

TRUST STAFF NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

DEAR COLLEAGUES

We hope that start of the new academic year has gone well for all of you all. Over the summer we were delighted to welcome four new schools into the Trust: Norbury High School for Girls, Kensington Avenue Primary School, Hellingly Community Primary School and Grovelands Community Primary School. We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new colleagues in these schools, and we hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and get a sense of the vibrant community you have recently joined.

At the heart of a Wandle education is our culture of 'no excuses', meaning that we will always do everything we can to ensure our children and young people reach their potential. This is evident in our outcomes at both primary and secondary where we are consistently outperforming the national averages.

At Primary, 91% of children passed the Phonics Screening Check, exceeding the national average by 11%. The average score in the Y4 Multiplication check was 23 against a national average of 20. Congratulations to Paxton who were top of the leader board with an average score of 24.5 (out of 25).

At the end of Key Stage 2 80% of our pupils achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths

combined, compared with a national average of 62%.

This is a remarkable achievement and means that our pupils are well prepared for the academic challenges of secondary school.

At Secondary level 80% of pupils at Chestnut Grove achieved a grade 4 or above in English and Maths against a national average of 66%, and 65% achieved a grade 5 or above in English and Maths compared with a national average of 47%.

At A Level nearly a third of grades were awarded at A*/A and 60% A*-B; more than the national and London averages and supporting students to a wide variety of destinations including Oxford and Cambridge.

It is these achievements and the difference they will make to children and young people's lives that drives us to continually improve the quality of education in our schools. We would like to thank everyone for their efforts because these sorts of results can only be achieved when we work together as a team.

We look forward to seeing you at the Trust Joint Professional Day in November.

Best wishes **Christian, Mark and Sian**



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

NEWS FROM FIRCROFT

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP to Fircroft earlier this term. With Fircroft elections imminent, it was the perfect time for the children to be inspired by learning more about Rosena's career in politics. We discussed the meaning of democracy and learnt more about what goes on behind the scenes in an election. With voting now completed, our School Council, Eco Council, Reading Ambassadors and Play Leaders have already held their first meetings and are excited about the year ahead.

Fircroft loves celebrating National Poetry Week and Black History Month. Our Poetry-Slam competition nicely combined the two, with every class studying a black poet and then creatively performing the poem to the whole school! Congratulations go to 6 Nutmeg class, who took the prize with their performance of 'Rap Connected', by Benjamin Zephaniah.





NEWS FROM NORBURY

KS4 students from Norbury High travelled to Belgium last month, visiting the historic battlefields of Ypres and attending the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. The residential trip offered a valuable opportunity to learn about history first-hand and reflect on the significance of these sites.

As well as welcoming prospective students and their families to our open evening, we recognised current students' achievements with the annual rewards trip to Thorpe Park. It was wonderful to see so many girls — over 230 from Year 8 and above — enjoying themselves in celebration of their hard work.

Also this half term, students and their families exhibited their usual generosity in contributing to our annual harvest celebration with donations for the Living Well food bank.

Staff are currently busy with preparations for this year's Black Experience Evening which coincides with Black History Month 2025, the theme of which is Standing Firm in Power and Pride.

NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AVENUE

In September, our school celebrated Jeans for Genes Day. We are thrilled to announce that we raised an impressive total of £180! This money will help the Jeans for Genes charity in its mission to raise awareness and provide support for those affected by genetic disorders.

This month we celebrated harvest day to support our local community through the generous donation of food items for St Oswald's Food Bank. Families were asked to contribute by bringing in tinned goods, packets, or bottled products. The amount of donations we received exceeded our expectations, filling our trolleys to the brim. It was great to see our school community come together in support of such a meaningful cause.

NEWS FROM PAXTON

In September, we were delighted to welcome our local MP, Sarah Jones, Minister of State for Policing and Crime and Member of Parliament for Croydon West. During her visit, Sarah toured the school and enjoyed seeing our children in class, hard at work and showing the very best of Paxton. She then joined Key Stage 2 pupils for a special Q&A assembly.

Our children asked a range of thoughtful questions, demonstrating not only their curiosity and knowledge of the wider world, but also their emotional intelligence and appreciation of Sarah's role in our community. Some of the questions included:

- Did you always want to be an MP?
- What is the most impactful difference you have made to Croydon?
- What is the most difficult part of your job?
- What do you love about Croydon?
- How do you look after yourself?

Sarah explained that her role is all about making a difference to Croydon and she encouraged the children to remember that they too have the power to make a difference in their own communities.



