

Longbenton Community College



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26 June 2013

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 3BT

Dear Mr Gove

We believe that in your position as Secretary of State you are prepared to support the establishment of a new academy in North Tyneside through the merger of Priory Primary School and King's School in Tynemouth.

We are greatly concerned about the instability that the academy will bring to the school estate across the borough. Students will be leaving our very successful schools to be admitted to a school that we do not think will add to the quality of education within the borough of North Tyneside.

We are concerned for the educational provision for the students who will enter the new academy. We are also, of course, concerned for the provision for students who will remain in schools that are successful, but which will be increasingly unviable with lower numbers.

There is no educational case for having this new academy established in North Tyneside, and it will create great difficulties for many of our schools.

Given the lack of proper consultation in the establishment of the academy, with little consideration for overall strategic educational planning in the borough, we would ask that, in your position as Secretary of State, you do not go ahead with the establishment of this academy. This is not because we are against the academy programme in itself, but rather because the establishment of this academy will have an overall detrimental effect on the educational provision for young people of North Tyneside. We feel that it would be in the best interests of the schools and young people of North Tyneside to put a halt to the establishment of this academy.

I am writing on behalf of our group to ask that you will seriously reconsider your support for this academy.

Yours sincerely

J Cockburn

**On behalf of North Tyneside Academy, High, Middle
and Special School Heads' Group**

Providing first class educational opportunities
for the local community and beyond.

