

Our Ref: PAHR/Be

8<sup>th</sup> February 2010

To: ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Funding secured to improve The Albany School**

Havering's schools, including The Albany, are set to receive tens of millions of pounds through the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme.

For The Albany it will mean re-designed spaces and better facilities and services. Specialisms and vocational pathways will be enhanced through specialist facilities and shared resources across schools which will broaden the range of options available to our pupils. In addition, the local community will benefit from the chance to use these improved facilities and make the most of the opportunities they provide.

When the funding was announced Leader of the Council, Michael White, commented "The education agenda has always been evolving and will continue to evolve; we need to provide facilities now which are flexible enough to meet the needs of our schools and young people tomorrow. We want to inspire young people in Havering to unlock hidden talents and reach their full potential."

This will be the single largest investment ever to be made in our secondary schools and every pupil in Havering will benefit, but we must remember that this is not just a building project. ICT and specialist facilities are a key element, with all schools being part of a new service offering state-of-the-art ICT facilities appropriate to the 21st century. That means new technologies that can improve education, for example:

Real and virtual workplaces

Workspaces that enable teachers to be more effective

Providing parents with easy access to information about their child's achievements and progress

Access to a wide range of devices in school (e.g. laptops, PDAs, Smartphones, games consoles)

We will be involving our pupils throughout the project, from developing our visions for the school's future (which is already underway) to designing these improvements with our architects or designers. Re-development is due to be started for this school in 2015 and completed for all schools by 2021, but more specific details will follow as the project progresses.

We hope you will be as excited about this opportunity for The Albany as we are.

Yours sincerely,

P A Hasan-Richardson  
Head Teacher