Dear Parents

I am writing to inform you of some very exciting news. The Governing Body of St Teresa’s has voted to join the Kent Catholic School Partnership (KCSP). We feel that this is the best choice for the future of our school and its children.

The KCSP is a multi-academy trust set up by the Archdiocese of Southwark to protect Catholic education in Kent. This is not the first time that we had considered joining the Partnership. We last voted in January 2013, but at that time we decided that it was not the best time to join due to various changes that were imminent within our school.

The governors have carried out comprehensive research during the past two years to best understand the impact of becoming part of an academy group (or not!). While nothing in the future is certain, the governors felt that the school would have more control over its own future and the impact we could deliver for the children. It was also felt that there are benefits in joining a group of likeminded schools with common goals.

There has, in recent weeks, been a lot of press regarding the Government’s announcement during the Budget that all schools are to become academies by 2020. This has not influenced our decision, as we had already scheduled our vote prior to the announcement. We made the decision based on the needs of our school and its students.

We are currently consulting with KCSP and KCC regarding the timeline for conversion. We sincerely hope that the actual conversion process will have little or no impact on the day to day running of the school. However there are always challenges to be faced during a time of change and we would ask you to be patient with the school during the transition period. The name of the school will not be changing, and lessons will continue as normal.

The children have been informed today, during assembly, and will be given the opportunity to ask any questions or raise any concerns with their class teachers or via the school council. The staff were informed yesterday, and are being given the time to consult with their managers and Union representatives about the effect the change will have on them.
I am sure that as parents you will also have questions regarding this matter so we will be holding two information sessions where myself or Matthew Burchett, Parent Governor, together with the Senior Leadership Team from the school and hopefully a representative from KCSP, will be available. We will communicate the dates and times of these meetings once we have agreed the conversion timeline with KCSP.

We have also set up an email account for those unable to attend, chairofgovs@st-teresas.kent.sch.uk so that you can send in your questions. Alternatively, you may wish to ask your parent forum representatives to raise concerns for you at their next meeting. You can also visit KCSP’s website at http://www.kcsp.org.uk/ for more information about the partnership.

As our school motto says, Christ be our Light, and with this in mind we ask that you keep the children, staff and wider school community in your hearts and prayers, that Christ will shine a light for a bright future here at St Teresa’s Catholic Primary.

God Bless

Julia Barber

Chair of Governors