



Our ref: PY/CJM

14 December 2011

Dear Parents,

RE: CONSULTATION REGARDING ACADEMY STATUS (Second Letter)

At their meeting of 17 November 2011, the Governors of Upton Hall School FCJ agreed to begin the process of consultation with a view to seeking academy status. In order to consult parents an e-mail was sent to parents, a letter was sent to parents via the girls on Monday 28 November and the same letter was placed on the school website. A meeting was held at the school for parents on Monday 5 December. In spite of our best efforts it would seem that not all parents have been aware of the consultation process. In order to ensure that all parents are included this second letter is being circulated.

Schools with an Outstanding Ofsted were invited by the Secretary of State for Education in September 2010 to seek conversion to academy. Since then Governors have been considering whether such a change would benefit the school and its community. In so doing they have liaised with the Trustees, the Sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus and the other FCJ Schools in the UK.

Governors have considered how best to preserve the ethos of the school as a Roman Catholic School with an FCJ vision, how to guarantee its high standards and how to secure its future for the benefit of the people of Wirral and the Diocese of Shrewsbury. They do not wish the proposed change to alter the School's Catholic ethos and relationship with the Diocese, its name, its admission policy including grammar school status, the length of the school day, the uniform or most importantly the conditions of service for staff, who are regarded by Governors as the School's greatest asset.

Having explored the current educational landscape, the current and proposed changes to school finances and the challenges that face all schools, it is the Governors' belief that conversion to academy status is in the best interest of the School. In practical terms it is not envisaged that pupils, parents or staff will notice any change in the day to day running of the School.

Governors welcome your views and invite you to write to the Clerk to Governors at the school address, send an e-mail to consultation@uptonhall.wirral.sch.uk or to make your representations in person to members of the Governing Body who will be available for a second meeting to enable any parents who were unaware of this process to meet them. The meeting will be in the School Hall from 6pm to 7pm on Wednesday 4 January 2012. It would assist our planning if you could inform the School, by telephone or email, if you wish to attend.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Mrs P Young
HEADMISTRESS

Professor J Keaton
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS