



REDDEN COURT SCHOOL

Committed to Success for All



February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following our briefing to parents and carers on 9th February and your very supportive response, I have decided to write to all parents/carers outlining the financial challenges we face and to request your assistance.

In September 2011, Redden Court School became an Academy and a registered company. The academy principle is based on the concept of schools adopting a business model of operation and efficiency. In any business, the ultimate judgement of success or failure will be the quality of its product. As a school, we are judged by our outcomes and in our 2016 results we achieved a Progress 8 score of 0.43 for our students. This placed us at the top of the league table in Havering, in the top 10% of schools nationally and is testament to the fact that we perform very well as a school.

Since 2012 and the introduction of a new National Funding Formula, funding to schools, including this school, has remained frozen. In essence, the income we receive, based on the numbers of students, has not changed. However, since 2012 we have experienced the following additional costs.

- Increased National Insurance contributions for employers of 3.3%
- Increased Teacher Pension contributions from 14.1% to 16.8% for employers
- Associate Staff Pension contributions of 24.7%
- Mandatory National Pay Awards (1% each year)
- Rising costs of goods, services and utilities due to inflation

These additional costs have resulted in a 1.5% reduction in our budget each year which we have strived to combat in a number of ways, including:

- Increasing student numbers from 625 to 750
- Restructuring our curriculum to ensure staff are used to maximum efficiency
- Procuring a central print management system to cut costs of photocopying
- Developing a pool of cover supervisors to negate supply teacher costs
- Negotiating very competitive contracts e.g. broadband provision, cleaning, waste management, grounds maintenance



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Headteacher: Mr. P. Ward BA(Hons)



- Moving towards students bringing their own Chromebooks into school, thus cutting down on the costs of providing fixed PCs
- Developing and leading a Multi Academy Trust with projected future efficiencies

These strategies have, up to now, enabled us to continue to provide a high quality of education and continue to set balanced budgets. As an academy, we are not permitted to set a deficit budget. The current government have now published, as part of a consultation, details of their latest National Funding Formula which not only indicates a redistribution of funding from rural to urban schools but also from most Secondary to Primary schools. Within the Havering context, many Primaries will be better off by as much as 2-3% of their current budget; however, the majority of Secondaries, including Redden Court School, will lose further funding. At this point in time, we project we will be 1.5% or £68,000 down in 2017/18 and a further 1.5% for each of the next 5/6 years. We are now simply at a point where there are no further cost efficiencies to be made which will not impact on the quality of education for your child.

We will, from this September, have to reduce capitation budgets for each subject area which will reduce the resources that subject areas can offer the students. Capitation budgets amount to £150,000 and pay for exercise books, text books, stationery, software, photocopying, specialist equipment etc. We will also have to consider whether to replace staff and also consider redundancy of staff which will lead to larger class sizes and impact on our pastoral care.

It is important at this point to make a distinction between Revenue Funding and Capital Funding. Revenue funding is essentially the funding we receive for each student and this is where we are experiencing reduced funding. Schools can bid separately for Capital Funding to refurbish/replace buildings which we have successfully accomplished over the years.

As parents/carers who I know would want to see the school maintain its current level of provision there are a number of ways in which you can help. As a minimum we have set ourselves the target of raising the projected £68,000 shortfall in donations and sponsorship.

Firstly, we would like to ask for a regular parental contribution to the school. Other schools within Havering have this as part of their ethos and culture and we need to mirror this at Redden Court School if we are to maintain our current provision. Enclosed is a bank mandate which you can complete and send to your bank to support the school.

Ideally we would like £10 per month as a minimum but whatever is affordable will help us meet this deficit budget. You can also make payment via ParentPay. There is a ParentPay payment item, Funding Support, which allows a payment of up to £200 and this is repeatable so any donation to the school can be made through ParentPay too.

If you are a tax payer, we can claim back tax paid on earnings that you have donated. For every £1 donated we can claim a further 25 pence as long as we have a signed Gift Aid declaration. Again this form is enclosed.

Secondly, if you own or have any association with a business or company, please ask for sponsorship for the school. We are happy to create a display board at the front of the school recognising companies that do support the school. We will also add logos at the footer of our Community Newsletter and acknowledge companies as part of our communications. There are now a number of schools who are heavily sponsored by large companies who ultimately use this as a tax break. Please contact our business manager, Mr Barrett, on jbarrett@reddencourtcloud.co.uk if you feel this is something you could do as a company owner or negotiate as an employee.

Thirdly, please support all fundraising initiatives. The Friends of Redden Court have a Race Night on 11th March 2017. Tickets are £5 each and it is an adult only event so bring your own drink and nibbles and have a great night. Even if you cannot attend, you can sponsor a horse for £2 and if that horse wins the race you win a bottle of wine.

