

TRUST STAFF NEWS



MAY 2025

DEAR COLLEAGUES

The summer exam season is well underway and by the time you read this the Key Stage 2 SATs will be over for another year and the GCSE and A Level exams will be in full flow. A huge amount of work has gone into supporting our pupils and students and we would like to thank every one of you for going the extra mile. When we talk about 'Educating for Life' we are referring to much more than a set of qualifications, but we all recognise that these lay the foundations for the next stage of our children's journey, whether that is secondary school, university, apprenticeships, or the world of work. We are all here to make a difference and this mission is evident across all our schools. We look forward to sharing the outcomes with you in due course and celebrating our collective achievements. Best wishes **Christian, Mark and Sian**



**Christian Kingsley (Co-CEO),
Mark Siswick (Co-CEO) and
Sian Mathias (Chair of Trustees)**

NEWS FROM THOMSON HOUSE SCHOOL

Our talented Year 3 pupils took to the stage and delivered a truly magical musical performance, bringing the spirit of the West End to West London. Featuring a medley of well-loved numbers from iconic musicals, the production was a celebration of music, theatre and teamwork. Performing to a packed audience required immense courage and confidence, and our young performers rose to the occasion with professionalism and poise well beyond their years. They were beautifully supported by our enthusiastic Year 2 choir, who sang with heart and energy throughout the show.

Professional development

We're thrilled to share some fantastic

professional development news from our staff. Two of our teachers have been selected as borough Key Stage 2 moderators, two more colleagues have successfully completed their NPQs in Primary Mathematics and Leading Teaching. One of our team has submitted their NASENCO portfolio and finally, another has completed the inspiring SWLSEP Leadership Programme. We are proud of the dedication our staff show in developing their practice to ensure the best outcomes for all our pupils.

Enterprising pupils

Over the Easter break, pupils took part in an exciting enterprise



challenge designed to develop creativity, initiative, and business acumen. With a starting budget of £20, each 'company' designed, produced and sold their own unique product or service, raising funds for our school. Through this hands-on project, pupils explored key aspects of business, from brainstorming unique ideas to managing production costs, setting prices, and marketing their creations. They experienced the exciting (and sometimes unpredictable!) world of business first-hand!



**WANDLE
LEARNING
TRUST**



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



Chesterton
PRIMARY SCHOOL





NEWS FROM FIRCROFT

On return from the Easter break, Fircroft staff enjoyed a free, SEND-focused CPD session, 'Speech Bubbles', organised by Tom Jacob (Fircroft and Thomson House SENCo). The session fully engaged both teaching assistants and class teachers, leaving us all very inspired to incorporate more drama and talking opportunities into our children's weekly learning experience.

Beyond compere!

We were delighted to be asked to provide a compere for the recent opening of the Tooting Hub, attended by local dignitaries and Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London. Shayan, one of our Year 6 pupils, rose to the challenge, impressing

everyone with his composed, clear delivery in front of a packed audience.

Golden balls

Our football team are proud of their 2nd place medals, won at Golden League, Tooting's version of the Premier League! The league kicked off in the Autumn term and continued through to Easter, with lots of hard-fought matches. We are now looking forward to the start of Girls Super-League later this summer term.

Online safety

Earlier this month, Trust Safeguarding Lead, Becky Jackson hosted a well-attended online Safety coffee morning for Fircroft parents and carers. The information shared was thought-provoking, hard-hitting and much needed! Parents have since fed back that they appreciated the session, now realising that their own 'battles' and concerns at home over online safety and over-use of devices are shared with so many other parents.



NEWS FROM PAXTON

In April, we joined people across the globe in marking Earth Day. This year the theme was, Our Planet, Our Power, encouraging us all to reflect on how we can positively contribute to the preservation of our planet. The remarkable achievements of young change-makers worldwide remind us that every small action can help create a more sustainable and harmonious future for the Earth. At Paxton we have been looking at ways we can make a difference. With the change in the weather, our School Council and Eco Team have been busy weeding, planting and watering the raised beds with herbs and seasonal vegetables.

