

## School Funding – A guide for parents

Along with up to 3000 Headteacher colleagues across 14 counties I am writing to you in order to raise the issue of school funding and the significant current financial difficulties that all of our schools are now facing.

During all of our campaigning work to improve funding for each and every child in each and every school, we have been careful not to become involved in a politically biased or partisan way. Headteacher colleagues and I feel that ahead of the forthcoming general election it is crucial that parents, carers and all other interested parties raise the issue of school funding 'on the doorstep' with all prospective candidates.

It would be naïve to think that school funding is the only issue affecting everyone's lives but school finances are in such a dreadful state that we believe that it is vital to urge you to raise it as a key issue prior to 8 June.

As professionals we are only interested in securing fair and adequate funding for the children that we educate. This is under severe threat and has influenced our decision to contact you in a collaborative manner.

We hope that you will find the attached guide to be of use and make educational funding a cornerstone of the election campaign. The suggested questions could be put to any prospective parliamentary candidate so that we can all be fully informed as to the future of school funding in the very near future.

Thank you for your support.

Sammy Crook  
On behalf of 14 counties

Brighton	East Sussex	Peterborough	Wokingham
Cambridgeshire	Essex	Suffolk	West Sussex
Cornwall	Hertfordshire	Surrey	
Devon	Norfolk	Thurrock	

## Future First Assembly for Year 11



Year 11 students who are due to leave us for study leave at the end of this term were invited to an assembly to ask them to stay in touch via our Alumni network providers, Future First. We hope that the majority of young people who are now moving on after their exams will sign up and keep in touch. For staff, it's lovely to have people come back and say hello, and for current students it's invaluable to hear the different life experiences of former students. Thank you to former student Zoey Arthurs, who informed the students of her reasons for joining the network and coming back to help out at events. Students will receive a postcard home reminding them of the sign up process. Any former student can sign up as an alumni and receive a email from us now and again, informing you of what's going on at THS, and telling you of ways you can help with your time.

Mandy Slevin, Development Officer

## Girls on Tour-quay



On the afternoon of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 14 girls from Years 8 and 9 set off to Torquay with their bags packed and ready for a weekend of netball and adventure. This would be Tiverton High School's first netball tour where we would get to compete against schools from all over the UK and you could feel the excitement.

Upon arriving they settled into their rooms before thrashing the other schools at a sports competition around the grounds of PGL's Barton Hall. Saturday saw a morning of netball games for the Year 9s whilst the Year 8s threw themselves into the adventurous activities on offer such as zip-wiring and testing themselves on the leap of faith.

The year 9s played well and despite some unfortunate defeats learnt a lot and with each match grew stronger. Before long they got their flow and the goals kept coming. During the afternoon it was the turn of the Year 8s who after a slow start got the fire in their bellies and their determination rewarded them with some wins. On Sunday both teams played their final matches and left feeling tired but also very proud of all they had achieved. Well done girls, same again next year!?!



## Google Expeditions visit THS

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of May, Year 7 and Year 9 optioners for Year 10 were given an amazing opportunity to experience and discover some of the places they have been studying. Google expeditions came to THS and through virtual reality students were able to stand in a volcano, swim at the Great Barrier Reef and see the polar bears in the Arctic. Whilst Year 9, explored the streets of Rio, a major case study for GCSE geography. A great day was had by all.

I think that the google expedition was very good because it put into perspective the environment. It makes you think about the hazards and things that are going on around you. I would like to do it again.  
Issy Rodgers (Year 9)

## For Sale:

Burtons Suit, ideal for the prom, dark blue, only worn once! Jacket size 38R, trousers 32R £30

**Shirt and tie not included.**

Call Kim on 07592 361169



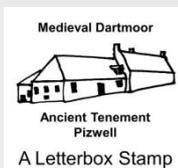
## Upcoming events

17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 -  
Activities Week

**REMINDER ALL OUTSTANDING BALANCES ARE NOW OVERDUE.** If you have any problems with payment, or are unsure if money is still owed, please contact the Accounts Office as a matter of urgency to discuss.

## An outdoor fun activity for the Whitsun holiday

### Letterbox Trail on Dartmoor - £2.50



**Is it fun?** Yes! It's a great way for young people (and adults) to enjoy being out of doors.

**What is Letterboxing?** It's a type of treasure hunt in which you use clues to find hidden 'boxes' on the Moor.

**What is in the boxes?** You will find professionally made stamps showing images of 'Medieval Dartmoor'.

**Do I need any special equipment?** You need an ink pad and some plain paper, a compass, a map and suitable clothing including stout footwear.

**What do I get for my £2.50?** You will receive a set of clues to help you find 16 different boxes + a help sheet on 'How to letterbox' + background information on Medieval Dartmoor + information about the charity.

**When and where is it on Dartmoor?** It's a 3+ mile walk in place from the end of March to the end of October on firm ground away from rivers and bogs not far from Okehampton.

