



20 February 2018

Dear parent/carer

I hope that you have all had a good half-term break, and that the children have returned to school refreshed for the new half-term.

Our consultation with parents/carers, staff, pupils and other stakeholders, into the proposal by the governing bodies at Thomas Coram and Victoria Schools to form a federation together, closed on 16 February. We would now like to update you on the governors' plans.

We are pleased to inform you that, after considering all the feedback, the governing bodies of both schools voted separately last night to approve the proposal to federate. The vote included the unanimous approval by all Foundation Governors, and we are now forming a new, single governing body across both schools. This new entity is to be called "Castle Church of England Federation" and will take effect on 16 April 2018. These proposals are subject to formal approval from the Diocesan Board of Education and Hertfordshire County Council.

The new Federation will share our current Executive Headteacher and senior leadership team, and will have a single governing body across both schools. However, as we advised at the outset of the consultation, the two Schools will retain their separate identities, uniforms, budgets and inspection regimes. There are no plans for a move to a single site.

We would like to thank everyone who has taken time to provide feedback. We had 38 responses from parents, staff and other stakeholders. A total of 87% of the responses supported the formation of the Federation, and we had overwhelmingly positive comments from the information drop-in sessions, from the dedicated staff meetings, and following presentations given at Church services during the consultation period at St Peter's and Sunnyside. The report considered by the Governing Body can be viewed at www.thomascoram.herts.sch.uk/collaboration.

We are grateful to everybody who has played a part in this process, as we make the practical arrangements required to federate. The combining of the two governing bodies means that we will have fewer governors, and we would particularly like to thank those governors who, after many years of dedicated service, have now chosen to stand aside. The new governing body, once it comes into being, will elect a Chair and other post-holders. We will also hold elections for two Parent Governors and one Staff Governor.

This is an exciting time for Thomas Coram and Victoria Schools, as together with our partners at Swing Gate Infant School, we work closely to continue offering the best educational provision for our children. If you have any questions about the Federation, please leave your details with the school office so that Mr Halls or I can contact you.

With very best wishes. Yours sincerely,

Nick Heath
Chair of Governors