SBR/GEN/AM051

7 March 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Consideration of the formation of a Multi-Academy Trust

I am writing to let you know that we are considering a possible change to the status of St Margaret's Church of England Academy.

In his termly letter to Liverpool Diocesan Church School headteachers, Dr Jon Richardson, Director of Education for the Diocese of Liverpool, invited us to consider the scenario "*where all or most* [Church of England] *schools in the Diocese were to become academies*". The Diocese itself retains a neutral stance on the question of whether schools should 'convert' to Academy status. However it has asked us to consider this matter because there are suggestions the Government may wish all schools to follow this path.

As part of those considerations, and building on the success of our existing post-16 collaboration, the Headteachers at the three Church of England secondary schools in the city of Liverpool (Archbishop Blanch, St Hilda's and St Margaret's) have begun to explore whether forming a Multi-Academy Trust for our three schools might be in our pupils' best interests. In order to form such a Trust, Archbishop Blanch and St Hilda's would need to convert to Academy status, whilst St Margaret's would need to change from its current Single Academy Trust model.

Last month, the Governing Bodies at all three schools agreed to explore this idea further. However, we are very much in the early stages of exploring the suggestion; **no final decision on the matter has been taken**. Any possible change of status at the three schools would be subject to full consultation before any decision was made, and such a change would only be agreed if it was in the interests of the pupils at all three schools. Equally, if we decide not to proceed with this idea, we will write to you in due course and let you know.

This letter is being published simultaneously on all three schools' websites, to all three schools' employees and to all three schools' parents.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Brierley
Principal