

24 April 2018

Dear Parents

I am sure you are aware through the media of the funding issues facing schools nationally. Over the past three years our funding has been cut by about £300,000. We have worked carefully with governors to save money, and looked at alternative ways to fund the areas which impact most significantly on the education your children receive. However, it is unlikely that funding will increase significantly in the future.

We are very proud of what we manage to provide for our students on a relatively modest budget. It is important to us that we continue to provide breadth in the curriculum at all key stages, including Business Studies, French, German and Spanish, a full range of practical subjects (Art, DT RM, DT Textiles, Music, GCSE PE) and Computer Science. Alongside this we try to provide a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities including drama and music productions, debating, Duke of Edinburgh, bridge, music groups, leadership programmes, sports clubs and teams, the ski trip and trips to Germany, Iceland and Australia.

We believe we offer something extra and would like your help to sustain that all-round, excellent educational experience that has become synonymous with life at QEGS; both inside and outside the classroom.

There are three ways that we hope that you as parents will be able to help us:

1. Volunteering

We have many roles behind the scenes in areas like administration and the library. As well as being an enormous help to the school, volunteering can also provide valuable work experience if you are looking to get back into employment. Please contact us if you feel there is something you could offer, and we would provide some training so that you feel confident in the role, as well as ensuring you have the appropriate safeguarding checks (DBS scheme).

2. 'QEGS Extra' Fund

You do much to support your children at school, working with us to fulfil their potential. I am also conscious that everyone is feeling the pinch, not just schools. We are, however, setting up a 'QEGS Extra' Fund with the aim of building up funds that we can use to fill the gaps to which the public money we receive from the government can no longer stretch, enabling us to continue to offer the breadth in our curriculum. If you would like to make a monthly donation to this fund, there are different options on ParentPay/Standing Order (see attached) so that you can decide what level of donation you would like to make.

3. Sponsorship, advertising and fundraising

I am very grateful to our Friends of the School who raise money to meet the needs of the school for items such as netbooks, library books, external speakers on topics such as revision and coping with stress, and sound and lighting equipment. However, we need to hear from you if you have ideas about



how we can access other direct funding streams for the school, such as through sponsorship and advertising. You might know about a scheme run by the company you work for, or your own company might be interested in providing sponsorship for specific projects or teams. Equally, you might have links with charities that provide practical support in schools such as through counselling or drop-in schemes. Please get in touch with me about any contacts you have or can make on our behalf; every little will help!

We are very proud of our school and our students; we think we have something special at QEGS and we want to sustain and enhance the kind of educational experience we offer. Things are very tough but if we work together making the best use of all the resources we have, and finding ways to access different sources of funding, QEGS will continue to offer the excellent, all-round education it has since 1566. Your help is key; we would love to hear from you about volunteering or sponsorship, and also to enlist your commitment to our new 'QEGS Extra' Fund.

Best wishes



Miss Francis
Headteacher

