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Headteacher: Mr M Wignall
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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that we are changing the way lockers are administered at Downlands.

The current system has not proved successful as the amount of money we currently request from parents/carers is unable to support the investment required to purchase lockers of sufficient quality that can withstand normal daily use by young people in a school setting. In addition, a recent survey of students demonstrated that well under half of our students use their lockers.

As you are aware, school funding is a huge issue at the moment and we are not able to subsidise lockers out of our existing school budget which should be spent on educational purposes. Real term budget cuts also place pressure on school staffing, hence we are looking to outsource the administration of the system.

The new system will work through an external website and parents/carers will choose the location of lockers and make payments online. The lockers have combination locks and combinations can be retrieved if they are lost or forgotten.

Therefore, we propose to move to a new system in September based on the following principles:

- Students who wish to use a locker are able to do so.
- Lockers are of better quality and more robust.
- All lockers are situated in accessible places and are available at social times.
- As in previous years the cost is passed on to parents/carers

We will be adopting a system used by other local schools that has proved successful where the cost of a locker is £18 per year. You will receive a letter in the summer term outlining how to apply for a locker for September.

Parents/Carers who have already paid for a locker will have the opportunity to claim back money pro rata on lockers that they no longer wish to use. Alternatively, this money can be kept in school fund and used to support school based activities. In the unlikely event that lockers are oversubscribed, younger students will be given priority.

The school will support families in financial difficulties. A further letter with full details of the scheme will be sent out in the summer term.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Wignall
Headteacher

