



ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

5th December 2016

Dear Parents,

You are probably aware that Torfaen County Borough Council is currently consulting on a proposal to:

1. Establish a Sixth Form Centre for Torfaen
2. Make a regulated alteration to St Alban's RC High School, Croesyceiliog School, and Cwmbran High School by ending sixth form provision. Therefore all English medium schools in Torfaen would become 11-16.

The school has already distributed a letter on 14th November from Mark Horton the Principal Officer, Forward Planning, explaining the consultation process, but in case that letter has been mislaid, I am re-sending it with my letter today.

St Alban's Governors Strategic Development committee has met and presented an initial response to the consultation in the form of questions that the governors would like answers to before they make their formal response to the next stage in the process.

The St Alban's governors initial response is printed in the back of this letter and is also available on the school's website.

The proposed development of a Sixth Form College is of huge importance to our school, its current and future pupils, staff and other stakeholders and therefore the Governing Body would strongly encourage all parents, pupils and staff to respond to the consultation document **directly**. The Torfaen consultation document, (*which includes details of how you can respond on page 8*), can be found on our website **www.stalbans-pontypool.org.uk**. In addition, St Alban's governors are very keen to receive the views of all in our community, especially parents, pupils and staff. If you feel able to share your views with us, please write to the Chair of Governors, Fr David Hayman at the school address, St Alban's R.C. High School, The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen. NP4 6XG, or via email to **davida.hayman@gmail.com**

Governors would also point out that, any members of our school community with strong objections to Torfaen's proposals will need to respond **again** during the formal objection period, if they wish their views to be fully taken into account during Torfaen's decision making, as is detailed on pages 8 and 30 of the consultation document .

Yours sincerely,

Fr David Hayman
Chair, St Alban's R.C. High School Governing Body

pp.



ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

Mr Dermot McChrystal - Head of Education Services (FAO Mark Horton)
c/o Torfaen County Borough Council,

30th November 2016

Re: Governors' Response to Torfaen Post-16 Consultation

Dear Dermot,

Review of Post-16 Education in Torfaen

Thank you for providing a consultation document for the above review. The Governors' Strategic Development Committee at St Alban's R.C High School has met and members decided that, as part of the consultation process, they would seek clarification and ask questions in order to determine their formal response later in the process. Please find these questions below:

Question 1: Continued Faith Provision for Students aged 16-18

How will the new provision ensure that the support and personal/spiritual development opportunities for young people that currently exist in St Alban's will continue under the new arrangements?

Question 2: The closure of St Alban's Sixth Form and possible impact on the whole school

It is possible that the removal of the Sixth Form at St Alban's could destabilise the whole school in terms of recruitment at Year 7 and managing a transition process, including redundancies and other costs, which may place a financial burden on the school which is impossible to meet. Could you provide assurances to St Alban's Governing Body in respect of the above points?

Question 3: Transition arrangements for Students and Staff

Can you explain the transition arrangements for staff so that current employment opportunities including pay and conditions are protected? In addition, if the transition arrangements require associated costs e.g. redundancy payments, can you assure the St Alban's Governing Body that these costs will be met by Torfaen CBC and not the Governing Body at St Alban's?

Can you explain the transition arrangements that would be put in place for students? In particular, what will be put in place to support students who start their lower sixth course in St Alban's? Will continued provision for their upper sixth course be guaranteed under the new arrangement?

Question 4: Impact on the local community

St Alban's sixth form students are an important source of revenue for local small businesses in the Pontypool town centre. Have you considered the impact of the removal of these students will have on many of these small businesses?

Thank you for considering our queries. We hope that you will be able to respond in a timely manner as your answers will determine the St Alban's R.C. High School response to the next stage in the formal process.

Yours sincerely,

Fr David Hayman
Chair, St Alban's R.C. High School Governing Body