

TRUST STAFF NEWS

OCTOBER 2023

DEAR COLLEAGUES

Welcome to the first Trust newsletter of the 2023/24 academic year. As a Trust we got off to a great start with some fantastic student outcomes across both the primary and secondary phases.

Not long into this half-term, Ravenstone got 'the call' from our friends at OFSTED and the report has recently been published. Huge congratulations to Francis and his team on securing a 'Good' judgement across all areas.

It was wonderful to see the Trust community come together over the two-day

inspection to support the fantastic team at Ravenstone and it really did drive home the importance for us all of being part of a MAT.

We hope you have a wonderful half-term break and look forward to seeing you on Monday 30th October.

Christian and Mark, Co-CEOs



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Trustees have been delighted with the summer outcomes and fully appreciate the hard work that goes into ensuring this sort of success is possible. As the Trust vision states: 'There is nothing

more important than making a difference to young people's lives' and strong results make a difference! I have now been interviewed for three Ofsted inspections in the last year and it has been very good to see the support that the Trust can offer and the impact this makes. All schools in the Trust are now Good or Outstanding which is a considerable achievement. Thank you.

At the Trust Board we are focussing on recruiting new members and are looking to ensure diversity. To find out more about the role please **head to** the WLT website.

NEWS FROM CHESTNUT GROVE

EXAM RESULTS

This summer saw students celebrating some excellent exam results at Chestnut Grove Academy. You will hear more about these at the forthcoming Trust Professional Day on Monday 30th October 2023.

We also celebrated two of our students going on to study at Oxbridge and one student going on to study medicine at Anglia Ruskin.

ENRICHMENT

Our enrichment programme for this academic year is underway with the launch of the Chestnut Clubcard and students receiving a prize for every 10 stamps earned by



attending enrichment clubs at lunch or after-school. We have a variety of extra-curricular activities on offer, including a range of sports and music clubs and other interests ranging from bracelet making to lego robotics and book club to feminist society.

Our educational visits programme has also begun for the year with students in Key Stages 4 and 5 committing to undertake Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

In Year 7, 35 Pupil Premium children have been on a free trip to the Tower of London. They thoroughly enjoyed the day bonding with their teachers and year group peers whilst seeing a piece of British history, with one student excitedly exclaiming "that's William the Conqueror" at a picture on the way in!

NEWS FROM PAXTON

PAXTON MEET THE MET COMMISSIONER

Thanks to an invite from Borough Commander Andy Brittain, we attended the MET Commissioner's final event of his 32 Borough Tour. The event at Fairfield Halls was filled with Croydon's finest but the highlight of the evening was the opportunity for the children to put questions to Sir Mark Rowley.

REFLECTING REALITIES

What an inspirational start to year three of the Reflecting Realities project at the Centre For Literacy In Primary Education (CLPE). Over the last two years, Farrah and Charlotte from CLPE have created a platform to embed quality rich text across the curriculum, which empowers all children to see themselves in books and as authors and illustrators. We look forward to working with CLPE and the other schools in the project to extend and enrich our offer to children.

TWO FORMS OF ENTRY

As of September, Paxton now has two forms of entry in Reception; Reception Red and Reception Blue. The children have settled in well to school life and are already living their best life and taking part in whole school themed days such as #CrazyHairDay.

GOING LIVE!

We hosted our first Champion School Live event of the new school year, a great opportunity to share best practice and learn from others. A total of 17 delegates from the four corners of London, plus a team of nine who travelled all the way from Rotherham, made the event extra special. It was an amazing opportunity to showcase Little Wandle Letters and Sounds and celebrate the difference it makes to the children, staff and to embedding a Love of Reading.



NEWS FROM CHESTERTON

We had a busy summer holiday before the new school year even started. To meet the needs of our children we have created a 'Nurture Nest' and made further improvements to our Forest School area. The Nest is for children with SEMH needs. It is designed to support them with regulating themselves, so that they can be successful when they are learning in the classroom.

