

TRUST STAFF NEWS

SUMMER 2026

DEAR COLLEAGUES



And in the blink of an eye, another school year is nearly behind us. It is hard to believe that we are about to embark on our summer holidays – but no doubt we are all ready for a break. It has been another fantastic year for Wandle schools, and we are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved.

At this point in the year, we would normally be celebrating our KS1 and KS2 SATs results with you. However, as I'm sure you're aware the publication of the results has been delayed until Thursday 16th July so we will have to wait until next term to share the results with you along with the GCSE and A Level results.

We hope that you enjoy the last week of term and know that you have lots of fun activities planned which will enrich the children's lives. We know that while you make it look effortless, it is in fact the opposite of that, so thank you for the final burst of energy before the summer break.

For those of you who are leaving us at the end of this term we wish you well in your new ventures and thank you for your contribution to Wandle Learning Trust. For everyone else, have a wonderful break and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Have a great Summer! **Christian, Mark and Sian**



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

NEWS FROM Ravenstone Primary, Balham

End-of-term celebrations!

We held our annual summer fair – RavenSTOCK – which has gone from strength to strength. With fantastic entertainment, delicious food, games and a variety of stalls, there was something for everyone to enjoy. It was wonderful to see so many children, families and members of our school community coming together to celebrate. The event also raised valuable funds that will be used to enrich our children's learning experiences and provide additional resources for our school.

Our children have truly risen to the occasion to perform in our end-of-year production of Charlie & the Chocolate Factory. While all our classes from Year 1 upwards have been involved in bringing the show to life, it is our Year 6 children who have taken the spotlight with the drama, dancing and singing. Their confidence, commitment, and enthusiasm have shone, and they have been wonderful role models for the younger children. We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for making this production such a memorable and magical experience for everyone involved.





NEWS FROM

Paxton Academy, Thornton Heath

Lights, Camera . . . Paxton

This term, something very special happened. In a hall packed with children, families, staff and representatives from Bookmark Reading Charity as we came together for the first showing of our new Reading at Paxton film.

The film celebrates what makes reading so special at Paxton. From our youngest readers exploring their feelings through the Colour Monster, to our oldest children using books as a launchpad for imagination and possibility, the film celebrates our belief that reading is far more than a skill, it is joy, belonging, aspiration and opportunity.

For us, this was more than the launch of a film. It was another milestone in Paxton's journey and a moment that we will remember forever. A huge thank you to Jack from Heydays for bringing our vision to life.



NEWS FROM

Chestnut Grove, Balham

Students lead Model Citizen Conference

Chestnut Grove Academy was proud to host its own Model United Nations Citizen Conference, a dynamic and student-led event that brought together participants from across Key Stages 3 and 4. The conference featured three parallel debates (beginner, intermediate and advanced) each carefully designed and expertly facilitated by our Year 12 students.

This was a powerful showcase of student leadership in action. Our Sixth Formers demonstrated exceptional organisation, intellectual rigour and diplomacy, guiding younger students through complex global issues with confidence and clarity. For participants, the conference provided a rich opportunity to develop critical thinking, public speaking and collaborative problem-solving skills, while deepening their understanding of global citizenship.

The atmosphere throughout the day was one of energy, purpose and mutual respect, reflecting the very best of our school community. We are immensely proud of our Year 12 leaders for delivering such a high-quality and inspiring event.



NEWS FROM

Kensington Avenue Primary, Thornton Heath

The sky's the limit at Careers Week

Classrooms at Kensington Avenue were buzzing with inspiration as children across the school took part in Careers Week. We were thrilled to welcome a fantastic line-up of guest speakers from a wide range of industries. The children had the opportunity to learn first-hand from professionals in law, advertising, marketing and medicine, asking brilliant questions and discovering what it takes to succeed in these fields.

Our children then got a hands-on taste of the entertainment industry by experiencing a real-life music video filming. A massive thank you to Palace for Life and Doc Brown for providing such an unforgettable, creative experience. Who knows, we might have some future directors, musicians and lawyers in our midst!

NEWS FROM Chesterton Primary, Battersea

Showcasing our musical talent

This term, we have been treated to an incredible range of musical experiences at Chesterton, showcasing the talent, dedication and enthusiasm of our pupils.

Our choir has been particularly busy, delighting audiences with their performances at our annual International Day celebrations. Their confident and joyful singing helped to make the event a memorable occasion, celebrating the diverse cultures and communities that make our school so special. The choir also joined forces with our talented guitar group, whose hard work and commitment throughout the year were evident in every performance.

