

St. Thomas More Catholic School



Business & Enterprise College

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Headmaster: Mr S. Flynn B.A.(Hons)

SF/DD/AW180510

18 May 2010

Ms A Walton
Director –
Management & Development
Walsall Children's Services

Dear Avril

**RE: PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT PROVISION/DISCUSSION AT
SCHOOL FORUM**

I have been asked by the Secondary Headteachers' Forum to write to you to ask if this issue could be aired at the forthcoming Schools Forum Meeting. You will know that there has been a change in alternative provision with the closing of the Ruiz Centre from 31st December 2009. The commitment from the Local Authority is that all the funding from this should be maintained to support the "Inclusion" Agenda.

The view of the Headteachers is that the staffing costs of the Ruiz Centre were in the Region of £365,000 per annum (excluding building, heating, lighting etc).

The replacement for the Ruiz Centre is the provision of 10 KS3 places in the New Leaf Centre and also the provision of funded places through satellite provision in mainstream schools. The money allocated to satellite provision is £150,000.

There would appear to be a differential and as always with the Schools Forum, the principle and the aim of this letter is to seek transparency in the arrangements. Could I therefore ask for a summary paper to be presented to the School Forum explaining the background and financial costs relating to this topic and to include the previous expenditure and the intended new expenditure. This would include such details as the costs of the 10 KS3 places at the New Leaf Centre. It should also cover the cost of money saved in the interim, for example, how this ringfenced budget has been used since the closure of the New Leaf Centre.

Yours sincerely

Sean Flynn
Headteacher

CC:

Mr F Barnes
Ms S Tott
Mrs G Ensor

Director - Participation
Head of Access & Entitlement
Senior Constitutional Services