



DA

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

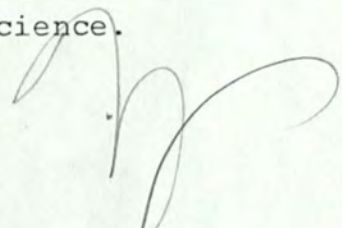
30 September 1985

The Prime Minister has seen the exchange of correspondence between your Secretary of State and the Lord President about the consideration of grant aided schools. She was glad to know that discussion on these proposals is being taken forward and she looks forward to being informed of the outcome of these discussions and, in due course, to a full report from H Committee.

I am copying this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office).

(Timothy Flesher)

Rob Smith, Esq.,
Department of Education and Science.



pps please

PRIME MINISTERGRANT AIDED SCHOOLS

Sir Keith Joseph, with your support, is arranging for a small group of colleagues to have a preliminary discussion about the feasibility of setting up grant aided schools.

The Lord President is keen to make clear to Sir Keith that the discussions will in the end go into the normal H machinery. He thinks it important that Sir Keith's report to you, after his informal group have had an initial look at the proposal, should be essentially for information, and should not seek your endorsement at that stage of a particular approach. He wants to be sure that H gets to grips with the practical problems before decisions, in effect, get taken on how to resolve them.

The Lord President's concern is understandable. Ensuring the matter goes to H will avoid devaluing the normal machinery and the Lord President's position, and foster full consideration of what will inevitably be tricky issues. Of course, if Sir Keith's preliminary discussions conclude that the idea should not be pursued, you will no doubt wish to arrange a meeting of Ministers to discuss.

Content I should indicate to the Lord President and Sir Keith Joseph that:

- i. you are glad to know discussion on the proposals on grand aided schools are being taken forward;
- ii. you look forward to being informed of the outcome of Sir Keith's preliminary discussions, and to a full report from H in due course.

Mark Addison

Yes

MARK ADDISON

27 September 1985

VC4ABY