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Dear Parents/Carers,

Waltham Forest Secondary Heads' Group

This letter is being sent to parents and carers of all Secondary School pupils in Waltham Forest on behalf of secondary Headteachers/Principals. We appreciate that this may well re-state points that you have already been made aware of, however, we felt the matter of future funding for schools is so significant that we also wanted to write to you, outlining major issues that are being faced by all schools across the Borough. The challenges being faced are not unique to any one school, but are widespread and of huge concern to all of us, as school leaders.

You will be aware from the national press the issues surrounding both the "National Funding Formula" and "Fairer Funding", that have been part of the political discussion leading up to the recent General Election. With the outcome of the election now confirmed we would urge you to return to helping address the matter of ensuring adequate school funding.

Each of our schools face real cuts in budgets, which amount to 8% - 11% by 2020. The challenges of meeting these costs will impact upon every school and will, unfortunately, influence our ability to be able to provide the excellent education that we believe your children deserve.

We, as school leaders, are in discussion with our Members of Parliament, asking them to represent our concerns about the impact that the National Funding Formula and the level of funding is having upon schools. We would like to use this letter to encourage you, as parents and voters, to likewise inform them of how important you believe the issue of school funding to be. We do not wish to score political points or indeed take sides but we hope the points made below will be helpful to you in any representation that you may wish to make on the matter of school funding.

The five key points that we suggest the recently elected Government need to address are:

1. To provide sufficient and fair funding.
2. To improve teacher recruitment and retention.
3. To ensure education policy is based on evidence.
4. To commit to curriculum stability.
5. To develop a long-term, shared vision for education.



The reality of the cuts that all of our schools are having to make means that, collectively as Waltham Forest Headteachers, we are each having to address the following challenges:

- Reduction in extra-curricular activities as the increased workload on teachers genuinely restricts their ability to contribute to these additional but essential activities.
- Reduction in teacher numbers, resulting in a rise in class sizes.
- Restricted GCSE and 'A' Level choice as the potential breadth of subjects is reduced.
- Less opportunities for out of class learning.
- Less well maintained buildings as schedules for decoration have to be extended.
- Reduced in-class support for students from additional members of staff.

Please be assured that as your school leaders, we remain determined to provide the very best education for your children. However, we feel duty bound to inform you of the challenges that we collectively face in trying to do so.

Yours faithfully,

L. Pamez

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E. M. Celqubour

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