



8 March 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian

Please find attached a letter from Leicestershire Secondary Heads group that outlines some of the pressing issues facing education and the need for this to be a greater priority for all political parties.

To provide some context as the Headteacher of BGLC we are currently facing an in year deficit of close to over £500,000 pounds, the first time this has happened. Whilst there are several factors at play, the most significant has been unfunded and partially funded pay rises amounting to close to £400,000, inflationary pressures on all goods and the significant rise in utilities. Our electricity bill alone now costs over £32,000 a month, which is twice as much as it had been when I joined our school. Daily cover rates have risen markedly as agencies command more due to fewer qualified teachers in the system available and a significant rise in unqualified instructors has been seen.

It would also be fair to say that during the past few years there hasn't been any significant additional pupil funding, bar catch up grants post pandemic that have now come to an end.

As an organisation we are compelled to set a balanced yearly budget but this is becoming increasingly more challenging without making some very tough decisions, all of which will impact on the quality of education we are able to offer our children. When speaking to other leaders locally and nationally the outlook is bleak financially for education and we are not alone.

As leaders we need to look at all aspects of our operation to identify where savings can be made. As a school there are few means to generate the income levels required, so savings are where energies need to be. In making such savings the following outcome are very likely:

- Larger class sizes
- Fewer GCSE / A-Level options
- Greater teaching from non-specialists
- Less enrichment activities
- Less interventions, in class support and supervised study
- Rise in transport costs
- Rise in food costs
- Staffing reductions

None of these changes have the interests of our children at the heart of them and all are detrimental to their educational experience. Sadly there is no way our school, like many others, can continue as it is.

I am also very concerned about the impact such changes will have on our staff at a time when there is a national recruitment and retention crisis in Education. If our staff were to leave it is becoming increasingly challenging to replace them, as there simply are no longer enough qualified teachers available and support staff roles have become less desirable in the current financial climate. Without subject specialists in front of our children there is little chance they will meet or exceed their potential, so this has to be an issue that concerns our community.

I would, therefore, urge you to act on the letter from Secondary Heads and ensure Education is a priority for whichever political party you are aligned to for the sake of our children.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Teece', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W Teece
Headteacher



To all parents in our community.

On behalf of Leicestershire Secondary Heads

We are writing to you as a group of Head teachers to seek your support in making education a political priority. As Head teachers, we are here to serve our communities and be politically neutral within our work. However, we feel we must draw attention to the crisis we face in education.

This year, this month, this week, we work within a system which needs a serious and immediate rethink and a clear improvement journey into the future. There are so many issues which are not currently being addressed and need a strong policy response if our young people are to get the opportunity to create their own positive futures.

Therefore, we need your help to be asking your local political candidates questions about:

- the relentless recruitment and retention crisis for teachers and support staff – great schools are run on the greatness of their staff.
- the ongoing drop in pupil attendance – students will not do well if they are not attending but many need support to do so.
- the lack of funding for SEND – current funding provision is significantly short of what is needed.
- the budget deficits we face as we try to manage students with more complex needs
- the mental health crisis in young people with long waiting lists for help
- the reduction and underfunding of external agencies to support our most vulnerable students.

Despite all this turmoil, leaders are working relentlessly to ensure every student their chance to be successful in school.

As headteachers we feel that education is not far enough up the list of political priorities as we approach an election year. We want to rally our parents and community and push for positive educational change together. We would really appreciate your support for this aim through asking questions of your local MP, to every person who arrives on your doorstep canvassing votes and within any opportunity you have to raise the profile of the chronic funding crisis we are experiencing in Education. Students only get one chance at education, we owe it to them to make sure that their chance is top of everyone's agenda.

Thank you for your support.

Leicestershire Secondary Heads