



THE WEEKLY WORD

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<http://www.lawrencesherriffschool.net/weekly-word>

First Word ... from Peter Kent, Headteacher

Volume 22 Number 5

Friday 5 October 2018

I have been asked by several people if I joined the march on Downing Street by around 2000 headteachers last Friday. The protest was organised by the group *WorthLess?* in order to deliver a letter to the Prime Minister expressing grave concern about ever declining levels of funding in schools. There were lots of jokes in the media about the make-up of the protest ensuring it was the best behaved demonstration in living memory, with journalists pointing out that those who wanted to speak put their hands up first and that everyone stood in one straight line.

I can confirm that I was not in London and instead carried out a relatively routine set of duties at LSS during the day. However, whilst not wishing to pursue this particular course of action myself, I can understand why the group acted as they did.

Earlier this month an independent study by the Institute of Fiscal Studies concluded that:

Total school spending per pupil has fallen by 8% in real terms between 2009–10 and 2017–18. This was mainly driven by a 55% cut to local authority spending on services and cuts of over 20% to school sixth-form funding.

These cuts have impacted in a very uneven manner and have arguably had most impact upon schools and Post 16 institutions who have a large number of Sixth Formers (a funding cut of 20% would damage any organisation). However, the reduction in the amount of money in the system and the ever increasing list of things that schools are meant to do with the funds that they have, mean that everyone is feeling the impact of some very painful belt-tightening.

For these reasons, it is perhaps no surprise that a study from another independent organisation (The Education Policy Institute, run by former Education Minister David Laws) found that the number of maintained schools who were running a deficit had dramatically increased over the past three years to 26%. I am pleased to say that we are not in deficit, but there is no denying that times are difficult and it is becoming extremely difficult to make budgets balance.

In the end, the people who have to decide upon levels of education funding are not headteachers, teachers or even school governors. All of us as a society together have to take a considered view on how scarce resources are allocated. If we decide that education should have a high priority, then it is necessary to accept that there is an associated cost. If we wish to give more to other public services, then it is important to be open about the chain of thought that has led to this decision. We certainly cannot pretend that schools can continue to raise standards and provide an ever increasing range of services to their communities whilst also facing a series of real-terms cuts. **Peter Kent**

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A huge thank you to all parents and carers for their gift aid donations.

This fund has been used to replace the sports hall floor.



Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening

Thursday 18th October 2018 (1 of 2)

Insight will be opened for parents to book appointments for the first of two Year 11 parent consultation evenings on **Monday 1st October 2018 at 8.00 am**, it will remain open until the end of school on **Monday 8th October 2018**.

We will then add any appointments that Dr Mather, Head of Year, wishes to make and confirm when schedules have been completed.

If you require any assistance with Insight, please email:

Issinsight@lawrencesherriffschool.com or
Teresa.mpofu@lawrencesherriffschool.com



TABLE TENNIS



Lunchtime Sessions:

Wednesday: year seven club members only (Lawrence Sheriff School)
Friday: club and school team members only (Lawrence Sheriff School)

Club Sessions:

Wednesday 6.30 pm—9.00 pm (Lawrence Sheriff School)
Sunday 10.00 am - 12.00 pm (Hill Street Community Centre)

Try them out - first two are free!

See the website for more info: www.RugbyTableTennisClub.NET

REMINDER FOR ALL PARENTS, CARERS AND STUDENTS



SCHOOL CLOSED

THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2018

Shopping online?

Access your favourite retailer via:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lawrencesherriffschoolpta>

and the school gets a commission!