**TRUST
STAFF
NEWS**



NEWS FROM CHESTNUT GROVE ACADEMY

Steel pan performances have brought rhythm and joy to our spaces, while tutor time assemblies have explored the significance of Black History Month and honoured influential Black leaders.

Our Sixth Form enrichment programme welcomed five inspiring speakers who shared powerful insights on empowerment and identity. A special workshop will celebrate Black poets through creative expression. Pride Club and Feminist Society have explored their champions, and Crochet Club has stitched powerful messages with BHM-themed embroidery. These moments of reflection, creativity, and community remind us of the richness of Black history and the importance of unity.



NEWS FROM HELLINGLY

As a new school to Wandle Learning Trust, we have been warmly welcomed and are looking forward to the wonderful opportunities that we can foresee with other Trust schools on our continued journey to create the best learning for our children within our small village school. Our wonderful children have returned to school enthusiastically living up to our school motto of 'Reach for the Stars'.

Our new intake is settling well into Reception and learning about school life. They have been busy baking gingerbread and made their own scarecrow! Year 6 applied for roles including Head of House and being part of the Pupil Leadership Team. Following interviews, successful applicants are working across the school, setting excellent examples of our school values; Respect, Achieve and Persevere.

In Forest school, Year 5 worked on their tool skills, building a dead hedge to create a corridor for wildlife through the area.



NEWS FROM GROVELANDS

What a fantastic and busy start we've had to the new academic year at Grovelands! This term marks our first as part of the Wandle family of schools, and we've been truly touched by the warm welcome we've received. Despite the geographical distance, we've enjoyed hosting many visitors here on the sunny coast of East Sussex, and several of our staff have had the opportunity to attend training and meetings in London. We're now looking forward to the upcoming Trust Development Day in November, where our team will connect and collaborate with colleagues across the Trust.

Our children have been equally busy, through our exciting curriculum the school has been overwhelmed with knights, Saxons, stone age people, dragons, battle re-enactments, ancient Greeks and pumpkins!

On our wonderful farm, children have been learning the art of animal care and have welcomed two new pigs - Biscuit and Barry.



NEWS FROM THOMSON HOUSE

Earlier this term, it was formally announced that Thomson House achieved Outstanding ratings across all five categories in our recent Ofsted inspection. Inspectors particularly praised the strong relationships we've built with our families, who value our caring

ethos and are very happy their children attend our school. This incredible achievement demonstrates our commitment to providing a nurturing environment where every child can thrive academically and personally, guided by our core values of kindness, curiosity, and courage. Such success wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of

all our staff and the ongoing support from colleagues across the wider WLT family - so a big thank you to you all!

One of the highlights of this half-term has undoubtedly been our pupil leadership elections. After learning about the value of democracy in assemblies and PSHE lessons, our children now have the opportunity to contribute to school life as Green Team members, Librarians, Digital Leaders, and Student Council representatives.

NEWS FROM RAVENSTONE

At Ravenstone, we believe that giving pupils leadership opportunities helps them develop confidence, responsibility and a sense of belonging within the school community. These opportunities nurture important life skills such as communication, organisation and

problem-solving, while encouraging pupils to take pride in shaping the culture of our school. This term, elections have taken place to form our School Council, Eco Council (new for this year) and Rights Respecting School Ambassadors.

In addition to the outcomes information shared at the start of this newsletter, we're delighted to share further information that gives a flavour of the ambition and high expectations at Ravenstone. We achieved a Good level of Development in Early Years (88%), Y4 Multiplication check full marks (71% - which is more than double the national average of 34%) This is a testament to the children and staff and shows that hard work, determination and belief can prove successful.

These achievements come alongside the staff team's efforts working with families to ensure our attendance is above the national average and persistent absenteeism has reduced considerably.



NEWS FROM CHESTERTON

We have had a busy start to the year. Alex Green is now the Head of School and has taken over the day-to-day running of the school. Our new leadership team has settled in really well and are all working together to support our school community.

Our new parent Local Academy Committee (LAC) members have also made a positive start. They are focused on helping us to improve our community links and make sure that our school continues to improve. As part of this work our tailored parent workshops and open events have begun. We are really pleased with how many families have attended, particularly our phonics and early reading workshops and our SEND-focused coffee morning.

Our class assemblies have already begun, starting with a fantastic assembly from our Year 6 children.





