

Our Ref: JAH/MM

12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Parents and Carers  
Saddleworth School

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued support as we work to ensure the leadership direction and ongoing improvement of Saddleworth School. We all want the best for our young people.

I am writing to let you know that the Trust Board has decided to appoint an Interim Executive Board (IEB) at governance level to support and challenge school leadership. This will take effect from Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March and will last for probably 18 months, i.e. the period when the school is being led by Mr Christian with the support of 2 Executive Headteachers, Mr Higgins and Mr Heyes; and the first year of the new Headteacher's leadership of the school.

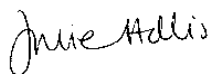
Details of the membership of the board as it takes shape will be posted on the school's website. I am very pleased to confirm that the Chair of the IEB will be Mrs Patsy Kane, OBE. Mrs Kane has 30 years' senior leadership experience, including as Headteacher of Whalley Range High School and Executive Headteacher and CEO of the Education and Leadership Trust in Manchester. She has been a trustee for the Co-Op Academies Group and of The Diana Award, before joining the Board of Trustees at The Cranmer Education Trust. She knows Oldham well having worked part-time for the DfE for 2 years in the borough. Her commitment to young people and a holistic, values based education is clearly reflected in the chapter she contributed to "Schools for Human Flourishing" (published in 2016) on "Values Matters: Case Study for Human Flourishing".

An IEB is put in place when a school needs to make rapid improvement, as is the case with Saddleworth School, where the current Ofsted judgement is Requires Improvement in all areas and overall. An IEB is entirely appointed by the Trust Board, meets more frequently and reports directly into the Trust Board. The Trust Board will also appoint the Parent Governors.

The Trust Board thanks the outgoing Local Governing Committee for all their support of the school in the past and making the important decision to take the school into a trust to secure the best for everyone and the best from everyone.

I will contact you again before Easter with further updates.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs J Hollis**  
**CEO, The Cranmer Education Trust**