

TRUST STAFF NEWS

SUMMER 2024



DEAR COLLEAGUES

As we approach the end of term we would like to thank you all for the tremendous work you all do for our children. It has been a fantastic year in which we have welcomed a new school into the Trust and have had two successful OFSTED inspections.

This newsletter will give you a very small snapshot of some of the great things that have been going on across the Trust.

To those staff who leave us at the end of the year, we wish you well. We look forward to welcoming everyone else back in September.

Have a wonderful summer!



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

PRIMARY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The joint Primary Professional Development Day on 21st June saw over 130 staff from the Trust primary schools come together at Paxton Primary Academy to share and discuss strategies, resources, ideas, insights and collaboration.

The theme of the conference was mental health and wellbeing and the conference brought together a range of keynote speakers and high-quality workshops, aimed at supporting our schools to put systems in place to promote mental health and wellbeing. The keynotes at the beginning and end of the day came from Hannah Russell from charity, Young Minds and award-winning author Smriti Halls.

Thank you to all participants who really got involved throughout the day and for the feedback, thanks and appreciation.

Thanks also to everyone who helped make the day a success, particularly the Wandle Learning Partnership team for organising the conference and the team at Paxton for hosting and making sure the day ran smoothly.



**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

Staff at Chestnut Grove have been celebrating the graduation of students in Year 11 and Year 13 as the GCSE and A Level exams come to a close. As is tradition, students attended school for a formal presentation celebration before partying into the night. As you can see from the photographs the students were certainly dressed to impress and we are incredibly PROUD of how well they responded to the challenges of their public examinations.



NEWS FROM RAVENSTONE

This has been another busy term at Ravenstone. We are really excited about the brand-new Nursery building works that have started in earnest and our new upcoming Forest School offer for Early Years in the Autumn term.

We are delighted to roll out a new Key Stage 2 Reading Comprehension curriculum following guidance on best practice from the DfE's Reading framework. It has been refreshing to work alongside specialists from the Trust in its design and draft implementation. This will complement the work already underway with Wandle English Hub's project, 'Developing a culture of Reading for

Pleasure' across the school.

We are really pleased with our outcomes in both Early Years reading/phonics and our Year 4 multiplication check; both are testament to the hard work and dedication of our children and staff.

Our children have participated in various sporting competitions in Wandsworth and beyond. This has included our Year 6 girls winning the Wandle Cup and our boys coming in second place! We are very proud of them all.

Community events such as a children's disco, parent and staff quiz night and RavenPLAY and RavenSTOCK have been hugely successful and continue to highlight and showcase the community spirit at Ravenstone.



NEWS FROM CHESTERTON

We have had a wonderful year at Chesterton with so much to celebrate and be proud of. All our children worked so hard to achieve their targets. They worked hard everyday and we have seen them all grow as the year has gone by. We will be sad to say goodbye to our Year 6 children but we know that they are ready for secondary school and all the adventures they have ahead of them. There have been many highlights from the year which have been hugely varied, they include hosting events like Little Wandle Champion Schools and the US delegation linked to the Gates Foundation, holding our first Windrush week curriculum focus to our International Day.

This year International Day was a particular highlight. The school was a sea of colour as children arrived in traditional dress or clothes the colour of their country's flags. The whole school went on a community walk to highlight the rich diversity at Chesterton. The children learned about different countries from around the world and traditions that other families follow. In the afternoon our wonderful families shared traditional foods with our whole school community. We had over 20 countries represented. The hall was filled with smiling families with the backdrop of a mariachi band. The day was definitely a key highlight of the school year.

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NEWS FROM PAXTON

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Walk at Paxton

This term colleagues from across the Trust visited Paxton to look at Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Over the last four years, we have been on a journey to embed an inclusive curriculum which reflects our children, celebrates our diversity and instils a love of reading where children see themselves in quality rich, representative text.

During the visit, colleagues were able to see how the classrooms, reading areas and sensory zones provide an inclusive, calm and conducive learning environment. They also met the Head Boy and Girl who spoke about their journey at Paxton, including how opportunities to celebrate our diversity had furthered their knowledge and understanding and how our Celebration Calendar values everyone.

Champion School event

At the start of July, Miss Berkeley, Miss Dedman and Ms Moses travelled to HarperCollins in London Bridge to attend the Little Wandle Champion School Conference.

Being a Little Wandle Champion School is a huge achievement for staff

who must uphold the 16 Standards of Excellence. It is also a credit to the children and their exemplar behaviour for learning; our Champion School Little Wandle Live events mean that up to 20 delegates can be in our classrooms watching phonics and witnessing the seamless relationships between the children and adults across the school.

During the conference Paxton was asked to talk about our 'Love of Reading'. Thanks to Jack at Heyday UK, who managed to capture the magic and create a video. Visit our Twitter page [@Paxton Academy](https://twitter.com/PaxtonAcademy) to take a look.

Just when we thought that the day could not get any better, Farrah Serroukh, Research and Development Director at the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) and Jason Ardy, Professor of Sociology of Education at the University of Cambridge, took to the stage delivering both thought-provoking and inspirational messages, which made the event a day to remember forever.

Pearson Award

Thank you to everyone who helped us transform all aspects of school life. We received a Certificate of Excellence from Pearson National Teaching Awards after entering Paxton for the Making a difference 'Primary School of the Year'



Award. We also had a congratulatory letter from author Michael Morpurgo!

Thank you to Sue Pidgeon

Paxton's Local Academy Committee (LAC) has gathered for their last meeting of the year. Along with celebrating the achievements and discussing objectives for next year's School Development Plan (SDP), the members said farewell to Co-Chair, Sue Pidgeon.

In 2019, Sue took on the role of Co-Chair of Paxton. Over the last four years, she has been instrumental in spearheading a strategic vision to inspire, build aspiration and change the narrative for Paxton.

On behalf of the children, the staff and fellow LAC members, past and present, we would like to thank Sue for being an advocate for the children, an inspiration for the staff and a dynamic, passionate LAC member with incredible tenacity and resilience.

NEWS FROM THOMSON HOUSE

The children lead busy lives at Thomson House. Whilst working hard to fulfil their learning potential is a priority, we also aim to develop other aspects of each child's character: confidence, eloquence, resilience, teamwork, communication skills and global citizenship.

We do this through performance opportunities, pushing the children slightly out of their comfort zones and by having a curriculum, underpinned by oracy, with an international element.

During the Summer term all our older children went on their residential: Year 4 spent one night under the stars, camping at Youldbury in Oxfordshire and Year 5 practised their land-based

climbing and abseiling skills at JCA's Condover Hall in Shrewsbury.

In an end of primary trip to remember, Year 6 visited the Portland Outdoor Centre to try sea kayaking, boulder weaselling, coasteering, and canoeing. Whilst they learnt many new skills on the water, their courage was also built through cliff climbing and abseiling with the sea pounding below them. The patient instructors at Portland gave the children a sea-based experience like no other. All our trips aim to build character, self-esteem and confidence in the children.

As we also aim to build collaborative working and communication skills – what better way to do that than through a musical production! Since finishing their SATS assessments, our wonderful

Year 6s have been rehearsing madly for the end of year production – High School Musical. The children sang, acted and danced their hearts out for two nights, accompanied by an eight-piece band of professional musicians. Both nights were sold out and the audiences gave standing ovations at the end. What an incredible experience to conclude children's journey at THS.



NEWS FROM WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Little Wandle

The Little Wandle team have been working incredibly hard to create a complete programme of CPD for primary schools to use for their INSET days in September.

The BIG Little Wandle INSET is available from the end of August and can be accessed online, on-demand. There are over 20 sessions available for all phases so the whole school can get the most up-to-date training.

If your school hasn't yet planned your day, please log into the Little Wandle website and take a look at the BIG Little Wandle INSET area for more information.

The team have also been busy recruiting a new cohort of secondary schools, including Chestnut Grove, to the second phase of the Little Wandle KS3 phonics pilot. We are thrilled to be working with over 60 schools from across the country on the next stage of this incredibly exciting and much-needed programme. As part of the pilot, Little Wandle will be offering a whole school training module for phonics subject knowledge - look out for this in September!

Finally, we are delighted to let you know that due to the success of the Little Wandle Fluency programme, a further 20 books will be released in September. These beautiful books from an incredible range of diverse authors and illustrators, covering a broad range of both fiction and non-fiction, come with a complete set of teaching notes supporting Year 2 and KS2 teachers to develop their pupils' fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Wandle Teaching School Hub

Wandle Teaching School Hub has been successfully re-designated for another four years!

As part of the Trust, you are a member of the Wandle Teaching School Hub's professional learning community. It is a growing community with:

- 1132 NPQ participants
- 1238 ECTs
- 972 Mentors
- 383 Induction Leads
- 207 ECF and NPQ Facilitators

We encourage you to make the most of your community by joining us on social media!

LinkedIn: Wandle Teaching School Hub
X (Twitter): @WandleTSHub

Instagram: wandleteaching schoolhub

Congratulations to our second cohort of Early Career Teachers (ECTs) who have just completed their two year induction. It's been great to work with you and we hope to see you on an NPQ or two over the coming years. We look forward to welcoming new ECTs and Mentors in September, and the invaluable team of Facilitators who guide them through their first steps in the profession.

