



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Dear parent/carer,

I would like to begin by acknowledging the disruption caused by planned industrial action which has been called by the relevant trade unions on the upcoming dates. I fully understand the concern and inconvenience this may cause for families.

We are meeting urgently with staff and trade union representatives, with a genuine commitment to listening to concerns, engaging constructively, and working together to seek the best possible solutions for each school within the resources available to us. Our aim is to resolve matters positively and, where possible, to avoid any further industrial action.

Alongside this ongoing dialogue, we are taking forward a number of cost-saving measures—some already underway, others strengthened in response to staff and union feedback. These actions will help improve the Trust's financial position; however, it is important to be clear that the proposed restructures remain necessary to ensure all schools, and our Central Team, reach a balanced budget by September 2026.

The areas of work include:

- **Seeking alternative Trust office accommodation** to reduce costs.
- **Renegotiating Trust-wide catering contracts** to secure better value.
- **Renegotiating Trust-wide cleaning contracts** with the same aim.
- **Exploring Diocese-wide procurement** to increase buying power and savings.
- **Reviewing all existing contracts** to identify where Trust-wide agreements can improve efficiency.
- **Assessing income streams** and expanding lettings to generate additional revenue.
- **Registering with grant-search platforms** to access external funding opportunities.
- **Investing small daily surpluses** in short-term high-interest accounts.
- **Exploring land-sale opportunities** where the Diocese agrees.
- **Protecting 52-week contract alignment** for support staff.
- **Working with each school individually** to understand local issues and find solutions that remain within budget.

Throughout this process, our priority is to ensure that every school is staffed sustainably and continues to provide the high-quality education that our schools are known for.



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Kind regards,

Kevin Gritton  
Chief Executive