



We're recruiting

Bring your background and experience in diversity and racial justice, change management and entrepreneurship to our thriving governance team

March 2021

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in a governance role within Wandle Learning Trust. Ours is a supportive and inclusive Trust with a comprehensive induction programme, and a supportive team ready to welcome all new members into the governance team.

Wandle Learning Trust was established in December 2017 by two excellent schools: Chestnut Grove (secondary), Chesterton (primary) and a highly successful Teaching School. The Trust is a thriving learning community and constantly looks for opportunities to grow and develop.

Two primary schools, Ravenstone and Paxton, have recently joined the Trust and this year's Covid-19 challenge has clearly illustrated the big benefits of schools working together in the interests of all pupils. Our trustees have ambitious plans to expand and hope that several more schools will join the Trust in the next few years.

The Wandle Learning Trust has strong primary and secondary leadership as our Executive Heads are leading highly successful schools and jointly developed our Wandle Teaching School Alliance (recently named as one of just 87 national Teaching School Hubs).

The Trust believes that the strong partnership between primary and secondary education brings significant advantages and that there are clear benefits for pupils when staff share their expertise and knowledge across the age range. The schools serve very diverse communities in Wandsworth and Thornton Heath and they pride themselves in supporting those communities in order to get the best results for all children.

As a forward thinking, creative organisation, the Wandle Learning Trust is continually seeking development opportunities and aims to be at the forefront of educational change, both in its schools and through the Wandle Teaching School Hub.

The Trust's long-term ambition is to become the trusted go-to multi-academy trust in Wandsworth and neighbouring boroughs and, within three years, to be a beacon of excellence for parents, pupils and the school community.





Plans for the Future

The key challenges for the Trust over the next 12-24 months are to:

- Maintain and build on the success of all Trust schools by sharing excellence and continuing to learn from each other.
- Continue to develop sound back office, finance and governance structures as the Trust grows.
- Ensure that schools joining the Trust are properly supported and quickly thrive in the new organisation.
- Support the school leadership at Paxton as it continues its exciting school improvement journey and settles in its new building.
- Ensure that we continue to publicise the success of the Trust and therefore increase pupil numbers.
- Learn from the lessons of Covid-19 particularly in terms of remote learning.
- Listen to our diverse community to ensure that our education offer is truly inclusive and that the Trust and Local Academy Committees reflect this in all aspects of their work.

The Trust has established a strong Board with a mix of skill sets and professional expertise. Governance at local school level is excellent and our aim is to maintain local governance systems with the Trust Board offering oversight, direction and guidance. Paxton has an Interim Board made up of Trustees from Wandle Learning Trust and the ambition is to hand over the reins so that the new Headteacher will have a local body of committed people working with her.

Trust ethos and values

The Trust's ambition is to:

- Create a community of outstanding schools with the highest expectations for all pupils by building on the outstanding models of the founding schools.

- Continue to be a beacon of excellence in supporting the most disadvantaged pupils alongside their peers to achieve the highest academic results.
- Lead education innovation and to be at the forefront of teaching methods that have the most impact.
- Ensure that the model grows and develops at an ambitious but sustainable pace.
- Build on the Teaching School Hub experience to continue to invest in staff through providing high quality professional development and the opportunity for growth.
- Secure accountability based on transparent leadership and governance.

Sian Mathias
Chair of the Trust

www.wandlelearningtrust.org.uk
Tel: 020 8673 8737

CHESTERTON PRIMARY

Chesterton is a larger than average primary school with Nursery provision part of the school offer. We are a Gold Rights Respecting school with our school values of kindness, pride and resilience at the heart of everything we do.

The school is situated in Battersea and serves a community which lives in an area of high deprivation. According to the IDACI deprivation bands- 36% of our school community are in the 'most deprived 10%' band and 32% are in the '10-20%' band.

The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals is 35%. 56% of pupils speak English as an additional language. The percentage of pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds is approximately 89%. Children at Chesterton make significant progress from their starting points.