The Friends will be launching the 100 Club which is a lottery where half of all proceeds are for the school and the remainder is a cash prize for the winner and runner up. More details of this are enclosed with this letter.

There are quiz nights throughout the year and a Christmas disco that fundraises for the PE Faculty. Please come along and support these events. These events when well supported raise over £1,000.

Finally, please lobby your MP and local councillors. It is with some anger that I write this letter as schools should be adequately funded; however, the current government will not listen to headteachers or teachers. Parent power will be the strongest weapon in changing this situation.

Contact details for local politicians are as follows:

The MP in the Harold Wood area is Angela Watkinson.
Email: angela.watkinson.mp@parliament.uk
Constituency: 23 Butts Green Road, Hornchurch, RM11 2JS.
Tel: 01708 475252

The Romford MP is Andrew Rosindell. Email: andrew@rosindell.com

Andrew holds weekly surgeries in different parts of Romford. To book a surgery appointment or find out where the next MP's Information and Advice Stand will visit, please telephone the MP's Advice and Information Centre: 01708 766700.

The Cabinet Lead for Education at the council is Robert Benham. Correspondence address: Members' Room, Town Hall, Main Road, Romford, RM1 3BD Telephone: 01708 432037, Email: councilorrobort.benham@havering.gov.uk.

Your local councillors are Brian Eagling, Alex Donald and Darren Wise.

We have asked Havering, as a Council, if they intend to assist the school in any way, but Tim Aldridge, the Director of Children's Services has made it clear that 'The Local Authority do not have the funds to give additional funding to schools'. This is a disappointing response from a council who appear to take very little pride in the quality of their secondary schools.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and your assistance in maintaining our commitment to success for all is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Ward', written in a cursive style.

Mr P Ward
Head Teacher



REDDEN COURT SCHOOL

Committed to Success for All



BANK MANDATE

Date

To:

.....
Name of Bank and Branch, including full address and postcode
.....

With effect from 1st March 2017 and each month thereafter until further notice, please pay the sum of

£..... (figures)

..... (words)

To the credit of Redden Court School, Romford – Account No 47190568 at Lloyds TSB Bank plc (30-97-13) Romford Branch Branch, Market Place, Romford, Essex.

Please debit my bank account accordingly

Account No.

Sort Code

Signature

Full Name
(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms).....

Address

Postcode



Redden Court School

A Specialist Mathematics and Computing Academy



Gift Aid Declaration

Name of Academy: Redden Court School

Donor's details:

Title

Forename(s)
.....

Surname

Home Address
.....
.....

Postcode:

Student Name Form

Student Name Form

Student Name Form

Please treat

- the enclosed donation of £ as a Gift Aid donation; OR
- all donations that I make today and in the future as gift aid donations; OR
- all donations that I have made in the past six years & all future donations that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations

✓ *Please tick the appropriate box*

I confirm that I pay an amount of UK tax (Income & /or Capital Gains Tax) at least equal to the amount of tax the charity reclaims on my donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 given)

Signed Date

PTO

Notes:

1. Please notify the school if you change your name or address while the declaration is in force.
2. You can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying the school, in writing.
3. If you pay tax at the highest rate, you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
4. If you are unsure if your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, please consult leaflet IR113 Gift Aid from your local tax office.
5. If in the future your circumstances change & you no longer pay income tax &/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount of tax the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.

