



Mr Alex Tear  
Director of Education  
Rochester Diocesan Board of Education (RDBE)

24<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Dear Alex,

Thank you for meeting with me earlier. Like you I agree that we should have aimed to have met earlier in the process but I am pleased that we share the same commitment to ensure a smooth and positive transition of sponsors for the Bishop of Rochester Academy.

It is my understanding that the legal transfer of ownership should be complete by 1<sup>st</sup> April but as I said at the meeting it would be useful if this date does not dictate the public communication of the change of sponsorship as we feel that this will be detrimental to the pupils at the Academy. The Year 11 and Year 13 will just be starting their public examinations and we can not afford any distractions or negative media attention at such a crucial time for students. I have spoken to the senior team in the Academy and they too support the desire to manage this transition over the summer term.

I would therefore ask you and your board to allow the Academy to continue to use the name 'Bishop of Rochester Academy' over the summer term and we will then use that time to:

- Agree all public letters and press statements with you and the times they are released
- Consult with stakeholders on a new name for the Academy
- Agree with uniform suppliers any changes that will be required
- Develop new website and email accounts
- Invest in new signage for the Academy
- Organise the change required in finance systems and bank accounts

I recognise the difficulty you are in as you will have no direct control over the Academy over this period whilst it still trades under its current name therefore I would like to make the following offers:



- We will continue to employ the current Chaplain until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 to promote the values of the Diocese.
- In the new governance arrangements for the academy we will invite Ian, current COG to remain as part of that board. These measures will give the RDBE some security of our continued commitment to maintain the positive values within the Academy.
- We will offer the RDBE an associate Governor role for the period so you remain informed of the work of the Academy.
- A commitment to keep you fully informed of progress at the school over the summer term and provide regular updates on meeting the above objectives by arranging a monthly meeting with yourself and senior staff.

I would be happy to consider any further requests to ultimately secure your support on this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me further to discuss this or to arrange a follow-up meeting.

Yours sincerely

Ms. D. Shepherd  
Chief Executive