



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
Secretary of State

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#### **DURAND ACADEMY TRUST**

I am writing to you to let you know the position on the capital funding for your all through Academy proposal.

Lord Hill and I are both very keen on your proposal to develop an all through Academy. We are particularly pleased that the proposal includes the development of free boarding education for children who traditionally do not access this type of education – a decisive factor in our consideration of your request.

I am grateful to you for supplying detailed information about the proposal at meetings and by email. I am also grateful for the commitment you have made in your email of 8 March 2011 to fund the facilities for the middle school so that this can open in September 2011 and also post -16 accommodation.

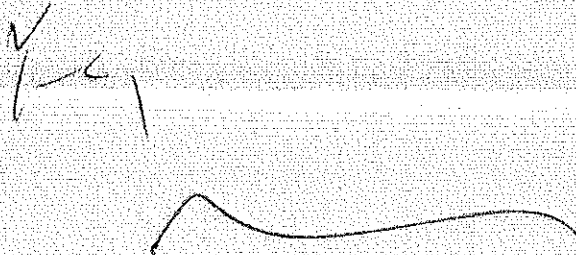
Departmental officials and Partnership for Schools have carefully reviewed all the information available on the project including the findings from the site visits on 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011. PFS have considered the plans for pupil places, education and boarding accommodation. As you know the resources available to me for capital projects are extremely limited. However, I recognise the value of this project and am keen for it to go ahead. I also recognise the efforts Durand themselves have made to fundraise for this and previous projects. The Department can therefore make a capital contribution to the scheme of £17.34m, provided that Durand Academy Trust in turn provides the remainder of funding for the capital costs of the teaching accommodation for Years 7 and 8 at the Hackford Road site and also all discrete post -16 boarding accommodation for the Academy at the site in West Sussex. The funding will need to be phased over 4 years and officials will be in touch to discuss

the details of this.

I have only been able to secure this money because of the significant contribution of capital funding you have and intend to make to support this proposal and the unique opportunity it will bring to children and young people who are often disadvantaged by the education system.

I am sure you will continue to work with my officials to reduce costs where possible as this project progresses. I have also asked that they work with you to look at the best procurement arrangements for this project. They will be in contact with you shortly to discuss these matters.

I am very grateful for all the work which you and your colleagues are doing in Durand Academy. I look forward to hearing more about this project as it develops and to seeing you on 11 May.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Gove', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL GOVE