Cranmere Primary School

12th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the Cranmere Governing Body, I am writing to share some important and exciting news regarding the future direction of our school.

As you know, we are proud of our caring and inclusive school community, where every child is respected, valued and encouraged to develop confidence, resilience and curiosity as they work towards reaching their full potential. We remain committed to our belief that education is about more than academic achievement; it is about nurturing the whole child, embedding values such as kindness, responsibility and self-belief, and creating a supportive environment in which every learner can flourish. With this firmly in mind, the Governing Body has been carefully considering how best to secure the continued success and long-term future of our school.

Following a period of thoughtful reflection and thorough research, we are considering conversion to academy status. We have therefore decided to join **Bourne Education Trust (BET)** as an associate partner from January 2026 with a view, subject to full stakeholder consultation and Government approval, to joining BET formally as an academy in due course.

The Cranmere Senior Leadership Team, the Governors and I have engaged with BET, including attending their executive days and visiting schools within the BET organisation. We have been very impressed by not only their professional and operational support, but most importantly, the focus and prioritisation of their pupils in developing the best education on their learning journey.

We strongly believe that this is the right direction for our school community. This is a proactive and considered step, not one made from necessity or external pressure. Our aim is to ensure we can continue to provide the very best education for our pupils, further supported by a wider network of experienced professionals who share our strong values and aspirations for every child. I also wish to make it clear that there are no plans to change the Senior Leadership Team and teaching staff as a result of our partnership with BET.

BET was established in 2011 and has grown steadily, now comprising 26 academies and a number of associate schools across Hampshire, London and Surrey. It currently supports the education of approximately 16,500 pupils and employs over 2,300 staff. Schools within the Trust vary in size — from one-form entry primaries to large secondary schools with sixth forms — but all are equally valued and play an active role in decision-making.

We have been particularly drawn to BET because of their commitment to schools retaining their unique identity and community character. Every school in the Trust is described as warm, welcoming and aspirational, with strong relationships at its core. This aligns closely with our own core values that guide us in fostering a positive and inclusive atmosphere where every child can thrive.

Joining BET would bring several benefits for our school community, including:

- Opportunities for our children to benefit from shared resources and further enrichment activities
- Access to a wider network of expertise and professional development for staff
- Enhanced leadership support and operational resilience for our school
- Meaningful collaboration with other like-minded schools, all while maintaining our independence and distinct character

We understand that you may have questions, and we would like to invite you to come along to an information session on Monday 9th February at 3:30pm, where you will have the opportunity to hear from the school and Governors, and to meet colleagues from the Trust, as well as ask any questions you may have.

In the meantime, should you wish to find out more about Bourne Education Trust, further information is readily available on their website: www.bourne.education. You may also wish to view their FAQs about what it means to be a school within BET here. In addition, if you wish to find out more about what converting to an academy means, you can find out more here: https://www.gov.uk/types-of-school/academies

Thank you for your continued support. We remain fully committed to doing what is right for our children, families and staff - now and in the future - and we believe that this is a positive and exciting next step for our school.

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Charnley
Chair of Governors
Cranmere Primary School