

TRUST STAFF NEWS



AUTUMN 2024

DEAR COLLEAGUES

As we approach the October half-term we are able to reflect on the significant impact we have on our children's lives every day. For all of us this is our motivation for coming into school every day – making a difference and 'educating for life'. Our children are with us for a very short period in the grand scheme of things. It is such an important and influential period of time that we endeavour to ensure we make the most of every second, ensuring our children leave us more prepared for the world beyond our school gates than when they joined us. This newsletter provides a brief glimpse into the transformative impact we are all making on a daily basis. Thank you for everything that you do, and we look forward to welcoming you all at the Joint Professional Day on Monday 4th November. In the meantime, have a wonderful break over half-term.

Christian, Mark and Sian



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



NEWS FROM CHESTERTON

As always, the start to a new school year has been a busy one. The term so far has been filled with settling the children into their new classes and welcoming new children and staff to the school. It has been wonderful to see how quickly our youngest children, in Nursery and Reception, have settled into school life. We are very proud already of all that they have achieved. We held our first peer review of the year; all our Trust primary schools spent the day focusing on everything Early Years. It was a privilege to share the practice at Chesterton as well as to hear their feedback of how we can make things even better. It was a great example of the huge advantages of working together in a Trust.

In September we welcomed Debbie Morgan (Director for Primary Mathematics at the NCETM) and Jordana Hunter (Director of the Education Program at the Grattan Institute). We spent the morning discussing maths teaching at Chesterton and the impact that the Maths Hub has on our school, as well as all the schools in the Hub's focus areas. Jordana will be writing a case study which will be presented to the Australian government to support them with improving maths education across the country. It was a highly informative morning, and they have definitely taken away lots of ideas for improvement.



**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 CHESTNUT GROVE



We were delighted to receive the Artsmark Gold Award earlier this year. Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It transforms teaching through creativity, empowering teachers with the skills they need to embed arts, culture and creativity across the whole curriculum, and is proven to support pupil outcomes and wellbeing.

While the ink was still drying on the Artsmark certificate, another certificate was sent our way, this time for the Sutton Trust Fair School Admissions Award, Gold Level.

Gold is awarded to schools who have made several determined and significant changes to their admissions policies to ensure that there is fair access to all pupils regardless of socio-economic background, thus demonstrating commitment to social mobility. We were thrilled that our inclusive admissions process was recognised through this award. Thank you to our Admissions Officer, Ian Kemp, who works alongside Caitlin Sweeny, Head of Transition and Richard Cheesbrough, Deputy Headteacher to manage this process.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

FEEDBACK FROM OUR ASSESSOR:

'Chestnut Grove Academy has built on its strong arts traditions during its first Artsmark journey. Your arts scholarship programme admits 30 students each year as Art Specialists. They receive an additional hour of after-school art lessons each week, providing students with workshop style learning, engaging with artists. This is a wonderful model.... You have developed the school's leadership structure in the arts and have supported new department leads through CPD. You have extended your collaborations with local arts organisations, theatres, and cultural institutions and it would be great to see examples of how this has enriched your curriculum and the quality of teaching and learning. You have extended your range of performance and showcasing opportunities and have been careful to ensure that your offer is inclusive. As a result, you have narrowed the gap between SEN and FSM cohorts and others.'

Thank you to James Wildman, Assistant Headteacher who led on our submission and to all the Arts Team at CGA!



NEWS FROM RAVENSTONE

Early Years have enjoyed the launch of our Forest School offer this half-term. We are delighted to have Edress, the Forest School Lead from Chesterton working with our staff and children each week. This is a great example of our cross-Trust collaboration and sharing of best practice. The children have been using tools to make nature name badges, exploring our wild place area for bugs and jumping in puddles. We cannot wait to start making a campfire! Our new Nursery building project is also well underway.

We are now working in partnership with Wandsworth Local Authority and Barnardos to implement a new PSHE programme called PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) which focuses on developing children's social and emotional resilience and skills. We are confident that this will support our children as they grow and develop to become well-rounded children in and out of school.

We have also launched Mastering Number in Key Stage 2 with a focus on fluency in multiplication. This compliments our Mastering Number programme in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and our work with the Maths Hub to develop our Maths curriculum.

TRUST STAFF NEWS





NEWS FROM THOMSON HOUSE

We recently held our first Local Academy Committee parent drop-in of the year, where we shared our updated strategic direction for sport and PE. The turnout from parents was overwhelming, showcasing the strong interest and passion for sport within our community. It was inspiring to see so many parents engaged and eager to learn about our initiatives aimed at enhancing the physical education and wellbeing experience for our pupils. Our external sports partner was in attendance and took the opportunity to share our tremendous work to date, providing an overview of upcoming fixtures and the exciting sporting developments that are in the pipeline. His insights into the training sessions, team dynamics and the importance of sportsmanship resonated well with everyone present.

With training complete, bicycles serviced and carbohydrates consumed, our incredible team of cyclists, made up of parents past and present, set off on their

mammoth 250km fundraising cycle from Mortlake to Amsterdam, organised by our committed Friends of Thomson House (FOTH) parent teacher association.

But the true significance of this endeavour lies not only in the physical feat, but also in the profound impact it will have on our school community.

The funds raised through this cycling challenge will be instrumental in enhancing the educational

experience for all our pupils. From upgrading our technology and learning resources to expanding our extracurricular offerings, these vital funds will enable us to provide an even more enriching and well-rounded education.