RACE NIGHT

at REDDEN COURT SCHOOL

Saturday 11th March 2017

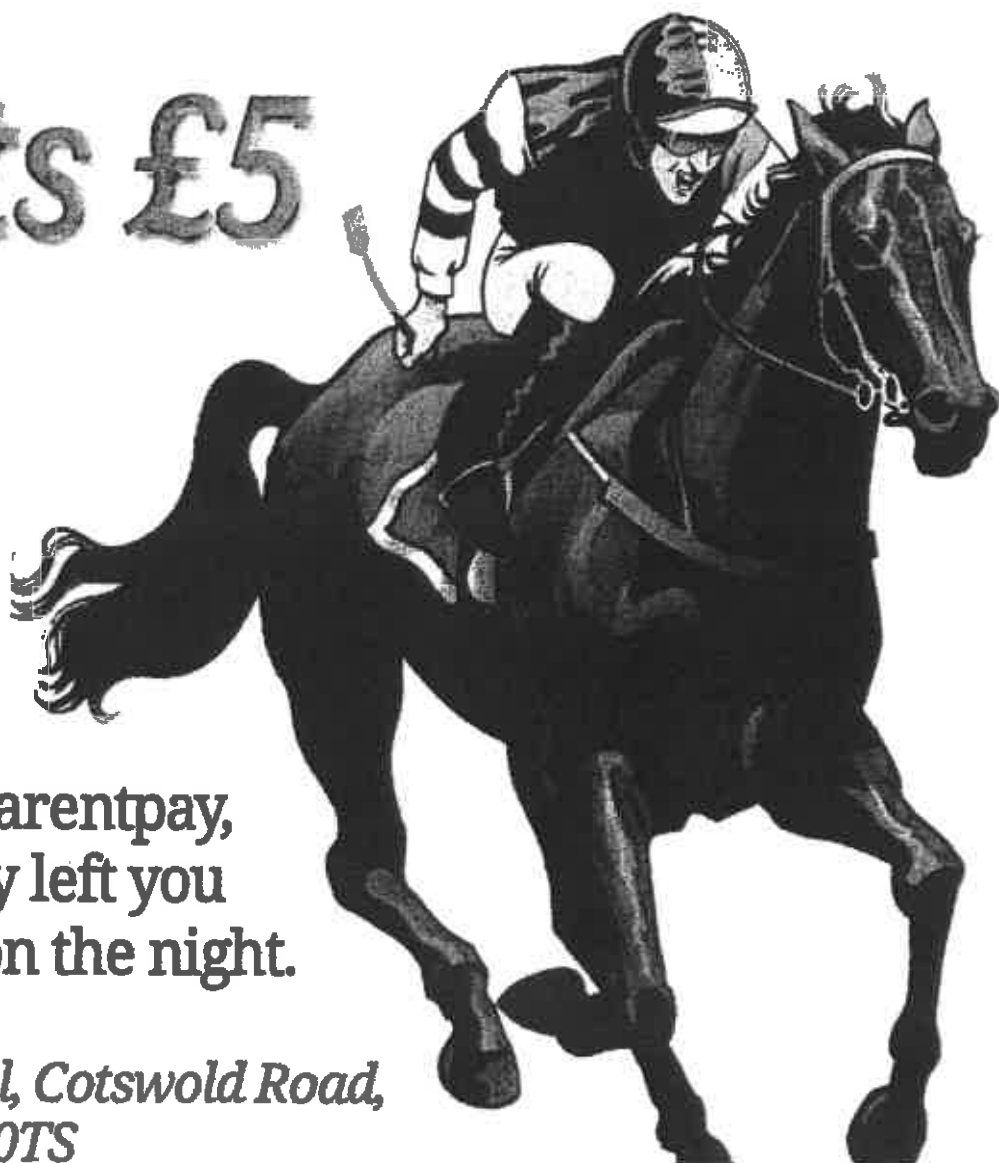
7.30pm for 8pm start

Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Raffle tickets available on the night. £1 per strip or 6 for £5.

Tickets £5

**Sponsor
a horse
for £2**

When you buy your tickets via Parentpay, or if there are any left you can buy a horse on the night.



*Redden Court School, Cotswold Road,
Harold Wood. RM3 0TS*

Dear Parent/Carer

100 Club

How would you like the opportunity to win a cash prize each month at the same time as raising much needed funds for the school?

Assuming the idea appeals to you, then please read on

The Friends of Redden Court (FORC) have set up a 100 Club as a new way to raise money for our School, as well as giving participants the opportunity to win a cash prize each month.

Why the 100 Club - This is because we need at least £100 paid in to the club before any draw can be made.

Each entry to the 100 Club will cost £2. This means we need at least 50 entries to make the club viable. Half of all payments will be donated to FORC to add to funds raised to enhance our children's educations; the remaining money will be the prize, 60% for first prize and 40% for second prize. For example, £100 in payments, £50 to FORC, £30 first prize, £20 second prize. Should we have many more entries the percentages will be the same for the winners. For example if we have 200 entries then £200 is donated to FORC and the winner will receive £120 and runner up £80

You may purchase multiple entries at £2 each. Payment will be via ParentPay, and there will be the option to pay each month, or to make an annual payment ensuring your entry each month for the following twelve months. Once payment is made, your name will be placed in to the draw. If you make more than one payment your name will be placed in to the draw for the equivalent number of payments.

We require a minimum of fifty entries each month. If in any month we have not met the minimum requirement of fifty entries, all monies will be rolled over to the following month, and no prizes issued for that particular month.

The 100 Club will continue for two months to assess its popularity. If after the trial period we consistently exceed one hundred monthly entries then the prize fund will be divided into three prizes from month three – first prize 50%, second prize 30%, third prize 20%.

Payment must be made by 10th of each month to count towards that month's draw, which will take place on 20th of each month.

Full details of the draw will be published monthly in the community newsletter and winners notified by the school.

We hope that you will generously support us.

Friends of Redden Court