Our learning mentors and ELSA

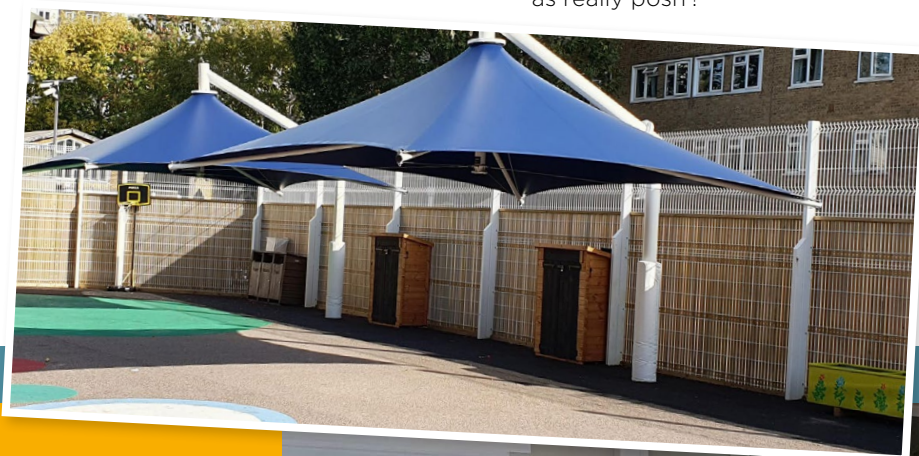
trained staff are based in The Nest where children have timetabled slots and are referred in by the class teachers. This will help us to monitor the impact that our new space has. The enhanced Forest School and edible garden areas have now been included in day-to-day curriculum provision for all children.

The children are also now enjoying some well-needed shade in the Key Stage 1 playground as well as new toilets across the school, which have been described by numerous children 'as really posh'!

The new term has started well, with Nursery and Reception children settling in and enjoying learning all the new routines. They have already been part of our first Champion School event for Little Wandle which took place at the beginning of October. Little Wandle Live participants were very impressed with how focused the Reception and Year 1 children were in their phonics lessons at this early stage of the year.

All the children have moved up to their new year groups successfully and are enjoying their new themes. Our Year 5 children created a fantastic class assembly to share with the school and their families to show what they have learnt so far.

Finally, we are extremely proud that Whitney Shore was invited to speak at the national UNICEF conference. She spoke about Chesterton's UNICEF journey and learnt from other schools about how they make UNICEF a focus of their school. Well done, Whitney!



TRUST STAFF NEWS





NEWS FROM RAVENSTONE

UNCONSCIOUS BIAS TRAINING

Our staff team began the year with unconscious bias training facilitated by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, Carla Myrie from Wandsworth Local Authority.

The aims were to learn more about the Equality Act 2010, to understand what unconscious bias is, to recognise how unconscious bias influences our interaction with others and to engage in solutions-based thinking to positively affect our interactions with others. This includes children, staff and families in our school community.

UPDATE FROM THE HIVE

This term in The Hive, our specialist provision for children with ASC, we have been embracing change! We have a new Head of The Hive, Mr Davies, a new teacher for Stephen Wilshire class and a team of new Teaching Assistants. All our new starters have thrown themselves into The Hive, relishing the challenge of working with our wonderful children. Alongside this, we've welcomed two new pupils.

In Stephen Wilshire class, the children have been learning about Jack and the Beanstalk, using the story as the basis for a wide range of learning activities. The children have been responding to the story in various ways – sequencing the narrative with pictures, constructing three- and four-part sentences with colourful semantics, and using the text as a base for developing and practising our use of PECs (Picture Exchange Communication System). It has been fantastic to watch the children respond to the story in various ways. One



of our children was observed at home climbing a thick tree, remarking "Jack and the Beanstalk" to her mother!

In Temple Grandin class, we have been working across the curriculum. The children have been working on fractions in Maths, using a range of concrete resources to help understand

how to find fractions of a whole, and fractions of amounts. Alongside this, the children have been working on poetry in literacy, working hard to find rhyming words!

In addition, the children have been spending their afternoons in their mainstream classes.

Around this, we are working hard to develop The Hive and our communication with parents. We are now using Evidence Me, to share children's work with parents. The platform also allows parents to share what is happening at home with us.

