

Dear Parent

I am delighted to welcome your family to be part of the St. Clement Danes community. Your child is about to savour a unique and varied educational experience with opportunities that are second to none. At St. Clement Danes we have always provided more than other schools for our students because we feel they deserve the best. This is the ninth year that we have asked formally for help in order that we can maintain these standards. I hope that you will read the following letter and carefully consider the suggested action.

You will have chosen this school for many different reasons. Parents often comment on the first rate facilities, committed staff, innovative and exciting curriculum projects and the outstanding value we add to each individual student. This is endorsed by every objective visitor from Ofsted, HMI and LEA. In short, this is a school every student can be proud of attending.

As parents, you will know the considerable financial pressures within the state secondary educational system. We are not alone in facing this problem. As a consequence it has become the norm rather than the exception for many schools to seek some limited financial support from the parents of the students. Whatever the feelings of your Headteacher and the Governing Body of St Clement Danes with regards to this situation, our school operates in this difficult financial environment, hence my direct appeal to you.

Some of you may express surprise that an apparently well off school should be making such an appeal. You see our wonderful facilities, and these are all hallmarks of a successful and forward-looking school, which we are. However, this development has only been possible through the generosity of the Holborn Estate Charity, the founding fathers of St Clement Danes School. Their donations over the years have been magnificent and the Barbirolli Hall, the Astro turf, Multimedia facilities, the Language Block and Learning Resource Centre have all benefited from their patronage.

We are indebted to the Holborn Estate Charity for helping us to provide our students with some of the very best facilities in any state school in the country. However, the monies we receive in this way are mainly used for major capital projects. For example we cannot buy books, paper, videos, computer software, sports equipment and musical instruments with money from the Holborn Estate Charity. We do invest a considerable sum in providing your child with the best of a variety of materials. It may surprise you to know that text books alone for GCSE Science cost £40 for each student and that in the course of KS3 English your child will have individual access to books which cost in the region of £200. These books, however, have a limited lifetime and we must have a rolling programme of renewal. Textbooks are only one of the fundamentals of education for your child and we are increasingly finding it very difficult to provide both quality and quantity in this kind of essential item.

It is for this reason that we have established **The Anchor Fund**. This fund has charitable status. **The Anchor Fund** is specifically used by the teaching staff to assist us in providing, in an everyday sense, the best possible education and resources for your children. Its focus is to provide additional teaching resources, classroom equipment, information technology software and books.

The Anchor Fund gives all parents an opportunity to contribute directly and effectively to the education of their children. We ask each family from the school to support us. By this means we hope to ensure that our high standards are maintained and that each child develops to their potential, benefiting fully from their time at school. **The Anchor Fund** does make a difference to each individual student as they progress through their time at St Clement Danes School. In response to individual departmental requests, **The Anchor Fund** has made termly donations within the school every term since the end of the Autumn Term 2000. Owing to the generosity of so many families we have substantially enhanced the curriculum. Last year, for instance we were able to distribute £35,000 for interactive whiteboards throughout the school faculties. This had a significant impact on the teaching of every child.

Future projects proposed are the improvement of the play areas at the rear of the Sixth Form Centre, and the possibility of partially covering the courtyard in the Learning Resource Centre. If sufficient funds can be raised to support these projects, this will be beneficial for the New Year 7 students joining the school in September. We will also keep you updated as to how your much appreciated donations are being used.



In order to obtain the maximum benefit from **The Anchor Fund** we must receive the support of as many parents as possible. This Fund can only function in the long term if there is considerable and ongoing parental contribution. As a new parent to the school, or indeed if you are an existing parent with a new child starting at the school, you have an important role to play and this is why we write to you now.

The school would like you to donate as much as you feel able to afford. Ideally this should be at least £15 per month. A number of parents are able to donate a larger amount than this each month. Please just give what you can as any contribution is of value to the fund, whether it is £5 or £50 per month. We would like you to commit on the enclosed application form, returning it to school at the New Year 7 Induction Evening. We will then forward the appropriate forms to you.

There are two different ways you may contribute via Gift Aid.

1. Standing Order

The school would receive a monthly donation from you, automatically administered by your bank and paid to **The Anchor Fund** on a date specified by you each month. Standing Orders may be cancelled at any time should your circumstances change and payment becomes difficult. Standing Orders will not be collected until after your child has actually joined us at St. Clement Danes.

2. Single Donation

The school can also achieve great things from single sum donations and there is no minimum amount that must be given to qualify for tax relief.

The following example illustrates how Gift Aid is beneficial to the school:

Gift by donor	£500
Tax repayment to school	£141
Total benefit to school	£641

Finally, here in school we make no apology for having to ask for financial help from parents. This is a fantastic school which has been enhanced substantially through donations of those associated with St Clement Danes, past and present. You have invested time and effort in choosing St Clement Danes carefully. You have considered its educational standards, its nurturing environment, its strong belief in the development of young people, its academic, musical and sporting achievements. You have chosen to trust us with the privilege of educating your child to the best of our ability. We want to honour your trust and deliver the best we possibly can.

Please complete and return the attached reply slip as soon as possible to Mrs Heaps, Finance Manager, at St Clement Danes School.

The school would also be very pleased to hear from parents who may be employed by an organisation that donates funds to worthy charitable funds, such as the Anchor Fund. We ask all parents to consider ways in which they may be able to assist in Fundraising, either as individuals or as part of an organisation.

This is a very fine school and the more help you can give, the more we can support your child to realise their ambitions. Please commit generously – all of your donation will be used most effectively.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

J. VALENTINE
Headteacher