We are very proud of the sustained high outcomes for our children when they leave us in Year 6. For example, in 2019 Chesterton's scores in national tests for 11-year olds were significantly above national outcomes. Ninety five per cent of pupils reached the expected (or above) standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined, compared to 65% nationally.

The progress of all children in reading, writing and maths was also significantly above average when compared to all school nationally.

The school's achievements have been recognised through being awarded Teaching School status in 2012, becoming a designated NCETM Maths Hub in June 2014 and an English Hub in October 2018. In November 2020 the school was ranked 107 in the Times top state primary schools.

Chesterton 
PRIMARY SCHOOL



CHESTNUT GROVE ACADEMY

Chestnut Grove is a co-educational 11-19 school located in Balham, South London, whose motto – ‘A Creative Learning Community’ – reflects our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum and the strong sense of unity which permeates the school community.

Underpinning this motto are our PROUD values which stand for Positive, Resilient, Open-minded, Unified and Determined. Developing these values in our students is what makes Chestnut Grove such a unique place. We are committed to developing the leaders of tomorrow by equipping them with the skills they need for success.

The Chestnut Grove curriculum provides a rigorous, knowledge-rich, transformational education, encapsulated through our PROUD values, which prepares our students to succeed at university and lead fulfilling lives.

It is the embodiment of our ethos of a creative learning community, which marries traditional values with dynamic approaches to teaching and learning. Specialisms in Art and Languages from Year 7 provides a richness to our learning opportunities.

Chestnut Grove serves a diverse community and we are committed to ensuring that we meet the needs of all of our students, regardless of their backgrounds or starting points. Our commitment to inclusion and equalities is central to a Chestnut Grove education. This commitment is demonstrated through various awards including Silver Rights Respecting status, the Department for Education’s Equalities Award and Educate and Celebrate.

In 2016 the school won the Accord Inclusivity Award for the creative way in which it teaches controversial issues to students and promotes inclusion. Most recently the school is leading the way in decolonising the curriculum and supporting all curricular areas to consider how racism shows up in the way educational information is provided to our children.

Continuous Professional Development for all staff is vital to the academy’s determined drive for improvement and the school’s work has been recognised through the Gold Mark award from the Institute of Education for Excellence in Continued Professional Development. As a key partner in the Wandle Teaching School Alliance, this expertise is shared across the alliance as the lead secondary school partner.

The school is now benefiting from an excellent new building financed under the Priority Schools Building Programme and launched in 2017. We are also in the process of constructing a new Sixth Form block which will enable us to increase our PAN in Year 7 to 210 and the overall numbers in the Sixth Form to 300. Chestnut Grove continues to go from strength to strength and there are no signs of this journey of improvement abating.



PAXTON ACADEMY

Paxton Academy is an inclusive inner-city primary school with the potential to become three forms of entry including a Nursery provision. Situated in its new permanent site on the London Road, Paxton Academy provides an ethos in which all learners flourish. Located in the heart of Thornton Heath within the Borough of Croydon, the school's location borders two boroughs; Merton and Sutton from which children travel each day.

At Paxton Academy, all stakeholders invest in the vision and work together to promote the school's seven core values (Resilience, Excellence, Success, Pride, Equality, Care and Teamwork). These are encapsulated in the ethos which is woven across all aspects of school life and provides a common language which binds adults and children together.

The staff team welcome children into our school community of all faiths and from a wide range of nationalities. Paxton Academy's journey has been one of improvement since it was set up as a Free School in 2014 to meet the needs of the local children in Thornton Heath.

Our Ofsted inspection in May 2017 identified the school as requiring improvement. In Spring 2019, the DfE approached the Wandle Learning Trust with a view to the school joining the Trust, which it did in July 2019. Wandle Learning Trust has been working closely with the school to support the necessary improvements.

