

Newsletter

The White Hills Park Federation Trust

Issue 183- 28th September 2018

Education Funding

Whenever I meet with colleagues who are involved in running schools, both locally and nationally, the subject of school budgets comes up at a very early stage in our discussion. It is over 20 years since I first became a Head Teacher and I don't remember a time when there was as much concern on the national stage as at present. Today in London, a large group of Head Teachers from across the country have gathered in Downing Street to call for increases in school funding and greater fairness in the way that funds are allocated.

We know that the picture nationally has changed over the last few years as austerity has bitten. The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimate that the education budget has fallen in real terms by 8% since 2010, and a survey by the Times Educational Supplement found that a third of schools are 'in the red', with the problem particularly acute in secondary schools and schools with sixth forms, leading to cuts in staffing, larger class sizes, and cuts in the curriculum offer. As well as cuts to school budgets, there have been significant increases in unavoidable costs, such as employer pension and national insurance costs, which can leave a huge hole in the budget. Although there is some additional funding for the teacher pay rises that were announced in July, this support will not cover the full cost of the increase and is coming from elsewhere in the education budget, so may well lead to additional costs or reduction in income.

Although our schools are academies, we are also affected by the local context in Nottinghamshire. The government proposals to introduce a National Funding Formula, which would produce a fairer, pupil-led system and end the situation where our students receive 40% less funding than students across the border in Nottingham City, has been delayed several times, and there is no implementation date in sight. Moreover, Nottinghamshire has had severe problems managing the county budget for students with additional needs, which has led to tens of thousands of pounds being withheld from our Trust budget. We also have to bear the additional costs of some old and inefficient buildings, which is why we are working so hard to secure our new build.

In our Trust, we are conscious that it is our responsibility to be careful with public funds and use them wisely. We know that the money we receive is taxpayers' money and we have a duty to get the maximum benefit from it. Our approach has always been to be careful with money - as a Trust, we have always ensured that our long-term financial position is positive, and have made tough decisions where necessary. Our Finance team operate with an exceptionally high level of efficiency, and this is recognised in consistently outstanding audit feedback. When we take budget decisions, we make sure that we prioritise the impact on students, that we look ahead to future impact, and that we seek savings and efficiency wherever possible. Our Directors are skilled and vigilant, and have an accurate and detailed oversight of our budget.

It is also important that we operate with high levels of integrity, and it is particularly concerning to read media reports of financial impropriety at some educational Trusts. We ensure that wages in the Trust are not profligate, that there is no 'expenses culture', and that we have the highest levels of transparency. I am very grateful to staff for the way they support us with this, for example by teachers covering classes when necessary. We also ensure that funding is targeted at areas of need, for example by monitoring carefully our Pupil Premium budget, designed to raise outcomes for disadvantaged students.

I would like to reassure you that we continue to manage our budget efficiently, and the financial future of the Trust remains secure. There is so much we could do with additional funding, from providing enhanced support for vulnerable students to upgrading the scale of our IT infrastructure, but we will continue to live within our means. I would like to end by giving a particular thank you for the support we get from you with managing our budget, particularly from our amazing PTAs, who raise so much money for some of the 'extras' that can make a huge difference.

Paul Heery

Executive Principal

Dates for your Diary

October	FED	AWS	BC	BC6F
4th - 8th	Trip to Madrid			
4th	PTA AGM 18:30			
8th	School Photographs AW - Years 7 and 11 BC - All Years			
11th	PTA Welcome Meeting 18:30			
12th	Year 8 Trip: National Space Centre			
18th	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Information Evening Alderman White School Hall 18:00 - 20:30			

Please see the My Ed app or our websites for a full calendar of upcoming events and important dates.

Nominations for Parent Governors



The Alderman White School Local Governing Body (LGB) has two vacancies for parent governors, and is looking for these to be filled by parents who have children attending the school.

Nominations must be received by 10.00 am on 8th October 2018.

Please see the [website](#) for further details.

Mrs K Sims

Go 4 Schools Access

All parents who have provided us with a valid email address should now be able to access Go 4 Schools to see their child's timetable, homework, attendance and progress reports.



To log on, visit go4schools.com and click on the 'Parents' icon in the top right corner. New users should enter the email address we have on record into the 'First-time User' section to receive an email containing a password.

We have resolved the issues that were preventing some of our new parents from receiving a password, if you have tried unsuccessfully over the last few weeks to login as a first time user please now try again. Anyone still having issues should email our IT Services staff on helpdesk@whpfederation.org

Trip to the Christmas Markets of Cologne and Phantasialand: 29th November - 2nd December

Letters and application forms are now available for this year's annual Christmas trip to the spectacular Christmas markets of Cologne and the magical Phantasialand.

Germany is well known for its Christmas markets and the whole city of Cologne is bristling with colourful market stalls selling Christmas gifts and delicacies. The second day will be spent at the theme park, Phantasialand, which apart from a range of thrilling rides, has a glittering array of winter attractions. This is a theme park like no other, with a uniquely German atmosphere which is particularly special in the run up to Christmas.

