



Education
Funding
Agency

Education Funding Agency
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www.education.gov.uk/efa-enquiry-form

1 September 2015

Mrs Denise Shepherd
Accounting Officer, Bishop of
Rochester Academy Trust and
Chief Executive, The Thinking
Schools Academy Trust
Rochester
Kent
ME1 3BY

Dear Mrs Shepherd,

FINANCIAL NOTICE TO IMPROVE – ROCHESTER ACADEMY

On 6 November 2014 I wrote to the then lead member of the Bishop of Rochester Academy Trust, Alex Tear, to serve notice that the Bishop of Rochester Academy Trust (the trust) was required to improve financial management and governance. This was as a consequence of the trust's failure to submit an agreed and accurate budget forecast, the trust's general management of the academy budget and finances leading to a significant expected cash flow deficit, and governance arrangements that did not provide sufficient scrutiny of financial budgets and financial management. The Financial Notice to Improve (FNtl) set out the actions that needed to be taken by the Trust to ensure the necessary improvements were made.

In light of the proposal for the academy to join the Thinking Schools Academy Trust on 1 September, and having assessed evidence provided by you on 30 June in your capacity as Accounting Officer and on behalf of the Bishop of Rochester Academy Trust about its improvements in governance and financial controls, I am lifting the Bishop of Rochester Academy Trust FNtl, with effect from the date of this letter.

This letter will be published on the gov.uk website, following on from the publication of the FNtl on 28 November 2014. I am copying this letter to the Regional Schools Commissioner.

I would like to thank you for your contribution in ensuring Rochester Academy, which will have the new title of The Victory Academy, has reached this position.

Yours sincerely

Sue Baldwin

Director, Academies and Maintained Schools Group

cc Dominic Herrington, RSC, South East and South London