

23rd March 2015

Dear Parent and Carers,

The Bishop of Rochester Academy - New Sponsorship Arrangements

On behalf of the Diocesan Board of Education, I am writing to inform you of the new sponsorship arrangements for the academy which will take effect from 1st April 2015.

As you will be aware from the letter sent to you by the Chair of Governors on the 22nd January, the Diocese has been working closely with the Department of Education to find a new sponsor for the academy which has the capacity to continue to build on the recent improvements already made over the past 18 months.

The Department of Education have now confirmed that the Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) will take over from the Diocesan Board of Education as the sole sponsor of the academy from the 1st April. After this date TSAT will become responsible for the academy and the appointment all of the Governors to the new Governing Body.

After careful thought and consideration, the Diocesan Board of Education has very reluctantly, decided that it is no longer possible for it to continue as a sponsor of the academy and as a result, the Church of England status (the legal religious designation) will be withdrawn and it will not be involved in the governance, management or day to day operation of the academy in the future.

The Diocese remains committed to supporting the local community through its work with local churches, the surrounding parishes and its primary schools.

Mr Ian Bauckham, the Chair of Governors will write to parents in the next few days to confirm the new governing body of the academy and the leadership arrangements for the academy going forward.

After Easter, TSAT will consult with parents, staff and students on a new name for the academy which will no longer be named after the Diocesan Bishop.

These changes will not affect the day to day operation of the academy or the experience of students in classrooms however if you have any concerns or queries on this matter, do contact the Chair of Governors in the normal way.

On behalf of the Diocese, I would like to thank parents for your continued support for the academy and we wish the Thinking Schools Academy Trust every success as they take over the sponsorship of the academy.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Alex Tear

Director of Education, Diocese of Rochester