

# HONITON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Principal: Mr Glenn Smith BSc (Hons)



February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

You will recall the letter that Mr Smith, Principal, sent to you last week regarding the funding situation facing our school and others in the Devon area. To summarise for many years Devon has been one of the lowest-funded education authorities in England. In 2016-17 this resulted in a shortfall of £290 per student when compared to the national average. This difference in funding for us has an impact of being funded £186,760 less than the average across the UK for 2016/17.

On Wednesday 14th December 2016 the Secretary of State for Education announced the stage 2 consultation of the national funding formula for schools. We had hoped that this announcement would bring about a readjustment in funding that would be favourable to our school given our historic underfunding. Despite national news headlines which intimated that urban schools were 'losers' and rural schools 'winners', the reality for us is that we will see a 0.6% decrease in our funding by 2019-20.

To make the process of responding to this situation easier we have drafted a template letter which we would appreciate you sending to your local MP (for Honiton and Tiverton this is Neil Parish). The letter once amended can either be emailed to [neil.parish.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:neil.parish.mp@parliament.uk) or posted to the following address.

Westminster Office of Neil Parish MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

We would also encourage parents to complete the following petitions at [www.schoolcuts.org.uk](http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk) and at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/177952>.

We value for continual support and should you wish to discuss further or would like to discuss how you could help us raise awareness and support our case for fairer funding then please email the College at [admin@honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Matt Burrell**  
Director of Finance and Resources



Dear Mr Parish

I am writing to you as a parent with a child at Honiton Community College to ask you to petition the Secretary of State for Education in respect of the unfairness surrounding the new proposals for Fairer School Funding. I am aware that the stage 2 consultation of the National Funding Formula was announced in December and would have resulted in a 0.6% decrease in funding if this had been applied in the current financial year.

Devon has been one of the lowest funded areas historically with a £290 shortfall per student and this difference in funding has an impact of being funded £186,760 less than the average across the UK. This significant funding shortfall has, and will continue to impact, on the quality of the education provision for my child at Honiton Community College.

The college is experiencing a range of costs pressures which are a direct result of national policy decisions such as the national living wage, pension and NI increases and pay structure annual increases. In addition, Devon County Council are taking the decision to reduce the per student funding rate (AWPU) by £33 per student and transfer this to the High Needs Block where they have a deficit. These pressures, which if taken individually, may have been accommodated but the cumulative effect is significant to the overall funding received by the college.

The college is recognised as an OFSTED 'good' school and again is having to look creatively at trimming costs. This exercise has been carried out on a number of occasions and are now at the point where the impact of further cost saving measures will have a lasting and negative impact on the education of the students.

The latest proposals clearly place the young people of Devon at a distinct disadvantage and could potentially impact on them for the rest of their lives. Whilst I understand that public sector spending is under-pressure overall the current proposed changes to funding and general cost pressures cannot be sustained or justified without additional funding.

I look forward to your response to this matter.

Yours sincerely