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Principal: Mr Jon Francies

JFS/ESD

30th September 2016

Dear Parent

'Worth Less?' Update September 2016

I am writing to let you know that schools and academies are campaigning for fairer funding for pupils in West Sussex. This year, West Sussex children received £44m less than the national average and £200m less than the average London borough.

The campaign, which is known as 'Worth Less? West Sussex Schools Campaign for Fairer Funding', is working to change the unfair funding model that means that West Sussex pupils receive less funding towards their education. It is also seeking to gain interim funding from Central Government to help schools in West Sussex cope with current funding inequalities. Whilst it was hoped that the introduction of a National Fair Funding Formula, which was due to be in place by April 2017, would help to address concerns, the introduction has been delayed with no clear future date set.

Education funding is broadly the same for maintained schools and academies which means that the financial challenges we face as an academy are a consequence of the education funding model, and not a consequence of our recent conversion to academy status.

Cuts to the Education Services Grant, and increased costs in areas such as pensions and National Insurance contributions (the latter of which are estimated, by the Independent Institute of Fiscal Studies, to have reduced budgets by 8-10% year on year), mean that provision has been cut and we are now faced with reducing basic services further.

The 'Worth Less?' campaign is urging the government to pledge a minimum of £20m to West Sussex for the new financial year beginning April 2017.

Further information about the 'Worth Less?' campaign, and how you can support it, is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/WorthLessWestSussex>.

Yours sincerely,

J Francies
Principal



University of Brighton

Academies Trust