February 2017

Dear MP

**Funding Challenges in Devon Schools: Clyst Vale**

I/We wish to share with you my/our serious concerns around the funding pressures facing our child’s school, Clyst Vale Community College, as well as others within your local constituency. I/we would be grateful if you could bring these concerns in writing to the attention of the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

1. **Fair Funding**

You will be aware that compared to the current national average of £4636, Devon receives an allocation of £4,346 per pupil in 2016-17. This represents a shortfall for Devon of £290 per pupil. The implication for my child’s school is that in 2015-16 the Clyst Vale was funded at £231,710 below the national average in 2015-16, and £219,240 in 2016-17.

*Comment as appropriate on this apparent unfairness*

1. **Rising Cost Pressures**

We are aware that all schools are experiencing a range of costs pressures, which build up to make a significant impact on budgets. This includes

* The removal of the Education Services Grant from 2017/18 will cost Clyst Vale £77,000
* General increases in staffing costs including contributions to both the Teachers and NJC Staff pension scheme and National Insurance which cost Clyst Vale £140,000 per year
* Pay increases for staff have been held to 1% for several years, but are now unfunded by central government. We have been informed that this costs £40,000 per year
* Clyst Vale has a high proportion of students with SEN statements or ECHP, and therefore is hit hard by reductions to SEN funding.
* We are told that Devon County’s proposed reduction of £33 per pupil would deprive Clyst Vale of a further £25,000.
* Clyst Vale’s balance presented in the annual accounts for 2015-16 is £256,000 in credit. This carry forward will be more than wiped out by the funding decisions outlined above; this, and a fall in Sixth Form numbers, will mean that the College will be looking to make staffing reductions and potential redundancies in 2017.

1. **Our concerns**

We are concerned that my/our child’s school will struggle to sustain its current high quality provision of education and essential support for every pupil.

*Comment as appropriate on possible impacts of particular concern to you*

*Increased class sizes*

*Reduced GCSE option choices in the future*

*Reduction in SEN and pastoral support*

*Fewer extra-curricular activities*

As our local MP we are therefore seeking your valued support in raising awareness of this urgent situation facing Devon schools and to petition on our behalf to the Secretary of State and Ministers within the Department for Education to consider an urgent solution to mitigate the impact of the present crisis in education, and to make sure that the national funding formula is a fair formula for Devon’s schoolchildren.

Yours sincerely