'Pop Up' book shop

Our librarians have been busy organising a London Book project 'Pop Up' book shop. At the start

of each school day, the librarians stocked the 'Pop Up' book shop with a selection of age-appropriate books. And at the end of each day, just before the children went home, a different class visited the 'Pop Up' book shop, where every child was able to hand in their book token and select a book of their choosing to take home and add to their very own bookshelf.

Little Wandle Live event

We have opened our doors and welcomed 14 delegates to spend the day with us to explore our love for reading.

Throughout the day, Mrs Reid, Miss Dedman and Miss Berkeley took delegates on a journey to explore all things Little Wandle. Delegates spent time in the Reception and Year 1 classes, observing how we teach phonics. We are incredibly proud

of how staff and children rose to the occasion showcasing how relationships and quality first teaching can result in a positive, purposeful environment in which children flourish.



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NEWS**



NEWS FROM RAVENSTONE

We're continuing to implement important recommendations from the Reflecting Realities project. Our focus has been on reviewing how representative our curriculum is and ensuring that content is taught with accuracy.

Subject leaders have been working on guidance to ensure that common stereotypes and misunderstandings are challenged, and that significant (not necessarily well-known) figures in the area of study are included. The guidance will also provide advice on identifying and including linked texts which reflect the diversity of the communities in which children live, and on providing memorable learning experiences which do likewise.

New Nursery now complete!

We're delighted to announce that our new Nursery building is now open! This state-of-the-art nursery facility, along with the adjoining Forest School area, will provide a fantastic learning environment for our youngest children. We are now finalising the outdoor learning playground to complement the main build. Both will be ready for September with an official opening coming soon!



NEWS FROM LITTLE WANDLE

The Little Wandle team is continuing to get bigger as we grow our offer and increase the number of schools we're working with. We're delighted that both Chesterton and Chestnut Grove are supporting us with inducting new members of the Programme development and Training teams into Little Wandle and the Trust as a whole.

NEWS FROM CHESTERTON

We have been focusing on all things community this half term. We have held some well attended parent workshops for children across the school. Our mastering number workshop for Reception families was particularly busy. We shared how we teach maths to help them understand teaching for mastery. Families have taken away some great resources to support their children at home. Thank you to our Maths Hub for this wonderful workshop.

Our choir has also been busy in the community spreading joy with their fantastic singing. They have visited some local residents and spent time talking to them after their performances.

We are excited to be welcoming all our new Reception families to the school as they start their formal schooling journey. We can't wait till September, but it has been lovely starting to meet them all in the meantime.

NEWS FROM CHESTNUT GROVE

We are delighted to share the success of our annual school production, Matilda the Musical. From Monday 10th to Wednesday 12th March, our talented students delivered three sold-out performances that were nothing short of phenomenal. One parent even remarked, "Better than the West End!" – and we couldn't agree more.

Our students dedicated countless hours to perfecting their singing, dancing, and acting, bringing the Royal Shakespeare Company's adaptation of Roald Dahl's beloved story to life with incredible energy and passion. In line with our inclusive ethos, parts were found for all students who wanted to be involved and committed, by facilitating two casts and behind-the-scenes roles. A special thank you to our behind-the-scenes student crew and dedicated staff, whose hard work ensured everything ran smoothly.

We recognise the immense time and effort required to make Matilda such a resounding success. The dedication and commitment of our students, staff, and the entire school community have truly paid off, and we are immensely PROUD of what we have achieved together. We look forward to our next production with great anticipation!



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NEWS FROM WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

MATHS HUB

As a Hub we aim to support learning mathematics by assisting schools and teachers in the form of national and local innovation Work Groups. This year, 59 Early Career Teachers (ECTs) are engaged in our Work Groups for Specialist Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics. Working with ECTs from across primary and secondary our professional development enhances their subject and pedagogical knowledge, and complements the Teaching School Hub provisions.

