location. Whilst we agree that this is a fairer way to fund schools, and there will be winners and losers, what is clear is that the Government does not have enough money in the system for this to happen without many schools losing out.
- Due to the impact of Government policies the college's costs are going up; National Insurance and pension contributions have added 8% to our staffing budget. Utilities and services have all increased significantly.

To respond to the funding crisis, we have had to look carefully at our expenditure and it has not been possible to make further savings without looking at the range of subjects we can offer at GCSE. We will not be able to sustain options in Years 9 and 10 when only a handful of students choose a subject. This means that a small number of students in Year 9 who have recently been choosing options may not get their first choice.

- In the past The Peele Community College has always been unique in its small class sizes averaging at 22 pupils. However, with these substantial reductions in income it will no longer be financially viable to sustain this and we have already started to amalgamate classes in Years 7 and 8. I will continue to endeavour to keep class sizes manageable.
- Furthermore, where occasional staff illness occurs, it maybe that classes are combined and covered internally so as to save expensive cover staff being employed.

Please be aware that the financial pressures we are seeing are being experienced in all schools across the county and you can also find more information at www.fairfundingforallschools.org, a parent-led website.

I am passionate about maintaining high standards of education. My priority will, as always, be to ensure that resources and provision for our students is not affected. I strongly believe that through high quality teaching our students will continue to excel in all that they do here at The Peele.

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I am sorry if this letter makes for some difficult reading; however I wanted to share this with you so that you begin to understand why things will inevitably have to change as a result of this. I will of course be working with Governors to ensure we do whatever we can to limit the worst effects of the cuts. I would also encourage you to get in touch with your local MP, to ask him to challenge this on behalf of schools in the area.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Smith', enclosed within a light grey rectangular border.

Miss E Smith
Headteacher
The Peele Community College