



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

Executive Principal: Mr Dave Rooney

29th June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to inform you that I am in receipt of a letter from Dave Rooney following the disappointing news that our partners, Lowbrook Academy, was not successful in gaining sufficient votes at the public RBWM Council Meeting, on Tuesday 27th June to secure additional funding capital for their expansion plan. The vote was painfully tight with 23 votes 'for' and 23 votes 'against', with the casting vote going to the Mayor.

The letter from Mr Rooney to me which can be viewed on our website, states that Lowbrook Academy will be suspending all its obligations to Holy Trinity with immediate effect.

Since the Governing Body approached Mr Rooney for his support three years ago, you will be fully aware of the close relationship between Holy Trinity and Lowbrook; the mutual benefits and how they have worked tirelessly with us to achieve our recognition as an '*Outstanding*' school in all categories within two years. Bearing this in mind it was disappointing to learn that out of the three Cookham Councillors eligible to vote for the Lowbrook expansion, only Cllr MJ Saunders spoke out and voted in favour. Naturally, councillors must vote as they see fit but as our representatives it is hugely worrying to learn that when another Councillor intimated that Lowbrook Academy did not support other schools in the Local Authority, this accusation was not rebutted by our representatives.

To put this into context, when Holy Trinity received a '*Requires Improvement*' Ofsted judgement in October 2013, the governing body invited worried councillors into school to reassure them that our plans to move the school forward, in conjunction with Dave Rooney as our Executive Principal, were well under way. This was met with their approval and we have kept in touch with them since that time. They were and have been since, clear of the relationship our school has with Lowbrook and their huge role in supporting and in turning our school around.

The consequence of this failure to share the Lowbrook's collaboration with Holy Trinity (and other schools in the borough), together with not disseminating all the facts sent to our councillors by Cllr Paul Brimacombe (Cox Green) in advance of the debate, has resulted in our colleagues on the Governing Body of Lowbrook Academy feeling they were in an untenable position and have no alternative but to suspend all its obligations to Holy Trinity as it sits in the ward of these two councillors.

Please be aware this current status will **not** affect the operational running of Holy Trinity and our scheduled teaching, learning and activities. However with so much speculation in the public domain our Governing Body wanted you to be fully cognisant of the whole situation. We highly value our partnership with Lowbrook, believing that it is mutually beneficial and look forward to continue working together with them on our shared vision of providing the very best education possible for the children in our care. I wanted to reassure you that we are striving to reach a solution to this issue.

Kind regards,

Yasmin Thorn-Davis

Chair, Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Cookham