

14 March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Can you help us?**

I am writing to ask for your help.

In common with many schools up and down the country, over the last few years our school budget has become tighter and tighter. Our income per pupil has fallen by over 4% in the last five years, and at the same time our costs have naturally increased. We have used our reserves and made savings wherever we can, whilst at the same time doing our very best to maintain the high standards of education that you rightly expect for your son or daughter.

I am writing to you now because we are expecting further cuts in next year's budget (likely to be over £100,000), and the situation is becoming critical. As a Headteacher I do not believe parents should be constantly badgered for money – we do not ask you for extra contributions for text-books or planners, for example; but we are now at the stage that if we are to avoid making wholesale changes what we offer here simply to 'balance our books' (as some schools elsewhere in the country have had to do), we need your help.

If you could pledge to set up a standing-order for just £5 per month, it could make all the difference. Where we can, we claim GiftAid on any donations, which mean they are even more valuable for us (and potentially also for you, if you are a higher-rate tax-payer). Naturally if you were able to give more than £5 per month, or if you were able to give us a one-off donation, we would also be very grateful.

Please could I ask you to complete the attached Gift Aid form and return it to school if you are able to help us? Alternatively, you can support us online through our website at:

<http://www.stmargaretsacademy.com/docs/SupportUs/SupportOurAcademy.pdf>

On behalf of everyone at St Margaret's, we would be very grateful for any help you are able to give.

Yours sincerely,

*Stephen Brierley*  
Principal