

# ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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**Voluntary Aided**

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“An outstandingly effective School” Ofsted

25<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Dear Parent,

## Re: Conversion to Academy?

We are writing to update you with regard to the proposed conversion to become a New Academy: whilst we were previously keen to proceed with the application, based largely upon the possible financial gains, it has now come to our attention that a new funding arrangement has been proposed by the Government, which is likely to vastly reduce, or perhaps totally eradicate, the financial gain of such a conversion. These changes in school funding are due to take effect in April 2013.

In light of these proposed changes to funding the Governors have agreed, unanimously, not to proceed with the application for the time being. If the previously perceived financial gains of conversion are unlikely to be significant and our Voluntary Aided status already grants us many of the freedoms only afforded to other schools by conversion to New Academy status, there are no longer any advantages to arising from the conversion process. Our prime objective is, as always, to preserve St Michael's Catholic ethos, closely followed by our selective status. We currently believe that these aims would be best-served by retaining our Voluntary Aided status, at least until the basis of the new funding arrangements becomes clear.

We hope that these new Government proposals will improve the level of funding allocated to St. Michael's, but this depends on the total amount of resources provided by central government in the forthcoming year. At worst St Michael's might find that it obtains a higher percentage of a reduced total Education budget. This same factor will be faced by all schools, whether New Academies or not.

We hope that you understand that the Governing Body has spent considerable time deciding whether or not to become a New Academy and that you will agree that the major advantage to St Michael's in converting has now been removed. Please bear in mind that, if the current financial situation should change in favour of academy status, we may need to review this decision.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely



**Julian Ward**  
Headmaster Designate



**Debra Quigley-Jones**  
Chair of Governing Board