

24th July 2018

The Mead Academy Trust (TMT) Funding Pressures

Schools included within TMT are:

- The Mead Primary School
- Castle Mead School
- River Mead School

Update from previous communication:

I wrote to you a few weeks ago to explain that The Mead Academy Trust budget setting for the next Financial Year was proving challenging. As indicated the Trust has to provide the Education Funding Agency with a balanced budget and I am pleased to report that the Resources Committee working with the Leadership and Business Management teams have been successful in achieving that objective.

However, it has not been achieved without the need to reduce expenditure in some areas and that will impact on the overall operations within the Trust. Our aim has been to protect as far as possible the following three areas;

- a) Education provision for the pupils
- b) Staff to pupil ratios
- c) Continued Professional Development for Staff

In the majority of instances this has been achieved, but reductions have been necessary in some areas. For instance, specialist provision such as art practitioner sessions are no longer affordable - but grant funding has been secured to maintain this valued provision. There will be reductions on general expenditure on education materials.

I would very much expect therefore that you will not see any change in education provision but you may notice other changes. It may, for instance, be more difficult to arrange appointments with Senior members of staff (as non-teaching leadership capacity will be reduced) and you may notice that reception desk hours are reduced. I would seek your forbearance if you experience any of these but the Committee considered focusing resources on the three priority areas listed above was key to maintaining, and continuing to improve, the high standards to which the Trust aspires.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has carried out research and study long-run trends of Government spending on Education. They have recently stated as follows:

'The amount of per pupil spending in England's schools has fallen by 8% since 2010.... schools have seen a real-term reduction in school spending.'

All schools throughout England and Wales are facing financial challenges due to funding not being sufficiently increased in line with expenditure. This study supports and recognises this issue.

Bob Quick
Chair of Resources Committee

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