Letters are available from Reception in both schools.

Mr K Stephan



Bramcote College PTA



Come along and say hi! The Bramcote College PTA are meeting on Thursday 4th October, 6.30pm in college. The meeting is informal, we are a small, friendly and hard-working group of parents who work with school staff organise and run fun events throughout the year. It's a great chance to come along and say hello if you are interested in supporting or joining us (if you need to bring children along to then please do - the more the merrier and the meeting will be finished by 8pm)

We can't run events without help from parents. We are a small group and would love to welcome more members, particularly from Year 7 & 8 families, so that fundraising can continue and more events can be organised for school and community. We know that finding time to volunteer really isn't easy, but any time at all at events or meetings could be a huge help!

We look forward to seeing a few new faces, please come along or get in touch if you'd like more info: email pta@bramcote.college.

Bramcote College PTA

Free Parent Course

Following on from our successful relationship with Nottingham College and at the request of our parent body, we will be running a parenting course commencing the 7th November.

The course will be "**Building confidence and promoting well being in your family**". The course will take place in Alderman White Library from 5.30pm - 7.30pm and will be for 6 weeks. The course will be **FREE** as it is funded by Family Learning in the community.

There are only 14 places remaining, please contact julie.francis@whpfederation.org if you would like to book a place.

Miss J Francis

German Exchange

This year's highly successful German Exchange continued this week with a two-day trip to Warner Bros Studios providing a fascinating look behind the scenes of the Harry Potter movies. At times it seemed as if our students were part of the magic of Hogwarts as they progressed from one movie-set to another. After an overnight stay at the youth hostel in Lee Valley, the group travelled into the centre of London to see many of the iconic sights including the Tower of London, The Houses of Parliament and Trafalgar Square. The warm autumn sunshine as well as the clear, blue sky made the boat trip on the Thames an unmissable experience. The City Cruises guide was both instructive and entertaining as he described the many glorious sights along the river from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre to the London Eye.



The German Exchange students return home this Monday - we hope they have enjoyed their stay with us. I am sure there will be a few tears as we wave goodbye to them and their teachers, Michael Brayley and Heike Janssen, but there will no doubt be a number of reunions in the months to come. I would like to express heartfelt thanks to all the host families and teachers who have made such a massive contribution to this year's exchange visit. Over many years the German Exchange has transformed many lives and we are already looking forward to the 2019 exchange visit in February. Details will be available before half-term.

Mr K Stephan

Sport

Year 11 Football - Alderman White School vs The Becket School, South Notts Cup

On Tuesday the 25th of September, Alderman White School faced The Becket School in the South Notts Cup. We had 12 strong and determined players playing against a team that had 5 County level players in their squad.

The first 10 minutes were tentative as both teams were looking for an opening; Alderman White came close twice and saw a shot from Shaw Mitchell narrowly go wide. Unfortunately, Becket's forward was very strong and on the break was able to just sneak a shot past our Goalkeeper.

Jonas made some spectacular saves which kept us in the game and was spreading the ball well to help us catch them on the break. Despite this, Becket caught us on the break again and went 2-0 up. The lads' heads never went down and they continued to fight and play for the win. We made some changes in the second half and were ready to get back into the game. Jack and Danny linked up really well and were causing real problems to the defence. Jack crossed the ball and Danny nearly scored, we kept up the pressure and managed to score a great goal from a break by Jack Osbourne as he deftly slotted the ball past the goalkeeper. We kept up the pressure but were unable to break their defence as they "parked the bus". The final whistle blew with the score 2-1. The boys were a credit to the school, shook the opposition's hands and thanked the referee for his time.

Mr B Parker

Locker Renewals

If your child has previously had a locker in school and has not renewed the locker this year, please check their bags for a renewal reminder. Letters have been sent out this week to all students who have had lockers in the past but have not yet renewed this year.

Mrs T Tacey



Bramcote College Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 8th November

18:00 - 20:30

"There is a culture of ambition
in the Sixth Form" - OFSTED



Bramcote College Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

On Tuesday we held our Year 5 and 6 Open Evening at Bramcote College and were overwhelmed by the response from our community! The hall was packed as Mrs Gale and six (brave) students took to the stage to share their experiences of being at Bramcote College and hopes and aspirations for the future. Parents, carers and children had the opportunity to look around the school, have a go at a range of activities, taste school dinners and have conversations with staff, students and members of the Student Support team and SLT. We are also very humbled to have received some fantastic feedback from parents including the comments below:

"... we came to open evening last night and we were very impressed with the students, they were very informative and confident."

"Congratulations on a triumphant open evening. It was fantastic. Staff and pupils should be proud."

"After attending your open evening on Tuesday with my daughter I just wanted to say how very impressed I was with the whole night and how lovely all the staff and young people were. A really nice girl showed us round and answered what I'm sure she felt were endless questions happily. I was also very impressed with the amazing speech given by your head girl..."

