21 December, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to various comments received from parents, we felt it appropriate to provide an update on the proposed move to ‘Academy Status’ of our school:

**Timeframe**

The Archdiocese of Birmingham announced its Academy Strategy in July 2016 and requested that all its schools work towards being ‘academy ready’. This has since been an agenda item at Governing Board meetings. It is expected that in September 2019 all schools will have a formally agreed conversion plan in place to become secured within a MAC structure, with a view to be fully converted by September 2020.

**What academisation means**

By becoming an Academy, we will be joining a MAC (Multi Academy Company) which will align secondary schools to primary feeder schools. Our school becomes part of a family of Catholic Academies which will ensure that our Catholic ethos remains secure and protected. This model is intended to provide our children aged 4 to 19 with the best quality Catholic education which is at the heart of the mission of our Church.

*For any further information or guidance you might like to visit the Archdiocese of Birmingham Diocesan Education Service website:* [*https://www.bdes.org.uk/academies.html*](https://www.bdes.org.uk/academies.html) *or email* *chair@stjosephslichfield.org.uk**.*

We will of course keep you informed as we work through the process.

On behalf of the governors and senior leadership team we wish you a happy and holy Christmas and New Year.

M Rowe D McLeary

Mrs M Rowe Mrs D McLeary

Chair of Governors Headteacher