



A change to our PAN (published admissions number) from September 2018

The current education funding climate means that schools all over the country are facing real-terms cuts to their budgets, and being forced to make difficult choices.

A combination of **rising costs, increases in National Insurance and pension contributions**, and a substantial **reduction in income** due to planned changes to education funding, means that we, like most schools, are facing a deficit budget from September 2018 onwards. We need to tackle this by cutting our costs, or by generating extra income.

Despite these financial pressures, we want to ensure that our students continue to benefit from the excellent teaching and support, challenging curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities that make our school such an exciting place to be. Our experienced finance team have been working to find the least painful way to address the deficit, and have concluded that the best way to do so, while staying true to our ethos, is to increase our income by increasing our intake.

We have therefore taken the decision to **increase each form group by two students**. We will take a staggered approach to this, increasing the form size to 27 in September 2018 for Year 8 (the current Year 7) and the incoming Year 7, and then for every subsequent Year 7 intake. The places will be allocated according to the first five oversubscription criteria on our admissions policy, which includes siblings and proximity; they will not be feeder school places.

Whilst the total number of extra places is low, and we will still have one of the lowest student-teacher ratios in the borough, this decision will raise a significant extra sum of money for the Archer Academy, not just for 2018-19 but in the years ahead. It will also help us meet the high demand for places within our growing local community.

This decision does require us to remodel some of our spaces and to reconsider how and when other parts of our buildings are used, such as phasing transition around lessons and lunchtimes; as we are now a complete school, we are in a confident position to do so. We are also planning to further explore our use of external space and off-site specialist facilities.

Rising costs and income cuts are creating huge challenges for all schools; if you, like us, have concerns about the impact of a continued lack of investment in education, we would ask you to share them with your local MP. We have answered some of the questions you may have below; if you have any further queries, please contact us on info@thearcheracademy.org.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Y Harrison".

Lucy Harrison
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Avis Johns".

Avis Johns
Chair of Governors

Your questions answered

Do you have the space to accommodate the extra students?

We will need to remodel parts of our school and phase some of our activities to keep everything running smoothly. We are already working on our plans to make the most of our space and ensure that transition times are stress-free.

Why are you not adding 12 extra students to every year group straight away?

We want to make this change as straightforward as possible, both for the students coming in and for our current students and teachers, and feel a staggered approach is preferable. It also gives us an additional two years to adapt the space at Upper School before the expanded year groups are based there.

Have you considered increasing your intake even further, to 30 students per form group?

We believe that 27 students per form group best allows us to increase our income and create extra places without putting excess pressure on our staff and facilities.

What else is the school doing to address the financial challenges? Is increasing the number of students enough to meet the deficit?

It is a substantial part of the solution, but further savings or additional income will need to be found to ensure a balanced budget in the years ahead. We are currently reviewing all aspects of our budget whilst looking at how we can generate extra income.

Are you considering cutting teaching or support staff?

We know that, for our students to thrive, we need to have an excellent staff team to support them in all aspects of school life. We are aware that other schools are reducing their numbers of staff, but this is not part of our plan.

Can we do anything to help?

Extra contributions, whether from our students' families or the wider community, are a vital source of funds; we use them to pay for extra activities, opportunities and equipment that the standard school budget doesn't cover. In the current climate, these contributions are more important than ever. If you would like to support our school, you can do so by making a regular contribution to our [Excellence Fund](#) or by donating to our Make Beaumont Brilliant campaign (email info@thearcheracademy.org.uk for more details). We would also love to know about any other sources of financial support that you are aware of.