Read on for what our ECTs say they gain from the Work Group:

- 'How to question. How to build up from prior knowledge. Generalising. Subject knowledge and mathematical thinking.' (Primary ECT)
- 'Always great. I always come away feeling confident about teaching maths, armed with lots of resource too.' (Primary ECT)
- 'Safe and supportive environment, where we were able to exchange ideas and to think of ways to address misconceptions in multiplicative reasoning. A good place to catch up with fellow ECTs.' (Secondary ECT)

We have the following Work Groups available for Specialist Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics (SKTM).

Please take a [look at the website](#) for more information and [express your interest](#) if you'd like to apply to join one of them.

- SKTM (Early Years Teachers) Programme – Number or Spatial Reasoning
- SKTM (Primary Teachers) Programme – Number or Spatial Reasoning
- SKTM (Primary Teaching Assistants) Programme
- SKTM (Primary ECT) Programme
- SKTM (Secondary ECT) Programme
- SKTM (Secondary Non-Specialist Teachers) Programme
- SKTM (Secondary Teaching Assistants) Programme

WANDLE ENGLISH HUB

This half term, we welcomed author Matt Goodfellow for an exciting morning of poetry, Reading for Pleasure and the debut of his newest novel, 'The First Year.' Matt spoke to pupils at Chesterton, as well as the delegates on our Transforming Schools' Reading Culture course.

Our popular Building a Reading Culture webinar series continues, with [a few spots still available](#) for the final 'Engaging Environments' session in June. We'd love to see some familiar faces from the Trust.

We are also delighted to announce that our 'Turning Pages, Changing Futures' conference in collaboration

with the British Library has sold out. Fear not, though! You can still join the waitlist [here](#). As a reminder, the speakers announced so far include Professor Teresa Cremin, Joseph Coelho and Dr Nazneen Ahmed Pathak.

WANDLE TEACHING SCHOOL HUB

WTSH was one of two Teaching School Hubs invited to attend University College London's (UCL) internal conference for the Initial Teacher Training (ITT), Early Career Framework (ECF) and National Professional Qualifications (NPQ) teams. It was a privilege to be invited and work so closely with UCL, helping them to develop their future strategy.

We recently ran briefings for schools about the changes coming to the ECF Programme from September 2025 and what the introduction of the Early Career Teacher Entitlement (ECTE) using the ITTECF (Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework) means for them. Want to find out more? [Email](#) the Teaching School Hub for a recording of the briefing.

WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Coming soon! The Wandle AI Network, a free AI network for senior leaders and teachers will launch this summer and run every half term next year, offering practical insights and opportunities to connect with colleagues from different schools. The first session will focus on leadership, with each meeting featuring case studies from schools already exploring and embedding AI in their own contexts. Want to hear more?

[Sign up to join the network](#)

Join the Wandle AI Network

A collaborative space for schools to explore the safe, effective, and strategic use of AI in education.

Feedback from our sold-out Embracing AI conference in February sent a clear signal — schools would love a local, trusted network to navigate the evolving landscape of AI together. In response, we're excited to launch The Wandle AI Network — a partnership between Wandsworth and Merton Local Authorities and Achieving for Children, in collaboration with Wandle Learning Partnership.

Who is The Wandle AI Network for?

The network is open to staff in all settings — primary, secondary, and special — and across all roles and phases. Each session will be tailored to a specific staff group to ensure relevance and impact.

Our first session 'Shaping AI Policy: Leadership, Ethics and Safe Practice' is designed especially for Headteachers and

senior leaders. This is an opportunity for leaders to explore how AI can be used responsibly in education and a demo of Notebook LM and, for schools, this session will help you align your AI policy with safeguarding the core.

We'll also share plans for ensuring leaders can continue to lead future events to staff knowledge and role-specific, with a relevance and practicality.

Do I have to pay to be involved?
No. All sessions will be free to attend.

What format will sessions be?
Sessions will be held every half term, 3.45pm to 5pm, with a short presentation followed by phase-specific case studies and collaborative work.

Ready to get involved?

Step 1: Sign your school up to be a member of The Wandle AI Network. We'll send you information regarding future sessions, booking links and key content.



Step 2: Book your place for the first session: 'Shaping AI Policy: Leadership, Ethics and Safe Practice' on Thursday 26th June (3.45pm to 5pm). This session is designed for senior leaders and