

19th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

You may have heard about the continuing challenges headteachers are facing on school funding; this year alone the actual cut to school budgets is between 3.6% and 4%. In real terms this cut represents over 7.6% as schools have not received any inflationary increase. This equates to a figure of over £400,000 for some of our secondary schools. As a joint response from all the secondary headteachers in Conwy we want parents to be fully informed about the challenges we continue to face and to encourage you to support us. With increased pressures on school budgets and cuts to services that support our most vulnerable young people and their families, it is make-or-break time for our schools. The financial situation has become critical. We are now in a position where many Conwy schools must make redundancies with a great many other schools being in a deficit budget over the next few years. Schools have an ever-increasing part to play in supporting children and their wider families, but this is being expected whilst our resources are reducing. In the end, it is the children within our communities who will suffer – they deserve better.

We are all having to consider decisions that would result in: -

- Larger class sizes and fewer teachers and senior staff
- School buildings falling into disrepair
- Reduction in support for ALN and wellbeing needs at a time when these are key drivers for curriculum reform and local social contexts
- Cuts to pastoral services including teaching assistants and support staff in general
- Outdated computer equipment
- Fewer trips and after school activities that have previously been subsidised or offered free
- Significant challenge to the growth of Welsh medium education and meeting the 'Million Welsh Speakers' and WESP targets
- Additional funding streams such as grants to support enhanced projects are now being used to support the core provision of our schools

As a group of headteachers we have tried to shield parents from the difficulties but because the situation is not sustainable, we are working together to make parents fully aware. There simply are not the savings to be made that can make up for the huge shortfall in our funding. It feels very unfair to our children and to our staff.

Representatives from Conwy headteachers have already met with local councillors to raise their awareness about the impact the cuts are having. We would like to ask you to join us and write to your AM and local councillors and/or add you name to the following petition on school funding: [Petition on School Funding](#)

This will all add strength to our concerns on the impact the cuts are going to have on the long term educational provision for your children.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

Conwy Secondary Headteachers

- **Ian Gerrard, Ysgol Aberconwy**
- **Trefor Jones, Ysgol y Creuddyn**
- **Sarah Sutton, Ysgol Eirias**
- **Ann Webb, Ysgol John Bright**
- **Dave Humphreys, Ysgol Bryn Eliau**
- **Elan Davies, Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy**
- **Lee Cummins, Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan**

Head/Pennaeth: Mrs E. Hughes, OBE, B.A., M.Sc.
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19 Chwefror 2019

Annwyl Rieni a Gwarcheidwad,

Efallai eich bod wedi clywed am yr heriau parhaus sy'n wynebu penaethiaid ynglŷn ag ariannu ysgolion; eleni mae'r toriad gwirioneddol i gyllidebau ysgolion rhwng 3.6% a 4%. Mae hyn cyfystyr â ffigwr o dros £200,000 ar gyfer rhai o'n hysgolion uwchradd. Mae Penaethiaid Ysgolion Uwchradd Conwy, ar y cyd yn awyddus bod gan rieni ddealltwriaeth llawn am yr heriau yr ydym yn parhau i'w hwynebu ac i'ch annog i'n cefnogi. Gyda phwysau cynyddol ar gyllidebau ysgolion a thoriadau i wasanaethau sy'n cefnogi ein pobl ifanc mwyaf bregus a'u teuluoedd, mae ein hysgolion ar ben eu tennyn. Mae'r sefyllfa ariannol, erbyn hyn yn argyfyngus. Bellach rydym mewn sefyllfa lle mae'n rhaid i nifer o ysgolion Conwy dorri swyddi, gyda llawer o ysgolion eraill yn gorfod gosod cyllidebau gyda diffyg ariannol dros y blynyddoedd nesaf. Mae gan ysgolion ran gynyddol i chwarae o ran cefnogi plant a'u teuluoedd, ond disgwylir hyn tra bod ein hadnoddau yn lleihau. Yn y pen draw, y plant o fewn ein cymunedau sy'n dioddef - maen nhw'n haeddu gwell.

Mae'n rhaid i bob un ohonom ystyried penderfyniadau a fyddai'n arwain at: -

- Dosbarthiadau mwy o faint a llai o athrawon ac Uwch Arweinwyr
- Adeiladau'r ysgol yn dirywio
- Llai o gymorth ar gyfer anghenion ADY a lles ar adeg pan fo'r rhain yn yrwyr allweddol ar gyfer diwygio'r cwricwlwm a chyd-destunau cymdeithasol lleol
- Toriadau i wasanaethau bugeiliol gan gynnwys cymorthyddion addysgu a staff cefnogi yn gyffredinol
- Offer cyfrifiadurol sydd wedi dyddio
- Llai o deithiau a gweithgareddau ôl ysgol a fu'n gymorthdaledig neu'n rhad ac am ddim yn y gorffennol
- Her sylweddol i dwf addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a chwrdd â 'Miliwn o Siaradwyr Cymraeg' a thargedau CSCA (WESP)
- Mae ffrydiau cyllid ychwanegol fel grantiau i gefnogi prosiectau lefel uwch bellach yn cael eu defnyddio i gefnogi darpariaeth craidd ein hysgolion.

Rydym, fel grŵp o benaethiaid wedi ceisio gwarchod rhieni rhag yr anawsterau ond nid yw'r sefyllfa yn gynaliadwy. I'r perwyl hynny, rydym yn cydweithio i wneud rhieni'n gwbl ymwybodol o'r sefyllfa. Yn syml, nid yw'n bosibl gwneud arbedion a fydd yn gwneud i fyny am y diffyg enfawr yn yr arian sy'n cael ei ddyrannu i ni. Mae'n teimlo'n annheg iawn ar ein dysgwyr a'n staff.

Mae cynrychiolwyr o blith penaethiaid Conwy eisoes wedi cyfarfod â chynghorwyr lleol i godi eu hymwybyddiaeth am yr effaith mae'r toriadau yn ei gael. Hoffem ofyn i chi ymuno â ni drwy ysgrifennu at eich Aelodau Cynulliad a chynghorwyr lleol a/neu ychwanegu eich enw at y ddeiseb ganlyinol ar gyllid ysgolion: [Deiseb ar Ariannu Ysgolion](#)

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Bydd hyn yn gymorth wrth i ni rannu ein pryderon am yr effaith y mae'r toriadau yn mynd i'w cael ar ddarpariaeth addysgol hirdymor ar gyfer eich plant.

Diolch ymlaen llaw am eich cymorth.

Yn gywir

Penaethiaid Uwchradd Conwy

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