

Our Ref: JAH/MM

24<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The National Education Union (NEU) has informed the schools in the Cranmer Education Trust that their teaching members will be taking industrial action on the following dates:

- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

We respect the right of the NEU and their members to take lawful industrial action as part of the formal trade dispute with the Secretary of State for Education in relation to a fully funded increase in teachers' pay at a rate greater than inflation.

In the context of imminent GCSE and A-level examinations, the NEU has agreed a dispensation for their members to teach Years 11 and 13 only. This affects The Blue Coat School and St Anne's CE Academy. We are currently contacting NEU members through their representatives to establish how many teachers will take up the dispensation and, depending on that, whether it will be possible to open safely and productively to Years 11 and 13 with specialist teachers.

Large numbers of teachers in our schools are affected by the action. We have assessed the risk to the safety of our pupils with such reduced numbers of staff and decided that **all our schools below will need to close, or partially close, to pupils on 27<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023:**

- The Blue Coat School, Oldham
- The Brian Clarke CE Academy, Oldham
- St Anne's CE Academy, Middleton
- Mayfield Primary School, Oldham
- East Crompton St George's Primary School, Oldham

**The only exceptions will be:**

- **Years 11 and 13 at St Anne's and Blue Coat** – to be confirmed
- **Some primary classes**, as determined by the Headteachers of St George's and Mayfield primaries, based on their risk assessments of how many staff they are likely to have in school
- **Vulnerable pupils** as determined by your school. The Headteachers will contact you if your child is part of this cohort.

All pupils attending school will be expected to attend at normal times and in full uniform/sixth form dress code. School meals will be available.

## Remote Education

### Secondary

We will seek to provide as much online learning as we can. Unfortunately we will not know until the day which lessons will be affected by strike action. Pupils should log on for each lesson. Where the teacher is not available they should continue with revision, catching up any work missed, homework, or read, as reading is fundamental to all learning.

### Primary

Teachers who are in work will post activities for pupils on the schools' websites or social media and where possible will contact pupils during the day to check that they have found this and understand what to do.

## Free School Meals

All pupils who are entitled to receive a Free School Meal will receive an online voucher in the usual way, which can be spent in the supermarket of your choice.

## Confirmation of the arrangements for each school

The Headteacher of your child's school will contact you with specific details about which pupils should attend, and online provision and arrangements for those pupils we cannot safely accommodate.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs J.A. Hollis**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**The Cranmer Education Trust**