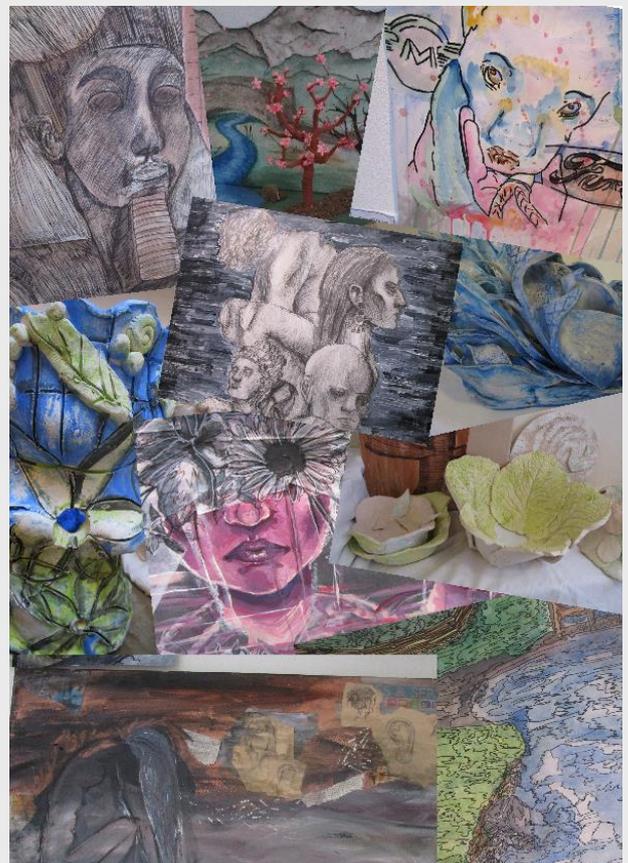
**Where does the money go?** To a national charity 'Topic of Cancer' which researches new cancer therapies (Reg. Charity Number 1151079)

**Who has set up this trail?** Sue and Ivan Godfrey on behalf of the Rotary Club of Tiverton ([sueivan123@outlook.com](mailto:sueivan123@outlook.com)).

**You can buy sets of clues from the Accounts Office at the school.**

## GCSE showcase

On Tuesday 9th May the design department showcased the GCSE work of the Year 11 controlled assessment. The work on display was for art, food, resistant materials and photography. Students and parents joined the design team to look at the excellent work and celebrate in what had been a strong year for the design qualifications. We are all really proud of the students and wish them luck in their future studies.



## TERM DATES

HALF TERM – Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May to Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> July

FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM – Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Sept  
(Non-Student Day – Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Sept)

HALF TERM – Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> to Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Oct  
LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM – Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Dec

FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM – Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan

## Education on the Doorstep

A straightforward guide for parents and carers to understand the key issues of fair and improved funding for our schools.

### The Issues

- £3 billion is being withdrawn from schools budgets in England
- In real terms, per pupil funding is decreasing by approximately 8%
- Pupil numbers are also increasing significantly
- Recruiting teachers for specialist subjects such as Maths, English, Science and Computer Science is becoming increasingly difficult.
- Some schools have been asking parents for additional financial contributions.

### The Effects

- Without adequate funding schools can't employ enough high quality teachers. Some schools are having to make teachers redundant because they can no longer afford to employ them.
- Schools are also having to make support staff redundant. These staff often work with children with additional needs. In the years ahead there is a great deal of concern that some of our most vulnerable children will not receive the support they need.
- Class sizes are increasing. This is worrying because children are less likely to get the personal attention they need from a teacher who knows them well.
- Some schools are reducing the number of subjects they teach. This means the curriculum is narrowing and individual talents can't be nurtured in the way of previous generations.
- Many of the extra, wider curriculum experiences are being reduced either because the school can't subsidise them or increased workload for staff means it is not reasonable to ask them to keep doing more.
- Some schools are struggling with poorly maintained classrooms and buildings and in some cases unresolved health and safety issues.

### The questions for ALL prospective candidates for Members of Parliament

- What are your priorities with regard to the allocation of funding to all schools and each pupil?
- How will you ensure that school budgets are protected in real terms for the duration of the next parliament? Please avoid telling me that more is being spent on schools; we have more children of school age than ever and costs are rising.
- Some schools are looking to create classes of 60-100 children in the school hall because they cannot afford enough teachers. What are you going to do to prevent that?
- Our children should be provided with a broad curriculum, great support and enriching activities. How will you ensure that my child has the educational experience they deserve?
- How will you ensure education for children with Special Educational Needs is adequately resourced? A large funding gap in this area is detracting much needed funds from all schools.

### Where can I get more information?

- The following report by the BBC explores school funding issues in more detail:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-39302746>
- The link below provides the results to a comprehensive survey completed by over 700 Heads in primary, secondary and special schools across 14 different counties.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.net/results/SM-2DC9HGZB/>
- Parents across the country are getting organised under the Fair Funding for all Schools campaign. This is an independent parent-led organisation which aims to give parents and carers a voice on school funding. You can find more information here [www.fairfundingforallschools.org](http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org)

#### Reality Check: Is education spending at a record level?

02 17 March 2017 | Libby and Kerry



"Record amounts of funding are going into education."

Prime Minister Theresa May