Support staff have been developing their knowledge by attending behaviour training and further sessions in a wide range of topics is planned.

Away from the provision, we continue to work on developing understanding of Neurodiversity with the whole school. Mr Davies has delivered assemblies to both KS1 and KS2 on how to support neurodiverse learners and is working closely with Assistant Head, Ms. Stanislaus, to develop strategies to make break times on the playground more inclusive for children with ASC.





NEW FROM WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

MATHS HUB

Once again the Maths Hub has a rich, varied FREE professional development offer for all teachers of maths. We'd love to see as many WLT staff as possible take advantage of these opportunities.

The offer includes: Specialist

Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics

– a blend of subject and pedagogical knowledge designed to have direct impact on classroom



LITTLE WANDLE

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised has got off to a flying start to the new academic year with the launch of our Year 2 Spelling programme, Year 2 and 3 Fluency programme, and updated Foundations for Nursery offer. All three new parts of the programme are fully

practice. Programmes for:

- Early Years Teachers
- Primary Teachers
- Primary TAs
- Primary ECTs
- Secondary TAs
- Secondary ECTs

Cross phase continuity Work Groups

– informed by the NCETM's Essence of Mathematics Teaching for Mastery and exemplified accordingly.

- Year 5 – Year 8 Continuity
- Supporting Low Attainers to Achieve L2 Qualifications (Years 10 – 12)

Secondary and Post 16

- Secondary Subject Leadership – a vibrant professional learning community
- Developing A Level Pedagogy – a sustained collaborative offer to develop pedagogic theory that has a direct impact in the classroom, in partnership with AMSP

For more details and please **take a look** at our website or **email** Nicki Ashton.

resourced and come with online training which is available to very member of the WLT staff team.

We are currently piloting an unique Key Stage 3 reading programme; with Chestnut Grove at the heart of developments. Further details will be shared at the Trust Professional Day on 30th October. Most excitingly, our team has grown! We now have two full-time and seven part-time or freelance Little Wandle trainers supporting us with English Hub, Champion School and training. Our new team will enable us to support even more schools online and in-person as we edge nearer to 5,000 schools using the programme.

ENGLISH HUB

We have had a busy start to the year at Wandle English Hub. We are delighted to welcome six new Literacy Specialists to our team, including Jess and Nina from Chesterton. This year we will continue to support schools across our 16 London boroughs through early reading audits, Literacy Specialist support and funding. We also have lots of CPD planned for this year which is FREE and available to staff from the Trust. You can **view** our upcoming events on our website.

TEACHING SCHOOL HUB

ITT NEWS

Big changes are coming in Initial Teacher Training for 2024/25 and Wandle Teaching School Hub (WTSH) is central to coordinating and driving improved offers to bring new teachers into the profession. Initial Teaching Training has gone through considerable reframing over the past couple of years and new PGCE and QTS courses will be delivered from September 2024. WTSH will be acting as a Lead Provider for Roehampton University and Inspiring Future Teachers SCITT (Primary) and UCL/IOE (Secondary). Anyone within the Trust who would like more information about training to be a

teacher should **contact** Katie Colley

ECF NEWS

The ECF programme continues to go from strength to strength with satisfaction rates at 94% for ECTs and 91% for Mentors. We have worked hard to listen to feedback and improve where we can for Cohort 2 and will continue to push for improvements for Cohort 3.

Congratulations to all the Cohort 1 ECTs who have now completed their ECT induction.

NPQ NEWS

Government funding for the NPQs is only guaranteed for one more year, the final Spring 2024 recruitment window is now open. WTSH will continue to deliver

the UCL NPQ training programmes. Please **sign up** if you would like to join an NPQ course.

Current NPQs:

- Headship
- Senior Leadership
- Early Years Leadership
- Leading Teacher Development
- Leading Teaching
- Leading Behaviour and Culture
- Leading Literacy (Primary & Secondary)
- Leading Primary Maths

We are also recruiting NPQ Facilitators to join our team. If you would like to become an NPQ Facilitator please sign up **here**.