

Dear Parents,

I have been asked if I could provide a one page summary of the changes to the CAST governance structure that are being proposed. As I said when first introducing the likely changes to the Heads and Chairs summit in March the devil is in the detail so although the following gives a brief summary of the changes I must emphasis that it is only a summary.

REASONS FOR CHANGE

It was very clear in the report CAST received following the focussed review in October that in addition to the standards in some of our schools being unacceptably low the lines of accountability were insufficiently clear. The warning notice from the RSC stated that we needed to provide "Clarity around lines of accountability and roles and responsibilities of the Trust leaders and the Board"

Since the publication of that report there have been numerous conversations with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and members of her team, the Catholic Education Service (CES) and our lawyers.

GOVERNANCE

The current model for CAST itself has been described as a central body, the Board, surrounded by lots of little 'islands' independent of each other, the schools. I say schools because I am not sure that all have come to terms with the changes inherent in academisation. Given the size of many of our schools this is not financially sustainable, and even if it were there are many opportunities being missed and I hope that the structure being proposed will not only, in time, address our financial situation, but will also improve the experience of the pupils who attend our schools. The Board decided not to introduce another layer of governance rather to establish a number of federated governing bodies each one being responsible for a number of schools. The number of schools involved in what we have called clusters will depend on local circumstances. Each cluster will be led by an Executive Principal. It is hoped that the introduction of this model will take place as organically as possible so for a while, we shall be working with a mixture of Local Governing Bodies, as we have now, and Federated Local Governing Bodies. That has implications for the management structure however at this stage governance and management are being kept separate and there will be another consultation concerning management.

At a local level there will be an Academy Council that will ensure that there is still local support for each of our schools as parts of their parishes and communities. The attached diagram shows the sort of model that is being considered however I have stressed at every meeting I have addressed to date that this is a model for consultation and we look forward to receiving your comments.

I'm aware that time is limited so if you would like to respond attaching your letter to an email and then posting the letter, that would be helpful. We have extended the time limit for receipt of response to 21st July. Whilst the board will have a preliminary look at the responses at their meeting on 19th final decision will not be taken until after 21st.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Griffin'.

Kate Griffin, Interim CEO Plymouth CAST