

TRUST STAFF NEWS



FEBRUARY 2025

DEAR COLLEAGUES

We hope that the Spring term has started well for you all. As this newsletter shows, the Trust has been a hive of activity, and we are incredibly proud of your achievements.

You will remember at the Trust Joint Professional Day in November we spoke about the importance of EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) within our Trust. We described how important it is to us that everyone within the organisation feels valued, fulfilled by their work, and importantly, has a sense of belonging within their school and the wider Trust community.

On that Professional Day we committed to working with you over the coming year to develop an EDI strategy that would thread through our Trust Development Plan. We have been working with an organisation called ImpactEd to

develop the strategy. We will be sending out further communications on this with an invitation to get involved and share your views – please do consider joining in. We need to hear your views so we can start to make a difference in the areas that you feel we could do more in.

This is even more pertinent as we continue to grow as a Trust and start to make a difference to more children and their families.

On that note we are delighted to conclude this message by letting you know that Fircroft Primary School in Tooting will be joining the Trust on April 1st. We look forward to continuing the collaboration with Fircroft which started several years ago. Have a good half-term! **Christian, Mark and Sian**



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



NEWS FROM CHESTNUT GROVE ACADEMY

We are thrilled to report that our programme of adult learning classes (facilitated by Chestnut Grove) for the rest of the Trust is off to a roaring start. Teachers and support staff from Thomson House School, Wandle English Hub, Chesterton, Ravenstone, Chestnut Grove and more have just finished their five-week introductory course in pottery. Our new students explored a range of hand-building techniques, slip glazing, and even tried their luck on the wheels under the

guidance of an experienced ceramicist!

Make sure to keep an eye out for new courses next half-term, where we hope to offer another five-week introductory pottery course. We also hope to run a five-week drawing fundamentals course concurrently, led by our in-house artist and technician at Chestnut Grove, Patrick. Both these courses cover fundamentals in material properties and techniques, and all work that you create can be taken home.



**WANDLE
LEARNING
TRUST**



Chestnut Grove Academy



**Ravenstone
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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



**WANDLE
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP**

Chesterton
PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THOMSON HOUSE SCHOOL

This half term, our whole school focus has been mathematics, starting with our open lessons to support continuous professional development for staff. These lessons modelled exemplary practices in the teaching of mathematics, providing a valuable opportunity for our teachers to share effective practices and integrate new pedagogical developments into their own classrooms.

Most recently, 10 Year 6 mathematicians participated in the prestigious international competition known as the 'Intermediate Mathematical Challenge.' This rigorous assessment consists of 25 challenging

questions, aimed at GCSE-level mathematics and beyond. Their dedication is commendable, and we look forward to the results. If you fancy testing your mathematical knowledge, have a look below!

Our Upper School Choir participated in the annual Young Voices Concert at the O2, an exhilarating experience alongside approximately 8,000 fellow pupils, including from Chesterton. This event provided a unique opportunity for our pupils to engage in a vibrant musical atmosphere, showcasing their talents through a diverse repertoire of songs. In addition to the performances, the

20. The triangle PQR is isosceles with $PQ = PR$. The point S lies on the extension of the line QR as shown.

$\angle RPQ = x^\circ$ and $\angle SRP = y^\circ$, where x, y and $\frac{y}{x}$ are integers.

What is the largest possible value of $\frac{y}{x}$?

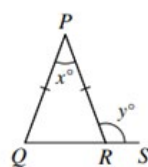
A 36

B 23

C 17

D 8

E 5



event featured a nostalgic celebration of house and garage music, allowing parents and children to enjoy a shared experience.

Our choir had the privilege of performing alongside distinguished guest artists, including MC Grammar, Tommy Blaize, the lead singer from Strictly, and Souparnika Nair, a remarkable 15-year-old vocalist known for her appearances on Britain's Got Talent. Souparnika's ability to connect with the children was particularly impactful, as she herself had attended Young Voices concerts as a child. We eagerly anticipate next year's event, which promises to be another memorable experience for our pupils.

NEWS FROM RAVENSTONE

Ravenstone were crowned winners of the Wandsworth Athletics Competition this half term.

Children have been refining their skills during lunchtime club over the year and have now gone even further in the regional finals. Their most recent win means Ravenstone will be competing in the London Primary Schools Athletics final in March. We are very proud of them and the work they have put in!

We have launched a new House system this half term with names decided by the School Council based on contributions from the rest of the school. Our theme is Royal Parks, with Hyde House,



Brompton House and Greenwich House amongst our new House names.

The children have held their first House morning, undertaking fun team building activities and voting for their House captains. Teachers spent this time together working on planning within the curriculum and further developing their understanding of pedagogy.

NEWS FROM CHESTERTON

It has been another busy half term at Chesterton with lots to celebrate. We have recently held our fourth House morning of the year; these events go from strength to strength. The overarching focus is celebrating identity and what makes us unique. This time we looked more closely at our families and our family trees. We thought about who has influenced our lives and what makes us who we are. We then created our unique jigsaws, sharing all the pieces that make us special and things that are important to us.

We have also been on some amazing education visits this half term. The most exciting was for our Year 5 children who sang at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices choir, along with Thomson House. This was a once in a lifetime experience for them which they have not stopped talking about.

TRUST
STAFF
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NEWS FROM PAXTON

After the amazing three-year Reflecting Realities project with the CLPE, we are always looking for key texts which will celebrate our diversity and provide the children with an aspirational platform to excel. This term our whole school book is 'Stop! That's not my story' by Smriti Halls. A girl opens up a book looking for the story that's perfect for HER and tumbles inside. This week the children have been busy writing their own story – and this time, they will be the hero.

