

EDITORIAL

OUTLINE

Title	
ALL ABOUT THE MONEY	Start with an attention grabbing title
Opening	
A recent decision by the accounts committee has thrown half of the school’s extra-curricular activities into the dustbin in one fell swoop. We all know the arguments: money is short, staff are few, attendance is low. These adjectives seem to have convinced the accountants in the Headmaster’s office that the decline—death—of our extra-curricular program was all but inevitable. It is a sad time in the history of our school and a time that we will live to regret.	Use the opening to set the context; what has happened to make you write this editorial, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extra-curricular funding has been cut.
Main Body	
<p>We will regret it because extra-curricular activities are not, contrary to the assumption of the accounts committee, the accessories to serious academic life that can be done away without consequence. Rather, they are an integral part of school life. Nowhere is this clearer than the short-sighted decision to cancel funding for the Debating Club. As we all know, the Debating Club functions as a place where intellectual skills can be honed and ideas discussed in a friendly manner. In other words, the skills developed here—skills to think, to reason, to articulate—can be easily applied to the classroom on Thursday morning. If this isn’t worth preserving, I don’t know what is.</p> <p>In addition to enhancing the students’ academic experience at the school, the extra-curricular program also provides an escape from the pressures of our exam-focused school life. These short-term savings will undoubtedly prevent students achieving their fullest potential. For instance, sports activities are needed to provide a balanced all-round experience for our students. By robbing them of the opportunity to participate in sports clubs, the governing body is just adding to the stresses and strains of school life and creating a culture in which exams reign supreme to the detriment of all other kinds of personal development. In fact, to do well in exams, students need other outlets for their talents and interests and with the school’s recent decision, such outlets cannot be found. So students will either become zombies, concerned only with passing their exams, or they will seek entertainment in less beneficial places.</p> <p>Above all, the committee’s decision is ludicrous because the current extra-curricular program we have in place costs next to nothing to run. If the school wants to make savings, there are other areas where economising would be much more prudent. We have just invested millions of dollars in a new sports pitch, for example. Leaving aside the fact that the old field was perfectly adequate, one is tempted to wonder what the use of the pitch will be once all the activities that might have taken place on it have been outlawed. =</p>	Outline each of your arguments and give evidence to support it, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extra-curricular activities are an integral part in academic life because they can develop new skills such as critical reasoning extra-curricular activities provide an escape from exam pressure e.g. sports club extra-curricular activities are cheap compared to other items of expenditure such as the sports field
Conclusion	
The spurious reasoning of a group of grey-haired men has, it seems, once again triumphed over the popular will and collective desire of the school as a whole. The decision outrages all of us, but above all it saddens us. It saddens us because future generations of students will not experience the rich and exciting array of life-changing activities of which we were all privileged to be part. Let us hope that the decision will be reversed and our lives restored.	Conclude by reviewing your main opinion and stating it more forcefully