

16th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We wrote to you in November to confirm that the Governing Body had decided that the future of St Anne's would be best secured by joining a strong, successful Church of England Schools Trust, whose ethos and values we share, and which puts excellence at the heart of everything we do. That led us to the Cranmer Education Trust, locally based in Oldham, which includes the outstanding Blue Coat School.

The Cranmer Education Trust has welcomed us. They have been supporting us through their Teaching School, Teacher Training arm and finance, HR, ICT, estates and business services for the past 18 months. With their help, we have just completed our new SEND suite to ensure Achievement for All is an environment that is fit for purpose, and we have reviewed the whole of our ICT infrastructure so that it is now far more robust and effective.

We have now concluded the formal consultation process to transfer our staff to the new employer. The process has gone very smoothly, because relationships between ourselves and the Cranmer Education Trust are close and positive.

Pupils are involved in planning the transfer. We are changing our branding in a subtle way, bringing in more navy-blue which is very smart. They have chosen a new tie for the future which will be presented to everyone in the summer term, to mark our entering the Cranmer Trust. This will be paid for by the Academy and therefore at no cost to you. We also have a new blazer badge which will be available for the new Year 7s and when pupils change their blazers. Blazers with the old badge on will still be acceptable for older year groups and will just be updated as parents purchase new ones. There will not be any increase in the costs of ties and blazers as a result of the changes.

We **had** hoped to complete the full legal transfer by 1st January 2021. Unfortunately, and as we see in many areas, COVID has caused delays. We all only have so much capacity and when key people get ill or have to self-isolate, the processes are slowed down. In retrospect, 1st January 2021 was a bit ambitious, but it shows that both parties are committed.

The likelihood now is that the full transfer will complete on either 1st March or, if necessary, 1st April 2021. Whichever date it is, we will mark this new chapter for St Anne's formally when we return from the Easter break in the week beginning 19th April 2021. By that point, we might also be able to have some assemblies to celebrate.

In the interim, January-March/April, we will continue to work closely with the Cranmer Education Trust, following the direction that we have decided. You will see changes to the website and letterheads and the new pupils for September 2021 will all be welcomed by both our school and the wider Trust.

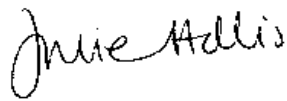
Thank you for your support. These are exciting times, which gives us great confidence for the future for all our young people.

I hope you all have a happy, healthy and safe Christmas break.

Yours sincerely



Tim Mitchell
Chair of Governing Body
St Anne's Academy



Julie Hollis
CEO
The Cranmer Education Trust



Chris Heyes
Headteacher
St Anne's Academy