Cranmere Primary School

17th November 2026

Dear Families,

Conversion to Academy - Bourne Education Trust

Further to my letter of 12 January 2026 (BET associate membership letter), I am now writing to you with a further update on our partnership with Bourne Education Trust (BET or Trust). As you will know, we have been an associate of BET since January 2026 and, due to the success of this relationship, the Governors are now proposing we consider becoming an academy under the Academies Act 2010 and joining BET formally. As the initial step in this process, we are consulting on whether the school's academy conversion should take place.

BET was established in 2011 and has grown steadily since then. It is made up of 31 academies and a number of associate schools across Surrey, Hampshire and London. It is responsible for the education of approximately 16,500 pupils and employs over 2,800 staff. The Trust is organised into both phases and clusters to support specialist and cross-phase collaboration, so that we can maximise our opportunities for growth in education across the school.

The size of BET's schools range from a one-form entry primary to an 8-form entry secondary school with a sixth form. All schools are equally important and carry the same influence in terms of decision-making within the Trust. Each school has its own Head and Local Governing Committee. The Trust Leadership Team consists of Alex Russell, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Penny Alford, Deputy CEO and five Trust leaders with specific areas of responsibility.

We are pleased to now invite you to attend a consultation meeting on Wednesday 25th November 2026 at either 2:30pm, in person, at the school; or online at 6pm that evening – a link for the online meeting will be sent nearer the time. Representatives of the school, Governing Body and BET will be present to discuss any questions you may have.

The Governors are seeking your views on the proposed conversion to academy status, and on proposals to move to BET's term dates from 1st September 2028. You can email your response to consultation@bourne.education or submit your views through this link. The consultation run until Friday 18th December 2026.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) which cover all areas of the proposed conversion are available here (BET FAQs). If you would like a paper copy, please let the school office know and we will provide one for you. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Gilbert
Headteacher

Michelle Charnley
Chair of Governors