Our ever-popular Rocksteady bands also took centre stage with an exciting end-of-year performance for families. The pupils demonstrated incredible musical skill, confidence and stage presence, performing a range of songs that had the audience thoroughly entertained. It was inspiring to see how much progress they have made and how confidently they performed together as a band.

We are immensely proud of all our young musicians and we look forward to many more musical successes in the year ahead.



NEWS FROM Grovelands Community Primary, Hailsham

A fantastic prehistoric adventure

Year 2 travelled back in time during an exciting Dinosaur Day packed with hands-on learning and prehistoric discoveries. The children became budding palaeontologists, investigating different types of fossils and learning about life millions of years ago.

Many pupils enjoyed dressing up as archaeologists and dinosaurs, helping to bring the day to life. They also created their own clay fossils and produced colourful fossil collages. A highlight of the day was meeting a baby animatronic T-Rex and a stegosaurus, which sparked plenty of excitement and curiosity. It was a fantastic day of learning, creativity and fun for everyone involved.



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NEWS FROM Fircroft Primary, Tooting

Summer of sport, trips and community

Athleticism, competitiveness and team spirit were very much on display at our annual Sports Day, which took place at Tooting Bec Athletics Ground. This has become such a lovely community event which includes a picnic lunch and an ice lolly treat. We love the enthusiastic attendance (and participation!) from parents, carers and staff.

Earlier this term, our Year 5 girls football team competed in a Wandsworth District Tournament and were triumphant. The team worked incredibly hard and showed a real sense of togetherness. This is the second time this year that the girls have come away as champions of a football tournament - brilliant!

Year 6 enjoyed the very best of weather for their PGL trip to the Dorset coast. This wonderful group of children behaved impeccably, with a growing maturity and absolutely loved the experience.

Every year, Fircroft participates in 'Take One Picture'. This is an art project, in partnership with The National Gallery, where every class is introduced to a famous painting and then creatively responds to it. This year, children were introduced to 'A Muse' by artist Cosimo Tura and then showcased their work in a gallery event for families



NEWS FROM Norbury High School For Girls, Norbury

Coming together at our annual Culture Day

Norbury High held its annual Culture Day festival which is designed to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the school's students and staff. The event provides an opportunity for the school community to come together and learn about the various cultures that make our school unique.

As usual, students and staff were encouraged to attend school wearing clothes that represented a culture of their choice. A Catwalk of Cultural Dress, organised by a student committee, showcased the cultural outfits worn by students at lunchtime; all proceeds from the sale of tickets were donated to the school's house charities.

Earlier this month, our school grounds were transformed into a vibrant beach-holiday-themed celebration of community spirit at the annual Summerfest event, coordinated by house captains, form captains, year 10 prefects and the Student Executive Team.

The annual event provides a further opportunity to raise funds for our house charities, with all proceeds going to meaningful causes.



NEWS FROM Hellingly Community Primary, Hailsham

In the pink for a great cause

For the fifth year running Hellingly CP School was decorated in pink for our annual Race for Life. This event is close to the heart of Hellingly and is always well supported by all our children, families and staff alike. This year's donations took our overall total to £12,600.

Year 3 have been developing their map skills - locating the rivers in the United Kingdom and learning about the different parts of a river and the journey a river takes.

We are lucky to live near to the River Cuckmere and Year 3 enjoyed a field trip to the area to complement their learning. They looked at the human and physical features, completed sketches of the area and made notes ready to complete poetry work using the river as inspiration.



NEWS FROM Thomson House, Mortlake

Pedal-powered fundraising

A heroic team of parents and staff braved wildly changing weather to complete a two day Ride to Bruges, raising a wonderful sum for the school. Cheered on by families, the cyclists' emotional finish reflected months of training, teamwork and community spirit. The funds will be used to improve our playground and intervention room, giving pupils even better spaces to learn, play and thrive. A huge thank you to everyone who rode, supported or sponsored the challenge!

Healthy Schools Week showcased active, practical learning across the school. Pupils experienced an inflatable rugby cage, whole school aerobics, water safety sessions and hands-on cooking lessons designing healthy recipes. Younger pupils

practised skills and made vegetable tarts, while older pupils combined dance rehearsals with water safety work and produced thoughtful projects on heart health. The week celebrated wellbeing, activity and healthy choices and supports our Healthy Schools Gold accreditation.



NEWS FROM Little Wandle

As Little Wandle turns five (no, we can't believe it either!) it's been a term defined by our founding values of community, ambition and expertise.

