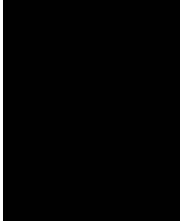




Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State

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576 November 2010



Free School Proposal: Batley Grammar School

Thank you for submitting your proposal to set up a new school to the Department for Education. It has now been fully assessed and judged to be sufficiently strong in all areas to proceed to the next stage. I am therefore pleased to invite you to proceed to business case stage.

Your proposal indicated that you may wish to consider expanding the school with additional building to increase the capacity of your senior school. At this stage, I ask that you develop the business case for a 672 capacity school.

I understand that you are looking to join the state sector in September 2011 and the Department will work with you to do everything it can to make this a reality. I am very keen for the first wave of Free Schools to be innovative and responsive to parental demand, and I believe that your school will help carry through this vision.

As you know, Free Schools form an integral part of the Government's education policy to improve choice for parents and raise standards for all young people. I will be looking to your proposal, along with others in this initial cadre of Free Schools, to shape the way forward for future proposers.

Business Case

I want to ensure that you have the support you need to develop your business case. attached to this letter you will find a table which sets out the tasks that will need to be completed. Please complete this table, identifying which tasks you are able to take forward alone, and those for which you think you will require additional support, and

submit it to your named DfE lead, [REDACTED]. As an existing independent school, I would expect that your existing resources will, in the main, be sufficient to support the development of your business case. Please note that the DfE cannot fund any work that its officials have not explicitly agreed to support.

Admissions

All Academies and Free Schools are required to have inclusive admission arrangements which comply with the School Admissions Code. Free Schools are required to be within local authority coordinated admissions where possible. You should provide your local authority with your admission number and admission arrangements for inclusion in their admissions prospectus as soon as they are determined (15th April each year).

I will look forward to receiving your final business case in due course. Please continue to work with [REDACTED] in the Department throughout this process, and direct any questions you have to her.

In addition to this letter, I will also be writing to your local authority and local MP to inform them that your proposal has moved forward to business case stage.

with my good wishes


MICHAEL GOVE