NEWS FROM LITTLE WANDLE

We've had a great start to the new term, including supporting our five new training team members to settle in. As well as supporting with general membership queries the team are working face-to-face with individual schools and attending our Little Wandle Live events around the country. Ongoing CPD is a really important part of the Little Wandle offer. If your school uses the programme we recommend that you make use of the live webinars we run throughout the year – all bookable through the online calendar on the Little Wandle website.

This term we're also pleased to be offering a live webinar on Wednesday 26th November with Professor Kathy Rastle, a leading voice in the neuroscience of reading. Kathy was a highlight of our Champion School conference in the summer term, praised for her ability to break down complex ideas in a highly accessible way. All Trust primary schools are very welcome to [attend this free webinar](#).

NEWS FROM WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

TEACHING SCHOOL HUB

The UCL ECTE programme, delivered by Wandle Teaching School Hub, has launched brilliantly for Cohort 5, with both ECTs and mentors showing great enthusiasm and engagement from the outset. The sessions have been energising and purposeful, setting a strong foundation for the year ahead. It's been a genuine pleasure working alongside our Trust team at these events, your support, collaboration, and commitment to excellence have made a real difference.



There are still [UCL NPQ scholarships](#) available, and you can [still apply](#), even though the official deadline has passed. If you're interested in developing your leadership skills or deepening your expertise, now is a great time to take advantage of this opportunity.

CPD

We were pleased to welcome 12 colleagues from across six Trust schools to the launch of Leading with Wandle, our new leadership development programme. The session began with time to connect and share experiences, followed by an exploration of the Trust's vision, values and priorities led by our Co-CEO, Mark Siswick. Colleagues then considered how their own school priorities align with the wider Trust direction and explored strategies for effective implementation, using evidence from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).

The afternoon focused on time management and the balance between operational and strategic



leadership, with participants leaving with a practical task to support ongoing reflection. A strong start to what promises to be a valuable and collaborative leadership journey. We'll be recruiting our second cohort in the summer term, so please keep an eye out for information if this looks like it might be of interest to you.



reading provision through free CPD and funding for resources. Please share our [Expression of Interest form](#) with colleagues in other schools who may be interested.

MATHS HUB

We have plenty of CPD opportunities for all phases. Please look at the list below.

Early Years and Primary:

- Expertise in Teaching Maths Modules (online) for ECTs in their 1st year.
- Specialist Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics (SKTM) for ECTs - must be in 2nd or 3rd year of teaching
- Years 5-8 Continuity - for class teachers
- Specialist Knowledge for Teaching mathematics programmes (each four days):

- for Teaching Assistants
- for Primary teachers - Number and Spatial Reasoning pathways
- for Early Years teachers - Spatial Reasoning.

Secondary and post-16:

Career stage specific Work Groups:

- Expertise in Teaching Maths Modules (online) for ECTs in their 1st year.
- Specialist Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics (SKTM) for ECTs - must be in 2nd / 3rd year of teaching.
- SKTM for Teaching Assistants - starts 17th October.
- Secondary Subject Leadership (SSL) WG for HoDs.

Key Stage Specific WGs

- Years 5-8 Continuity.
- Cross Phase (KS4/5) Supporting Students Achieve L2 - must be teaching GCSE Foundation/GCSE Resit.
- A-level Pedagogy - for an experienced A-level teacher.
- SKTM Core Maths - for new to Core Maths teachers.
- Core Maths Pedagogy - for experienced Core Maths teachers.

Please visit the [Maths Hub website](#) for more details and booking information.

ENGLISH HUB

Wandle English Hub has started the school year strong with our Literacy Specialist CPD in Richmond, including a visit to The Alligator's Mouth bookshop where the team explored new children's literature to support their Partner Schools. Following the release of the DfE Writing Framework in July, we've launched the first of [six free webinars](#) to help schools audit and implement their writing curriculum. We're also now on [LinkedIn](#). Follow us here for updates and resources. Excitingly, we've begun supporting Secondary Schools with their

YOUR UPCOMING CPD WITH WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Click on the links to find out more and book

- [UCL NPQ scholarships](#)
- [Opportunities with the Maths Hub for all phases](#)
- 11th November: [Parental engagement with reading webinar](#)
- 13th November: [Writing Framework series: Leadership and management of writing](#)
- 18th November: [How to be an effective Reading Leader](#)
- 26th November: [Writing Framework series: The importance of Reception](#)
- 26th November: [Becoming a Reader with Professor Kathy Rastle](#)
- 9th December: [The Power of a rich reading classroom: Reflecting Realities Nurturing Reader Identity](#)