



Dear Parents,

Earlier this week I attended the annual GSA Conference for Heads. Given our impending transition to co-education beginning with Upper 3 in September 2019, and our exciting medium to long term plans for development of the school site, I was particularly interested in the break-out sessions on successful fundraising for large projects.

It was during one of these sessions that an interesting strategy, already in place at a number of independent schools, was mentioned and I'd be very interested to gather your thoughts on it.

The idea is a Fees Lottery which is open to all parents at the school. The funds raised are used for designated projects within the school, specifically aimed at benefitting current pupils who may leave before the larger projects come to fruition.

It operates as follows - in return for a voluntary addition of £100 on your termly invoice you have the possibility of receiving 1 full term of tuition absolutely free! Your child's admission number is entered into a termly draw and at the end of each term, an admission number is drawn at random. The lucky winner has their tuition invoice for the following term set to zero! Chargeable extras and the £100 entry for the next term's draw is all that the winner is billed for.

Projects funded in this way at other schools are many and varied. Some examples mentioned at Conference included; enhancing play facilities, building outdoor classrooms, buying buses, funding new clubs, bringing in external speakers, improving gym provision etc. all of which have brought a benefit to current pupils.

Having proposed the idea in this letter, I will follow up with a quick electronic survey that I would ask all parents to take part in please. In it you will be asked one simple question:

*"Would you like to be entered into a Fees Lottery at Gateways School?"*

If there is sufficient interest in this scheme, I will endeavour to get it up and running for next term and I will take a positive answer to the first question as your permission to add the £100 entry fee onto your Spring term invoice.

I understand that some of you may consider this to be gambling and therefore would not wish to take part and I am sympathetic to that viewpoint. However, you may still wish to contribute to the project fund without having your child's admission number entered into the draw and this could be facilitated. Those parents in this position should tick yes and then advise of their preference in the "Any Other Comments" box also provided in the survey.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and, as always, if you have any questions at all about this scheme then please do not hesitate to be in touch with me.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tracy Johnson  
Head

Headmistress: Dr T Johnson BSc (Hons), PhD, PGCE