Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of the decision taken by the Governing Body to continue our partnership with St Thomas More Comprehensive (STMC). In reaching this view we sought advice from both the Diocese and Greenwich Council. We also took into account the informal feedback we have received from parents which has been overwhelmingly positive. This is not a decision that we have taken without considerable thought. To help us in our deliberations we were assisted by a facilitator from the Diocese who helped us to consider the strengths and weaknesses of all options. We had also received a letter from the Council which informed us of important national developments:

- the current government is determined to accelerate all schools to academies;
- there is growing recognition that schools do not thrive as isolated single institutions but function best with some kind of grouping which provides accountability, challenge and support.
- although revenue spending on schools is protected, the rising pupil numbers means that per pupil spend will be reduced.
- the Government have announced a review of school funding and it is anticipated that this will result in London schools losing up to 8% of their budget.

The Governing Body can already see the benefits of the partnership in, for example, sharing staff with STMC.

The current arrangements will remain in place for a further year but the governors will be moving forward in making them permanent.

If you have any queries or comments please contact me on governors@stmprimary.org

Yours sincerely,

Christine Grice

“Living and learning together we shine in the light of Christ”