We are now recruiting for the full suite of NPQs next year. To take the next step in your professional journey please [register](#)



English Hub

We were delighted to welcome the Partner Schools we have supported to their graduation event in the fabulous CLPE library. These schools have been working with the Hub for over two years and we have seen the huge impact of our support.

Next academic year (2024-25) we're offering three inspiring programmes of CPD. Use the links below to find out more and express your interest.

[Reading Ambition for All](#) is a new, research-based CPD programme aimed at primary English, Reading and Phonics Leads. During the programme participants explore research and best practice for teaching children who need the most support to learn to read, including those with SEND.

[Transforming your School's Reading culture](#) is a sustained, research-based CPD programme aimed at primary English Leads. During the programme participants will engage deeply with Reading for Pleasure pedagogy and leadership theory to transform their school's reading culture.

[Supporting Early Language Development](#) is a CPD programme designed to equip teachers and leaders with a practical pedagogical understanding of both typical language development and how to support pupils who are struggling with language acquisition.



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REACHING
EVERY CHILD

Welcome to our Little Wandle





NEWS FROM WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Maths Hub

The London South West Maths Hub Summer Conference, held at Chestnut Grove on Friday 5th July, was a huge success with 150 delegates. Simon Singh MBE introduced us to some of the amazing maths that features in the Simpsons, coding from ancient texts and other fascinating materials from his books.

Then Debbie Morgan CBE showed us, through teaching a lesson, that it is a deep understanding of structure that allows the maths to be illuminated and therefore accessible for all. Afternoon interactive workshops from Gareth Metcalfe and Jo Morgan completed a great day's programme.

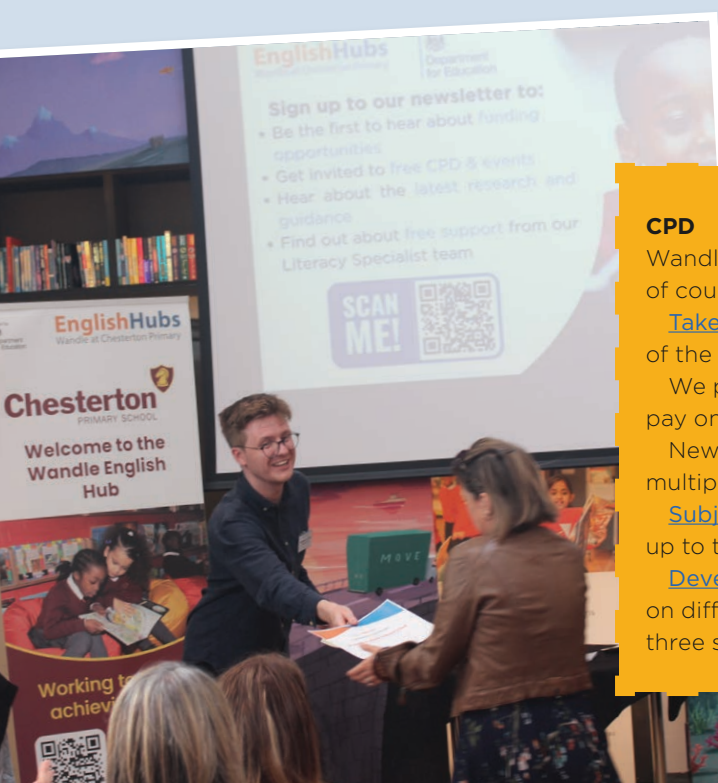
Looking ahead to next year, why not join us for some FREE high quality professional development to deepen your subject pedagogical knowledge according to one of the following specialisms:

- Early Year teachers
- Primary teachers
- Primary teaching assistants
- Secondary teachers
- Secondary teaching assistants

Or explore some of the cross-phase programmes to consider how to best enable continuity in mathematical structure, language, representation and approach either between:

- KS2 and KS3 - in the Year 5 to Year 8 Continuity Work Group
- Years 10 to 13 - in the Supporting Low Attainers to Achieve L2 Qualification by age 18 Work Group

Please [look](#) at the Maths Hub website for more information.



CPD

Wandle Learning Partnership has developed an extensive programme of courses and activities for Autumn 2024 and beyond.

[Take a look](#) at our Autumn programme booklet and register on any of the courses

We particularly want to highlight the following activities; Trust schools pay only 50% of advertised costs.

New to [subject leadership training](#) (three sessions) schools can send multiple delegates on all three sessions.

[Subject boosters](#) in computing, DT and geography - schools can send up to three delegates on all sessions.

[Developing greater depth writers](#) (three sessions, each with a focus on different year groups). Schools can send multiple delegates on all three sessions.