

KEEP OUR SCHOOL OUT- STANDING



DECEMBER 2018

The Cotswold School is to receive less money per pupil than ever before. Our School is not alone – it is a national crisis, affecting all schools and widely reported in the media. The #school programme on the BBC gives a real view of the challenges that schools are facing.

We are so proud of our successes, academic and pastoral, all credit to our fantastic staff and great teachers delivering outstanding teaching and learning and to all the students for their hard work and their families for their support.

Yet, we are the worst funded comprehensive School in Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire is one of the worst funded local authorities in the country

Why is this? A quick overview

Funding across the UK has historically been non-formula based and essentially a post-code “lottery” with some local authorities (LA’s) receiving far more funding for schools than other LA’s. Gloucestershire is one of those LA’s where funding levels, for the last 20 years, have been amongst the lowest in the country. The introduction of a National Funding Formula (NFF) was a welcome solution, as it sought to bring in a minimum funding level and a formula that ensured every pupil receives the same funding regardless of where you live or go to school.

Compare the size of this School with another school of similar size in Gloucestershire and there is a £1 million difference in funding. Compare The Cotswold School to a London school and the shortfall is £3 million. Our best case scenario for the 2019/2020 funding is £4,800 per pupil. We will be £100,000 worse off than we were in 2011/2012. Add into this figure inflation, pension costs, staff costs, increased costs and national insurance contributions, in real terms we will be well below than where we were eight years ago.

**WE DON'T WANT TO BE IN THIS POSITION!
HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

TO KEEP OUR SCHOOL OUTSTANDING

THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL IS A REGISTERED CHARITY

If you feel as deeply as we do and you wish to **voluntary contribute to The Cotswold School**, please consider these quick and easy options:

- Simply set-up a voluntary monthly donation – the form will appear shortly in your ParentMail account. Please also complete the Gift Aid form to ensure every penny comes to The Cotswold School.
- Donate via ParentMail. There is a button, clearly shown in the SHOP page of your ParentMail account.
- Give as You Earn. Your employer may offer a Give as You Earn scheme, such as Elsevier, which may offer a more tax efficient scheme.
- One-off donation. Our BACS details are sort code: 30-95-75 and account number 01001712 or please contact Mandy Tye, mtye@thecotswoldschool.co.uk
- Business sponsorship – we have a range of sponsorship options – please contact Kathryn Allison, marketing@thecotswoldschool.co.uk.
- If you can offer trade or business services, advice and knowledge, again please do let us know as we have had a number of parents who have helped us tremendously.

Continued:

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THIS SHORTFALL IN OUR FUNDING WILL HIT US HARD

How? This is happening in other schools...

- Class sizes will increase
- Teaching departments stretched
- Mental Health provision will stop
- Pastoral care could suffer
- Fewer Teaching Assistants
- Reduction in subjects offered...and other savings will need to be made

What have we been doing?

- Over the last eight years, we have cut costs, cut support staff levels, found efficiencies and other savings and worked hard to bring in additional revenue to the school, through other educational grants and consultancy to other schools.
- Mr Morgan, Principal, is actively involved in the Schools Forum and closely connected with various organisations (particularly F40 and WorthLess?) working hard at lobbying and fairer funding. This squeeze is a national issue.
- We are fundraising as much as we can, and an enormous thank you to The Cotswold School PTA (over £20K per annum) and to all those who support the School with our events and donations and those who support us already with parental monthly donations.
- We are contacting businesses and the community for sponsorship and support.
- We are applying for grants and bids on a weekly basis.

Our 2019 resolution has to be to continue our outstanding reputation as a School that dedicates and provides -

- Excellent teaching and learning
- Exceptional outcomes for all our students
- Examination results that place our students amongst the top state schools in the country
- Mental health support and school counselling provision
- A full enrichment programme of international trips to day trips incorporating each subject area
- A full programme of PSHE, competitions and careers programme
- A School that cares as much about the students' wellbeing and pastoral care as well as their progress.

How do we continue to deliver this? How do we continue to be an outstanding School when our costs have gone up and our funding has decreased?

We will be in touch in the New Year with further details of our 2019 fundraising efforts and campaigns as well as the calendar of fundraising events.

Thank you for your understanding. We are committed to offering the best education, but we need your help. We will be working hard in 2019 to ensure our **outstanding** education for our students continues to flourish.

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THANK YOU!