

DFD/A/AM002

Thursday, 03 May 2012

Dear Students,

I am writing to tell you about plans that our school has to become an Academy. Recently Mr. Gove, the Minister for Education, wrote to me to invite St. Margaret's to become an Academy because of our Ofsted status as a good school with outstanding features. We are eligible to become one of the new style "conversion" academies and it is only schools who are "outstanding" or "good with outstanding features" who can apply to convert themselves from a school into an Academy. The Governors are looking positively at this proposal but have asked me to consult students, staff and parents /carers before they make a decision.

Becoming an Academy would not make a huge difference to you as a student; we would still be a Church of England Comprehensive School that takes students from across the city of Liverpool using the same admissions policy as was used when you became a student at St. Margaret's. There is no intention to change the school day or the school's terms as some of the "traditional" Academies have done. Also, if we became an Academy we would not be changing the ethos of the school, where we cherish and are very proud of our distinctively Christian character. If we become an Academy we would receive funding directly from the government rather than some of the money, that the school usually receives, being taken by the Local Authority before it is passed on to St. Margaret's. However, if we became an Academy, we would have more freedom to spend the money that comes from the government – this would allow us to invest more money directly into our school. Also, we would be able to look at what we teach and the curriculum that we offer to you so that you achieve the best possible results while enjoying your learning. I believe that Academy status will allow St. Margaret's to continue to improve as a school for the benefit of all its students.

Mrs Penketh, Deputy Head Student Support, will be talking to the Student Council about this, following my assemblies on this subject. I am also writing to your parents/carers about this proposed change and asking them to respond to the idea if they wish to. I would welcome any comments that you have about becoming an Academy. If you want to find out more, then you can look at a section on the school's website which is dedicated to Academy status. If you wish to respond formally to the Governors' proposal, information about how to do this is also on the school's website.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Brian Ricketts
Chair of Governors