



**MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2008**

**Briefing Regarding the Rebuild of Parkwood**

We have received some fabulous news. The DCSF have announced that they will provide additional funding to Sheffield to enable the complete rebuild of Parkwood.

The funding will only be provided if the school becomes an academy as it has been judged that the current buildings even if refurbished cannot provide the step change in student experience that becoming an academy should bring.

The school has been treated as an exceptional case and the decision has been made by ministers. This is as a result of consistently hard lobbying and argument by Jonathan Crossley Holland.

I don't believe that this would have been achieved unless there was massive confidence in the staff and students of the school and the communities that the school serves.

We now have the chance to be part of something very special that is only likely to happen once in our careers – we can design and build the environment in which we wish to work.

The announcement by ministers has no connection with the timescale of the academy consultation process. However, it is good that the consultation is now formally closed as views of stakeholders have been collected without being unduly influenced by buildings. Obviously I now feel, and I am sure that many of you will too, that we have so much more to gain by becoming an academy and I just hope that the consultation produces a positive outcome and the process can proceed,

I will continue to provide updates on the academy consultation process and also on plans for buildings – we will need to learn a lot in a very short space of time!

There is a letter going out with students today – please hand it out during period 5. Please will you take a few minutes of lesson time to read it through with the class. I will arrange for tutors to have some spare letters for absentees. The news is also being released to the press today and we are hopeful that it will receive very positive coverage.