



 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

 Diocese of  
Rochester

Board of Education

**Assistant Director of Education (Finance)**

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Our Ref:

Your Ref:

To Heads, Chairs, Incumbents, others

7<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Dear Colleague,

Happy New Year; Welcome back to a new term; I trust you all enjoyed a well deserved relaxing and peaceful Christmas.

The Government's plans for Education Reform are only now beginning to unfold (some six months after the enactment of the Academies Bill). I do question the manner in which this process has been managed. I am not a great fan of the drip, drip approach and it seems to me that the timing and order of the plans could have been dealt with in a more effective way. I would have thought that the first stage would have been to identify what was affordable (Comprehensive Spending Review), then to outline the strategy (White Paper) then to legislate (The Academies Act), a different order of approach was decided upon, which in my view caused unnecessary confusion.

I offer the following observations:

1. The CSR confirms a reduction in sixth form funding and yet the White Paper outlines a strategy to raise the school leaving age.
2. The English Baccalaureate regrettably omits Religious Education
3. Clearly Academy status is seen as the future for all schools, indeed there are powers for the Secretary of State to intervene and force a federated Academy status on schools that are consistently in a failing situation and
4. Ofsted's key areas of inspection areas reduced from 27 to 4, surely welcomed by all.

I am encouraged by the emerging pattern for our own Church schools considering Academy status who overwhelmingly favour being members of Multi Academy Trust models and thus creating a real family of Diocesan Church schools, supporting each other, amongst other advantages. We as a Board have decided to adopt a neutral approach and I am happy to advise any of you in your deliberations.

This will be my last communication as Acting Director; I have very much enjoyed the role. I look forward to welcoming and working closely with Mr Alex Tear our new Director and continuing to support you in all your excellent work for the benefit of the students we serve.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,

**John A Constanti**  
**Acting Director of Education**

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