



29 January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope the New Year has started well for you and your family.

Fundraising opportunity

Before Christmas, I wrote to you with information about a fundraising opportunity for the school. By registering with Easyfundraising, we receive a donation each time you shop online with over 3,200 stores. Whilst the Christmas shopping period is now over, we still raise money on day-to-day shopping. Whether you are switching gas and electric suppliers, downloading music or booking train tickets, we stand to benefit if you go through Easyfundraising.

There are three main ways to raise money:

- If you shop on a PC or laptop, visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/elizabethanacademytrust and follow the links to your chosen retailer
- Alternatively, you can download **Donation Reminder**, an extension from the Easyfundraising website, which prompts you to activate the donation from each retailer's website when you shop
- For those of you who shop on a phone or tablet, there is an Easyfundraising app (which has a rating of 4.7 out of 5 based on nearly 5000 reviews). It works in a similar way to the website.

Money saving opportunity

As well as looking for ways to raise extra money, we are also constantly on the lookout for ways of saving it too! MyEd is a new app that we have introduced to improve communication between school and home. You may have seen flyers for it at Parents' Evening or seen it on the "splash screen" when you visit our website.

MyEd gives you access to a range of school information, including your child's tracking data (current and previous). It also allows you to authorise absences without having to phone in.

The app has now been downloaded by about half the school. It is free to download from the usual places. A survey of parents at the Year 8 Parents' Evening indicated that all those who were already using the app found it to be either useful or very useful.

We can also use it to message parents, and unlike traditional text messages, anything sent through MyEd is free. Therefore, the more people who sign up to MyEd, the less money we spend on texts.

Changes to holiday patterns

You may have seen that, following consultation, Nottinghamshire County Council have decided to change the holiday patterns starting in the academic year 2019-20, introducing a two-week holiday in October 2019 but shortening the summer holiday in 2020.

As an academy, we can set our own holiday patterns, although in the past we have generally followed Nottinghamshire holidays. This is a relatively recent announcement from the Local Authority, so we have not yet discussed the implications for us as a school. However, please be assured that we will consult later this year if we decide not to follow the Nottinghamshire holidays for 2019-20.

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Changes to uniform supplier

You will remember that some parents and carers experienced significant difficulties obtaining our new uniform over the summer holidays. With this in mind, we have been in discussions since September on a change to our uniform supplier. **The uniform itself is not changing:** feedback from visitors to the school and members of the public is overwhelmingly positive, and many people have remarked upon how smart our students look and how proud they seem to be wearing the Elizabethan uniform.

Uniform Direct will continue to be our supplier this term. However, from Easter we shall be switching to Trutex, a national company with over 150 years' experience. Much of their business is done online through Trutex Direct; however, they have said that they will run an annual "pop up shop" in school if parents find that more convenient.

The kilt and PE kit will not be available online but can be purchased through school. Whilst this does cause us some additional work, it will provide considerable savings for you against the prices Trutex were able to offer online for these items.

We have done our best to ensure that prices between the two suppliers are comparable, although with inflation we would expect a moderate increase in prices for next year. However, parents are still reporting issues to do with quality of uniform to us, and we are keen to ensure that you are happy with the products you are buying.

More details of these changes will follow nearer the time.

Yours sincerely



Jason White
Vice Principal

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