

3 April 2017

Dear Parents / Carer

I am sure you are all aware of the constant changes the education system has been, and is, undergoing - the increasing pressure on school budgets and the forever shrinking level of support in all sorts of areas from the Local Education Authorities, again brought about by budgetary constraints - and The King's is not immune from any of this. In an attempt to counteract these problems the Department of Education is encouraging schools to join together to share resources and expertise.

Since being established in January 2015 The King's CE (A) School, has been closely associated with St Thomas' Church, and a working relationship has also been increasingly evident over that period with St Thomas' Primary School. It seemed logical to the governors therefore to see if that bond could be developed to the advantage of both schools and over the last six months governors and the leadership teams of both schools have been exploring this possibility.

The outcome of those discussions, which is unanimously supported by both governing bodies, is that for an experimental period of 12 months from September 2017, the two schools work together in what will be called an 'Informal Collaboration' which if successful will involve a formal structure being put in place at the end of that period.

The arrangement will be that the Headteacher of The King's CE (A) School, Mrs Emily Verow, will become Executive Head of both schools, with her time split proportionally (yet to be agreed) between the two schools.

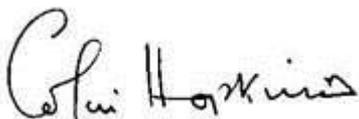
Whilst this will mean an adjustment in the roles and responsibilities for senior leadership at The King's from the children's perspective, there will be no real change.

The real benefit of such a collaboration will be the positive impact it will have on the budgets of both schools but more importantly it will enable the schools to share resources and the skills of a large number of staff who will have opportunities for their own professional development within a larger unit.

The governors and staff believe that this is an exciting opportunity, as I hope you also will. The fact that it will be on a 12 month trial does of course mean that nothing will be taken for granted. There will be regular reviews each term to ensure that the project is working as we hope and please be assured that should it not do so then governors will have no hesitation in revisiting the whole initiative.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to myself, Mrs Verow or any governor and we will do our best to answer your queries.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Hopkins  
Chair of Governors