

# St. Francis' College

Head:  
Mr James Nichols  
B.A. (Hons),  
MA (Ed Mgmt),  
PGCE, QTS



St. Francis' College  
Broadway  
Letchworth Garden City  
Hertfordshire  
SG6 3PJ

Telephone: (01462) 670511  
email: [headspa@st-francis.herts.sch.uk](mailto:headspa@st-francis.herts.sch.uk)  
website: [www.st-francis.herts.sch.uk](http://www.st-francis.herts.sch.uk)

**June 2024**

## **Parents and Guardians**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### **Re: Important Update Regarding School Fees**

I hope this letter finds you well and that your child is enjoying a productive Summer Term. As the academic year draws to a close, we at St. Francis' College, wanted to address a potential concern regarding school fees in the light of the upcoming General Election.

As you will be aware, the Labour Party has proposed the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) of 20% on independent sector school fees. Prior to the release of Labour's manifesto tomorrow, there is a distinct lack of detail regarding their policy, including when or how to implement these plans. However, we recognise the significant investment you make in your child's education and understand that this news may cause financial strain for some families. We, therefore, wanted to assure you that we are committed to supporting you during this time.

St. Francis' College is in the fortunate position of being part of the Inspired Learning Group (ILG), a 25-setting education group. Being part of this larger, child-focused organisation, enables us to leverage the strengths and synergies within our group and offset many of the inefficiencies that smaller 'stand-alone' settings have to manage.

### **Good News for the 2024/25 Academic Year**

We are pleased to share that, despite rising costs due to inflation and the potential threat of VAT, for the upcoming 2024/25 academic year we have been able to restrict fee increases as far as possible which has already been communicated to you. Our top priority remains unchanged – to provide your child with the best learning environment and an outstanding education. We will continue to attract and retain exceptionally well-qualified staff who will provide the highest quality of teaching and learning for your child. We are also committed to maintaining a wide provision for our pupils, ensuring they can explore a variety of interests and talents.

### **Looking Ahead: Commitment to Affordability**

ILG has anticipated and planned for a potential introduction of VAT over the last two years and in the event a Labour government implements the proposed 20% VAT, the considerable work already undertaken will allow us to absorb a significant portion of the increase, and; therefore, reduce the amount passed on to you, our parents. Put simply, unlike many other schools in the independent sector, we will not have to implement the full impact of VAT on your child's fees and any potential increase will be shared between ILG and parents in a fair and openly communicated manner.

# St. Francis' College

Our mitigation strategy to protect our families from this burden has been carefully considered. If implemented, it will allow us to cushion much of the financial impact of the introduction of VAT, whilst continuing to fulfil our commitment without compromising the exceptional learning environment we strive to provide.

We are committed to transparency and understand that financial planning is important, so we aim to provide you with ample time to adjust your budgets, if and when any legislative changes are introduced by a potential change in Government. Currently, there is no intention from Labour to place a tax on fees for pupils in Early Years (Nursery and Reception), or those who have Special Educational Needs with an EHCP; however, this may be subject to change.

We appreciate your continued trust in St. Francis' College and remain confident in our ability to provide the best possible environment for your child's success. We appreciate this is a challenging and uncertain period for our parents. We are here to help and; therefore, should you have any questions or concerns regarding VAT and its impact on your child's fees, please do not hesitate to contact my PA, Miss Catherine Willson, at [HPA@st-francis.herts.sch.uk](mailto:HPA@st-francis.herts.sch.uk)

Yours Sincerely,

**James Nichols**

**Head, St. Francis' College**



**Amit Mehta**

**CEO**