Sturry C of E Primary was named the first Champion School in Kent – bringing the number of member schools that showcase their Little Wandle best practice to 31! Our half-day Little Wandle Live events have been described as 'a priceless piece of CPD' and we couldn't agree more.

Meanwhile Champion Schools met en masse in late June for our annual conference which is always a great opportunity for continuous improvement of the member offer. This year's conference theme was Growing the will: Teaching the skill which underlines Little Wandle's commitment to both learning to, and experiencing the joy of, reading. We were really pleased to have Prof Teresa Cremin CBE join us to give a keynote address in person, as well as contributing to our recorded INSET keynote for all members, which will be available on our website soon.

Teresa Cremin has also been supporting us with adapting the successful Little Wandle Code 'You as a reader' survey for our primary members, to identify pupils for targeted support to develop their reading for pleasure habits. This will be rolled out as an additional tool on the Assessment tracker in the Autumn term.

NEWS FROM

Wandle Learning Partnership

MATHS HUB

Why not sign up to one of our Specialist Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics programmes for September?

Each of these FREE four-day programmes is aimed at a specific role or phase, exploring and developing pedagogical subject knowledge for teaching maths. Led by a Local Leader of Maths Education, you'll find these programmes stimulating, informative and packed full of practical ways forward for use with pupils. The SKTMs on offer are:

- SKTM (Reception Teachers) – brand new for this year!
- SKTM (Primary Teachers)– special reasoning
- SKTM (Primary Teachers) – number (TBC)
- SKTM (Primary Teaching Assistants)
- SKTM (Primary Early Career Teachers)
- SKTM (Secondary Early Career Teachers)
- SKTM (Secondary Non-specialist Teachers)

For more details of these programmes, plus the full 2026-27 Maths Hub Professional development offer, please see our [catalogue!](#)





ENGLISH HUB

We're now recruiting for next year's [highly popular CPD programmes](#). Whether you're looking to strengthen your school's reading culture, develop children's early language skills or improve fluency and comprehension, we have a programme to support you. Choose from:

- **Transforming School's Reading Culture**
- **Supporting Early Language Development**
- **Fluency – Bridge to Comprehension**
- **Reading Ambition for All**

We would love to see even more Trust schools joining us next year.

Places are limited to just 20 schools per programme, and demand is expected to be high. Secure your place now and invest in sustained, evidence-informed professional development that will have a lasting impact across your school.

WANDLE TEACHING SCHOOL HUB

The Teaching School Hub held a well-attended and successful ECTE Cohort 5 and 6 Facilitator Conference on 30th June.

The programme included challenging sessions led by Ruby Kaur and Chloe Morgan which enabled our facilitators to explore the skills, challenges and opportunities of adult learning. If you would like to become a facilitator on the ECTE or NPQ programmes, please [apply on our website](#). We particularly welcome Wandle Learning Trust applications.

We are delighted to announce that the NPQ applications are live and that Headship, SLT, EYL and SENCO are all fully funded. This is a great opportunity to gain the National award. Please apply here [Register for a national professional qualification](#)

WANDLE CPD

It has been a busy and exciting time at the Wandle Learning Partnership with several opportunities to collaborate, learn and shape the next steps in our work across the Trust.

We were delighted to welcome colleagues from across our primary schools to our recent Joint Professional Development Day. The day focused on writing and provided staff with the opportunity to explore and trial the new writing assessment tool that has been developed across the Trust. It was fantastic to see such thoughtful professional dialogue taking place, alongside opportunities to hear from our inspiring keynote author, whose insights reinforced the importance and impact of high-quality reading and writing experiences for all pupils.

We have also successfully hosted our first Deputy and Assistant Headteacher 'Leading Forward' Conference in central London. The event was extremely well attended by colleagues from Wandle schools, as well as leaders from Wandsworth and further afield. The conference provided valuable opportunities to hear about the Curriculum and Assessment Review, consider the implications for our schools and begin planning our next steps. Equally important were the opportunities for leaders to network, share ideas and learn from one another. Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive.

Finally, we are pleased to launch our [new CPD brochure](#), outlining professional learning opportunities available from September onwards.

CPD OPPORTUNITIES AT A GLANCE



MATHS HUB – Take a look at our [professional development catalogue](#)

ENGLISH HUB – Take a look at our [CPD programme](#) for 2026-27

TEACHING SCHOOL HUB – Apply to become an [ECTE or NPQ Facilitator](#)

Register for a [national professional qualification](#)

WANDLE CPD – Browse our [full brochure](#) of professional learning opportunities.