In January our school census showed that we have the highest number of children on roll in the history of Paxton! With the new Nursery and two forms of entry in Reception and Year 1, we now have an amazing 275 children at Paxton.

Finally, our recent parents and carers' survey has given us all reasons to be cheerful. We're pleased to share our results with you.



	Strongly Agree	Agree
My child is happy at Paxton	54%	42%
My child feels safe at Paxton	52%	45%
Children thrive	43%	57%
Paxton deals with incidents quickly	33%	59%
I know what my child is learning	48%	41%
Concerns are dealt with properly	40%	54%
Staff have high expectations	43%	53%
My child does well	48%	50%

NEWS FROM WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

MATHS HUB

Teachers and leaders of maths across South West London have continued to participate in and enjoy professional development.

We have benefitted from new partnerships with organisations such as AXIOM Maths and Oak National Academy, and the feedback we get from participants is 100% positive.

Leadership and development programmes are well underway with 13 Primary Specialists, two Secondary Specialists, six Professional Development Leads, and six School Development Leads in training this year. Ellen, currently training to be a Primary Mastery Specialist teacher, says:

"This was an incredible experience. It felt like a real luxury to set aside two whole days to think, talk and, most importantly, do maths."

The application window is now open for the following programmes

running in the 2025-26 academic year. We would love to have Trust colleagues join us!

Mastery Specialist teachers

- Primary
- Secondary
- Post 16 GCSE/FSQ

NCETM

Professional Development Lead Programme

for those who lead professional development for teachers of maths

NCETM

School Development Lead programme

to support mathematics leads whose role is to lead change in a school or group of schools other than their own.

All programmes are fully funded (including cover costs)! Find more details on our website [here](#).

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 14th March 2025.



NEWS FROM WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

TEACHING SCHOOL HUB NPQS

We are delighted to announce that the DfE are going to continue to offer scholarship funding to [eligible schools](#) for the April 2025 NPQ programmes. You can pre-register your interest in completing an NPQ [here](#).

CAREERS IN TEACHING

Do you know any Teaching Assistants, parents, guardians, or carers considering a career in teaching?

Wandle TSH are working with two ITT providers to offer places for Primary and Secondary PGCEs. Our two providers are Roehampton University for primary PGCE training and UCL for a wide range of secondary PGCEs. Wandle TSH's fantastic network of schools will provide placements in the region of Wandsworth, Merton, Kingston and Richmond. Find further information about the programme and how to apply [here](#).

ENGLISH HUB

This term, we welcomed our Literacy Specialists to Chesterton for an afternoon of CPD. Alongside

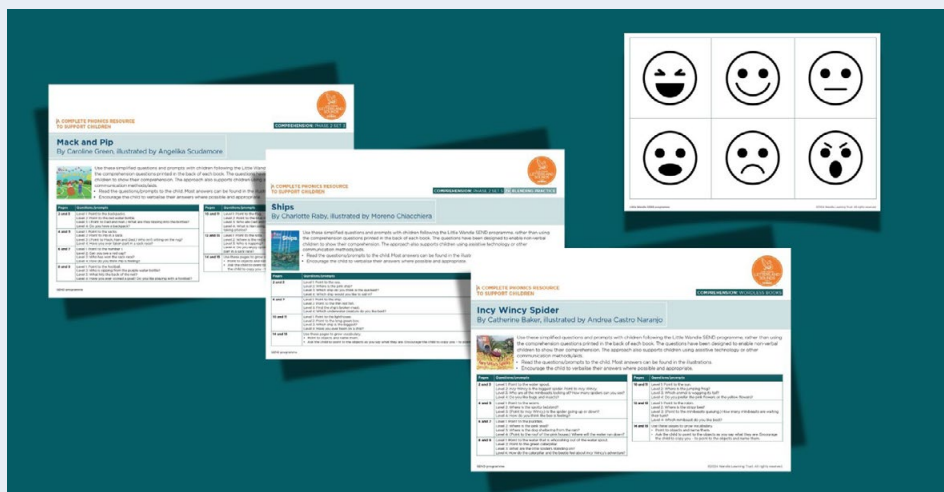
facilitator and coach Mike Fleetham, they reflected on partner school engagement and further incorporating Reading for Pleasure into continued support. Our core medium level support programmes are in full swing, with more engagement than ever across our three courses.

There are still spots available on our upcoming webinars, including on our new Building a Reading Culture four-part series. Each session will focus on a different component of developing a strong culture of reading in your school. [Book your free place](#)

Thank you to all Trust staff who continue to attend, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

LITTLE WANDLE

As part of Little Wandle's commitment to reaching every child we've launched these comprehensive teaching notes for the SEND programme. These will ensure that the Big Cat for Little Wandle books are accessible to as many children as possible, and the inclusion of an emoticon sheet will support non-verbal children in particular.



AI CONFIDENT LEADERS

Following the Joint Trust Professional Day and building on the Wandle Learning Partnership Embracing AI conference we are giving Trust Heads and senior leaders the tools and knowledge to empower change in their school, as well as providing a supportive coaching environment to assist with delivering change.

Our AI Confident programme will be delivered over the next five months by AI expert and founder of AI Confident, Tim Cooke.

This high quality CPD is part of ensuring that the Trust is meeting its strategic priorities around AI and that we are at the forefront of the developments of AI in education.