We are immensely proud of the dedication and enthusiasm our school community showed in preparing for this remarkable undertaking, serving as inspiring role models for our pupils.



NEWS FROM PAXTON



Over the last four years, staff, children, families and the Local Academy Committee (LAC) have worked together to change the narrative for Paxton. At the end of the Summer term, we waved farewell to our Year 6 children as they finished their primary school education and set off on the next phase of their learning journey in secondary school.

In September, we welcomed over 80 new families to Paxton. For the second year in a row, we welcomed two forms of entry into Reception. This is an amazing achievement for Paxton and comes as the result of

working in partnership with families and the local community.

With approval from the Department for Education, the support of the LAC and a marketing campaign designed by Communitas, Paxton has celebrated another huge milestone and, for the first time ever, we have opened a Nursery.

The children have also been greeted by a new play area. Over the Summer, the carpark was transformed to make way for a brand-new play space which features equipment to help develop gross motor skills, build friendships and of course learning through play.

This term the children in Key Stage 2 climbed aboard three coaches and ventured out of London to explore

the wonderful world of STEAM at Thorpe Park. Throughout the day the children attended workshops delivered by Science Technology and Engineering organisations, alongside Arts and Maths-based groups.



NEWS FROM WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Little Wandle

We've been delighted with the success of our first ever BIG Little Wandle INSET – a full CPD package of 27 recorded webinars and accompanying task sheets plus live Q+A sessions with the Little Wandle training team. Over half of our 5,000+ member schools have made use of the INSET content and the feedback in terms of quality and relevance of the training has been great to see.

Meanwhile the second phase of the Key Stage 3 project has begun; a two-year pilot involving 66 schools, including Chestnut Grove. An incredible 10,000 students have now taken part in assessments and we're working with Professors Teresa Cremin and Kate Cain to analyse this large data set. We're also partnering with HarperCollins to create a set of age-appropriate decodable texts.

As our membership grows, so too does the Little Wandle team. We've welcomed new trainers and a new CPD and School Improvement Lead since the start of term and said a warm hello to Laura, our new Head of Operations following the retirement of Leah Milton.

Wandle Teaching School Hub

Now that the National Teaching School Hubs Council Forums have ended, the London Teaching School Hubs are working together on priorities.

Our Hub Director, Denys Wallace and Teaching School Lead, Katie Colley are taking on the chairs of the London Teaching School Hub working parties for the Appropriate Body and ECF respectively. Trust Co-CEO, Mark Siswick will represent the Teaching School Hubs Council.

We are also excited to be working as partners with UCL in developing an apprenticeship Maths Degree and PGCE route for 2025. This will be open to anyone aged 18+ with a Maths A Level. More updates to

follow. Follow us on [Twitter \(X\)](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)

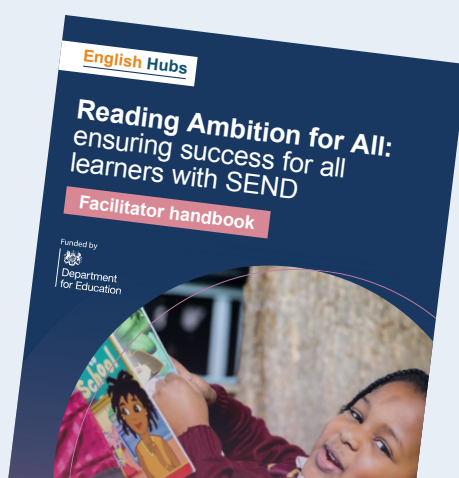
Maths Hub

This year we are celebrating 10 Years of the national Maths Hub programme! It has been an amazing journey of teacher professional development to support evidence-based practice in the teaching of maths. Please celebrate with us by watching [this highlights video](#), which features a number of London South West people. We have an incredibly rich offer of professional development this year. Please [take a look](#) to see what might be suitable for you!

English Hub

At Wandle English Hub we have had a brilliantly busy start to the year! We launched the new Reading Ambition for All CPD programme which is focussed on supporting the most vulnerable learners with their reading. We also welcomed a brand-new cohort of Partner Schools from across South London. Our Literacy Specialists will provide guidance and support over two years with a focus on developing phonics and early reading provision.

Last-half term we were delighted to launch our new Research into Practice webinar series. These inspirational webinars provide a forum for teachers and school leaders, across the Trust and beyond,



to hear from researchers and academics as they share findings from the latest literacy research.

In November, we will hear from Alice Reedy, Senior Lecturer in Primary ITE at the University of East London, who will share findings from her research on children's perspectives on Reading for Pleasure. Later in the year we will hear from Dr Darren Chetty, Prof Teresa Cremin, Dr Helen Hendry and Prof Kate Nation who will share findings from their research and recommendations for practice. We'd love to see lots of WLT staff at these events. You can book your place [here](#)

CPD

Embracing AI is one of the Trust's priorities and you will be hearing more about this at the Joint Professional Day on 4th November.

Wandle Learning Partnership has planned a full day conference in central London to support schools across London, including yours, whether you're still in the discovery phase or ready to take the next steps.

Across the day we'll share insights and practical advice on:

- Opportunities to streamline and support staff workload particularly with curriculum and lesson planning.
- Becoming AI literate and preparing children and young people for an AI world.
- The risks and rewards associated with AI in education.

Head [here](#) to find out more and book