**PAXTON
ACADEMY**
SPORTS AND SCIENCE
INDIVIDUALLY EXCELLENT, COLLECTIVELY BRILLIANT

In November 2019, just a few months after Paxton joined the Trust, Ofsted judged the school as inadequate but acknowledged the positive impact the support from WLT was having. Ofsted's November 2019 report noted: "The new Trust leaders' ambition is high... Trust leaders provide excellent expertise and support... They have a thorough understanding of what needs to improve and have the skills to do this. They are rightly acting with urgency. The school is ready now to work with a committed and visionary Headteacher who has the drive and determination to take the school forward whilst maintaining the school's autonomy and unique qualities and benefiting from being part of the WLT partnership."

We are well on the way, the new Headteacher started in September 2020, taking the school into its new building with a freshly formed senior leadership and the drive to create its own governance.

On 8th December 2020, Paxton underwent a one-day monitoring visit from Ofsted. The visit was part of the Government's research into how England's education system is managing the return to full time education for pupils following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. There was no judgement made and the report was published on 22nd January 2021.

In late January 2021 Paxton had a remote two-day Section 8 inspection, the focus of which was education in the current circumstances. Ofsted were working on a single over-arching judgment of met or not met, and we're delighted to say that inspectors judged that school leaders are taking effective action and that standards are being met.



WANDLE TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

The Wandle Teaching School Alliance (WTSA) is a collaborative learning community which seeks to continually improve teaching and learning across all its schools to enable students and staff to achieve their full potential. As of 2018 we are now supporting schools in 16 Boroughs across London and the South East. Each term we offer hundreds of great value, accredited training courses for different ages, stages and specific school needs. We work with Early Years, Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and Alternative Provision settings across academy, free, maintained and independent sectors. This is unique locally.

Our three key priorities are initial teacher training, continuous professional development and school-to-school support. To support learning through the current lockdown, WTSA worked to make all CPD and school support activities online. This included a national DfE-funded programme of over 400 Letters and Sounds phonics videos for use by families at home. Our Letters and Sounds for Home and School YouTube channel now has 52,000 subscribers and our videos have received more than 7m views.

We have used the WTSA brand to access funded opportunities aligned to our collaborative partnership model. In addition to the three areas above we lead on the SW London Maths Hub (In partnership with Wandsworth LA and Belleville Primary), The Wandle Early Years Hub and the Wandle English Hub.

Thanks to this extensive partnership working, and after 20 years of service to education, we are proud to announce that our Joint Executive Headteacher Mark Siswick was awarded an MBE in the 2021 New Year's Honours List.



RAVENSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ravenstone Primary School is a two-form primary school in the heart of Balham which has a highly inclusive ethos, and which strives to ensure that each child fulfils their potential at the heart of the community. The school's fundamental approach is based on a discrete curriculum model where our five core values (happy, kind, honest, create, determined) underpin everything we do. Our aim is for children at Ravenstone not only to experience excellent teaching and creative enrichment opportunities, but also to develop as confident, caring individuals, ready to take their place in the world.

The school received a good OFSTED rating in November 2019 and pupil outcomes continue to be above national average at all statutory testing points. However, a key attainment focus has been on ensuring our disadvantaged pupils achieve in line with our non-disadvantaged and this remains a target. In 2017 we opened the Hive, a specialist unit for children with ASD which will eventually cater for 16 pupils.

Our school context includes the following: 57% of our cohort are boys, 14% of pupils are in receipt of pupil premium grant, 5% have an EHCP, 11% are on the SEN register support and 20% speak English as an Additional Language.

The ambition across the school is based on a firm belief that not only do the children deserve the very best start in life, but staff deserve to work within a highly professional workplace where professional development and excellence is delivered on a daily basis. The school's priorities range from embedded key schemes of learning to ensuring our diversity and inclusion strategy is lived.

Our strategic and long-term aims are broken down into a one-year plan that is based on five-year goals. This is closely understood and monitored by the school's leadership team and Local Academy Committee.



We look forward to receiving your application for a governance role within Wandle Learning Trust. Please check our website for details of all current roles: wandlelearningtrust.org.uk/work-with-us

Wandle Learning Trust

45 Chestnut Grove, London SW12 8JZ

wandlelearningtrust.org.uk

T: 020 8673 8737

E: office@wandlelearningtrust.org.uk

