



4th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Bernard's we are committed to providing an education of the highest standard for our students, supported by strong values, excellent teaching, and a well-resourced learning environment. However, like many schools across the country, we are currently facing significant financial pressures that you may have heard about in the news.

Core funding no longer covers the true cost of running a school at the standard our community rightly expects. In recent years, we have experienced substantial increases in energy and operational costs, alongside unfunded or only partially funded staff pay awards. While we wholeheartedly support fair pay increases for our teaching and support staff, only around a quarter of these increases have been met through government funding, leaving schools to absorb the remaining costs within already stretched budgets.

You may remember that last year we set ourselves the goal of fundraising for a canopy by the dining hall so that students could queue for lunch while staying dry. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, along with the tuck shop, the Summer Fun Day and a range of student-led fundraising initiatives, we successfully raised approximately £13,000 across the year. This meant the canopy could be installed over February half term — a fantastic example of what we can achieve when we work together and support one another. Please see below some pictures of what we were able to purchase; while it represents a significant investment, it will ensure our students stay dry in wet weather and also highlights the rising costs schools continue to face.



Building on this success, we remain committed to maintaining high-quality facilities for our students. We are now aware that many of our interactive whiteboards need replacing, and this has become a key priority for the coming year. Our aim is to install seven new boards, each costing approximately £1,200, and we hope to have these in place by September.

To help achieve this, we will once again be fundraising through our Summer Fun Day, the school tuck shop and a range of student events. If your child would like to take part in fundraising with their form group, we warmly encourage them to speak to their form tutor to share ideas and get involved.

If any parents or carers feel able to make a donation towards this project, we would be extremely grateful. Donations can be made via ParentPay - any donation big or small will make a meaningful difference.

Thank you as always for your generosity and commitment to our school.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Barnes', written in a cursive style.

Mrs H Barnes
Headteacher