

21st February

Dear parents and friends,

Welcome back after what I hope was an enjoyable break. As I walk the dog it's lovely to see all the signs that spring is on its way and at this time of new beginnings I am writing to let you know that St Stephen's is about to have a new beginning of its own.

Thank you to those of you who responded to the consultation re academy conversion. As the feedback was largely in favour of conversion, the governors felt able to proceed with a vote before the end of the consultation period. This also would allow the process to get under way before the General Election period.

At the governing body meeting which was held just before the holidays the governors voted unanimously in favour of academy conversion.

I have therefore written on behalf of the governing body to the DFE applying for the St Stephen's to become an academy and to be sponsored by the Bishop Wheeler Academy Trust.

The Governors and I look forward to continuing to work with you to make sure that the children of St Stephen's have every opportunity to achieve their God given potential.

God bless

Janet Sheehan

Chair of Governors