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Thursday, 08 February 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

RE: Urgent message from the Chair of Governors

I wanted you to be aware as a matter of urgency, regarding a consultation document that Monmouthshire County Council are seeking comments on regarding their draft budget proposals for the financial year 2024/25. The survey can be found here.

The decisions made by the elected members of Monmouthshire County Council after this consultation will have a direct effect on our school and the funding of every school in the county, and you will note from the proposals that Monmouthshire schools are being asked to make an overall savings of £835,000 as part of this.

As one of the largest schools in the county, Chepstow School will be significantly affected. Very difficult decisions will have to be made by our Governing Body, if cuts at this level are implemented and, unfortunately, a reduction in provision would be inevitable. This could mean less capacity in areas that do invaluable work to support our most vulnerable young people, such as wellbeing support, additional learning needs support, counselling and other pastoral care.

The consultation is due to close shortly, and as you would expect, we are making strong representations to Monmouthshire County Council, Jeremy Miles, MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language, Welsh Government and Peter Fox, OBE MS, Member of the Senedd for Monmouth, Welsh Parliament.

As part of the wider school community, we all have a voice in responding to these proposals, and so I ask that you consider adding your voice to the consultation. We need to act swiftly as the consultation closing date for comments is on 15 February 2024, please do add your views before then, if you can.

The links you need are as follows:

Consultation Survey – <u>2024/25 Budget Consultation Survey</u> Website - <u>Budget 2024/2025 Monmouthshire</u> Budget Proposals - <u>2024/25 Draft Budget Proposals</u>

Kind regards / Cofion cynnes,

Mr Keith Dunn OBE

Chair of Governors