

6 July 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you will be aware St Aidan's has always been proud of the fact that we have tried to provide the best facilities, resources and teaching for all of our students. This continues to be our major concern even though, as all people are finding, the period of austerity is making it increasingly difficult to find the monies to do it. We fully recognise that our major priority has to be in the Teaching and Learning that is offered through our curriculum but alongside this we must be mindful of providing opportunities that help students to become healthy and well-rounded young people as they journey through school. Sport, Drama, Music, Performing Arts and other extra-curricular opportunities will therefore remain an essential element of what this school represents and offers.

When I started as a teacher at St Aidan's many years ago we considered ourselves fortunate to have a Redgra all-weather surface, which enabled sport to take place throughout the year and eleven years ago this was upgraded to an 'Astroturf' surface which provided an even better facility for our students. These surfaces naturally only have a certain life span and we are now concerned that we must improve our outside sports facilities to meet the ever increasing needs of students. To this end the Governors have agreed to the installation of a 3G all-weather surface as soon as possible and are already in discussion with contractors. As you would expect we are working hard to raise funds from a wide variety of sources. Indeed if you are in a position with personal or business interests where you or your business might be interested in donating or sponsoring this development we would be delighted to hear from you. In addition to sponsorship, we are planning to use monies from our reserves as well as raising monies from within the school. The cost for this development is approximately £400,000. I am very grateful that the Friends of St Aidan's are supporting this project through this year's Summer Fair and other events but I also hope that parents and friends of all students in the school at the moment will feel able to get behind this plan in other ways.

For the last 4 years we have always held a Sponsored Walk at the end of term for some local or national charity but this year our Sponsored Walk will be to raise money towards the cost of this new facility. The walk will take place on Monday 18th July and will involve all students in Years 7-9. Year 10 students will have to remain in school to undertake other important work relating to their GCSEs. Parents, relatives and friends are very welcome to join us but obviously the main intention is to raise a significant amount of money as a result of the walk. Sponsorship forms and specific details of the walk will be made available in the coming week and it would be really wonderful if every person involved could raise at least £30 through the event as there is no doubt that every student in the school will benefit from the use of this facility either within the curriculum or in extra-curricular activities. The Governors would obviously also welcome donations/contributions from parents/friends of students in Year 10 even though they are not involved in the walk this year.

The school fully understands the financial demands that families have upon them in these times but in this particular case we hope that you will be able to be generous in your support of our plans.

I will be pleased to meet with any person or firm who may wish to discuss this matter further at a mutually convenient time.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely

John Wood
Headteacher