

Date: 12/12/2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you well and that your child/children have enjoyed this term at school. Pupils and staff are undoubtedly ready for the Christmas break and we have thoroughly enjoyed getting in to the 'Christmas Spirit' with your children over the last few days.

Across the Trust, we have seen some real successes and plenty of exciting activities taking place during this term, which I hope you will take the time to read about in our Autumn Trust Round Up!

I wanted to write to you, to provide some reassurance to you that we appreciate how difficult things are at the moment in terms of rising costs in all aspects of our lives. We are all feeling the pinch and are finding different ways in which to try to manage the ever-increasing cost of living. We know this isn't easy.

Our Trustees, Academy Councillors and all staff here at Northern Ambition, are keen to keep any cost to our families to the minimum and I hope you can see that through the cost of our meals, provision of equipment and the support we offer to families with uniform and other costs, such as breakfasts and attending extra-curricular trips and visits. Where we can, we will help.

I am proud to say that all of our schools support the local food and baby banks here in Airedale and this Christmas is no exception. Staff and pupils continue to donate generously to these causes and hope that we can make a difference to families in our community. You will see regular updates and more information about this via our social media platforms for each of our academies. Thank you to those of you who have felt able to donate at such a difficult time for all, we really do appreciate it.

You will have also seen in the media that schools nationally are facing a funding crisis due to government underfunding and many are having to cut the number of teachers and support staff, leading to larger class sizes, reduced curriculum options, and less support for pupils. I would like to reassure you that at this time, all of the academies within Northern Ambition Academies Trust are not in this situation, and due to strong financial management, are able to survive the current funding crisis. We must though be mindful of future spending requirements and of future funding for education, but again, rest assured that we will be keeping a close eye on what's to come. I have recently written to our local MP Yvette Cooper to outline our concerns around educational funding and the current lack of commitment to this from our government.

If you are keen to find out more about the impact of this underfunding on schools in the local area, there is a website that parents and carers can access to do just that. The website is maintained by the National Education Union, and it is supported by a number of professional organisations such as Parentkind. The [School Cuts](#) website has been relaunched now in light of the severe funding pressures facing the education sector and could be of interest to some of you.

I would like to leave you with the reassurance that our Trust will continue to offer the very best education we can to your children. Despite difficult financial times for all, we will manage this in such a way that will mean no disruption to the life chances of the young people in our care.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Yours faithfully,



Elizabeth Fairhurst
Chief Executive
Northern Ambition Academies Trust