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FFEDERASIWN YSGOL PLAS COCH AC YSGOL BRO ALUN

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Dear parents and carers,

It's quite possible that you have heard in the national and local news recently about financial problems that schools are facing at the moment, in particular concerning budgets for this coming financial year, 2018-19. Unfortunately, after years of receiving pretty healthy budgets at both schools, both Plas Coch and Bro Alun are going to be affected this time.

Despite an increase of 1.48% in school budgets from WCBC, as in a high number of schools across the region and further afield, there is a significant shortfall in both Plas Coch and Bro Alun's indicative budgets for 2018-19. Of course, WCBC's hands are tied to a great extent by the funding they receive from the Welsh Government.

Following a meeting with the schools' accountant over half term, it was confirmed that the shortfall in Plas Coch's budget for 2018-19 was well over £100,000 and Bro Alun's over £50,000. These are huge sums of money and it's difficult to understand how schools are expected to sustain and improve standards and to develop the well being of children when we don't receive enough money to help us achieve this.

Before the federation's governing body can accept 2018-19's budgets, the above figures will have to be pulled back to £0. This means cuts in all aspects of the running of both schools, including staffing, resources, training and professional development and services provided i.e. instrumental lessons. As you can imagine, this is a huge challenge.

Two draft plans, one for each school, have been put together to make these cuts and they will be discussed by the governors' finance sub-committee as soon as possible. Naturally, we will make every effort possible to ensure that the financial situation will have as little effect as possible on the education of the children at both schools.

I feel it is important that you, as parents and carers, are made aware of the above situation and if there are any relevant updates over the next weeks and months, I will make you aware of them.

Thank you,

Osian Jones