Thanks so much to all adults and children who supported the open evening and we look forward to offering guided tours over the coming weeks.

Miss J Cooper

Operation Orphan at Alderman White

Operation Orphan - Keep a child warm Moldova

Please Help, Donations Needed

We are incredibly honoured for one of our Year 9 students and her mum, who are travelling out to Moldova in order to join a team from the Operation Orphan organisation who will be working in schools daily.

They will be meeting with children and ensuring that they can survive the very cold winter by distributing "warm packs". Reaching out to the country's poorest children and giving them well fitting winter clothes will be a huge support to them.

As a school, Alderman White are looking to support the project by asking for donations of coats, hats, gloves and scarves for distribution.

If you can help, please bring in any donations labelled FAO Julie Francis to main reception at Alderman White School.

For further information please visit their website: operation-orphan.org/projects/moldova-keep-a-child-warm/

Miss J Francis

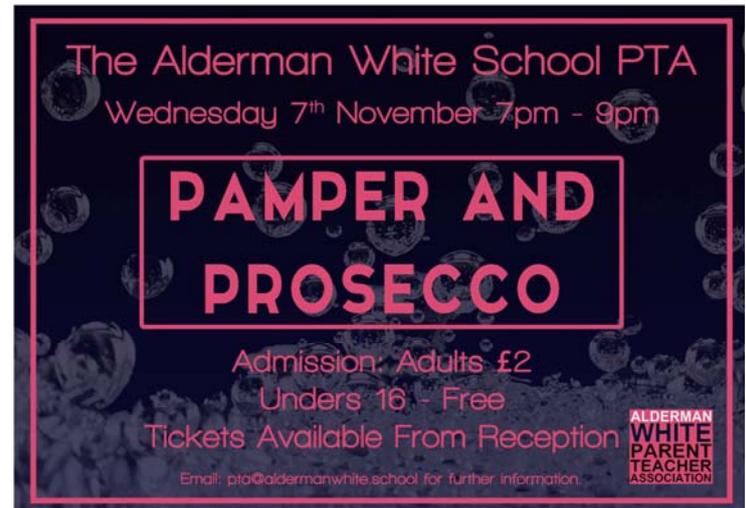
Pamper and Prosecco Evening



Save the date, you deserve a treat!

Alderman White School PTA presents a Pamper and Prosecco Evening on Wednesday 7th November.

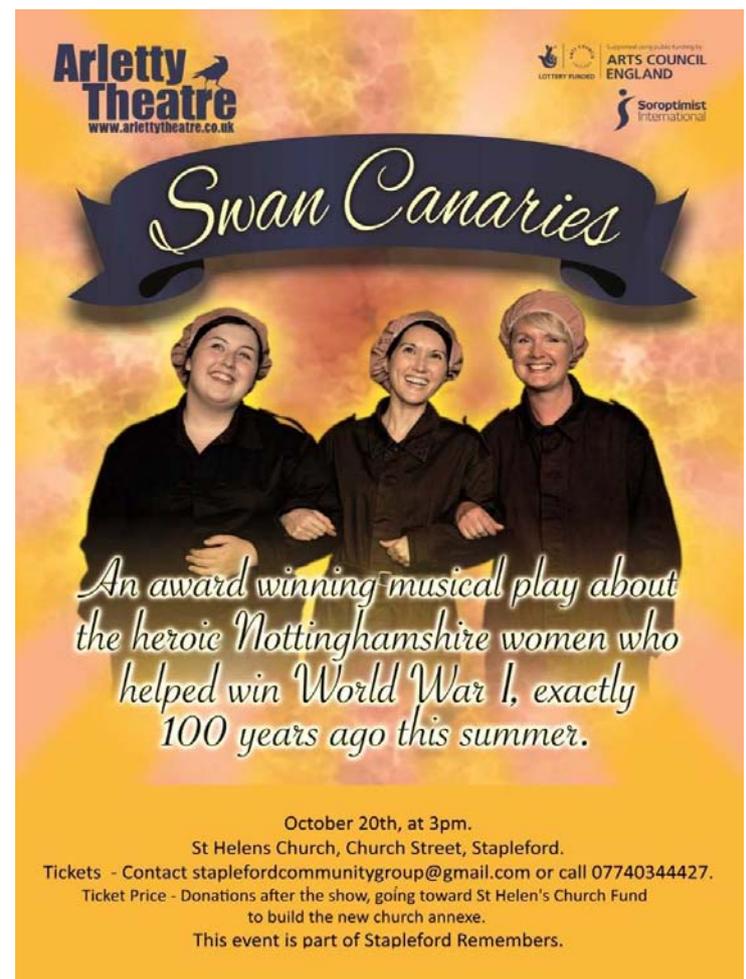
Tickets will be available soon from reception.



Children are welcome to attend for the pampering.

For more information, email pta@aldermanwhite.school

Alderman White PTA



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Web: aldermanwhite.school · Email: white@whpfederation.org



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