

TRUST STAFF NEWS



MAY 2024



DEAR COLLEAGUES

Welcome to the latest edition of the Trust Newsletter. We know that this is an incredibly busy term for you all and would like to extend a thank you to everyone who has been involved in supporting our Year 6 pupils with their SATs and the ongoing GCSE and A Level exams in Year 11 and Year 13. We look forward to celebrating some fantastic results over the summer months.

Since the last newsletter the Trust has grown and we would like to extend a warm welcome to Thomson House School who joined the Trust on April 1st and who are already an essential partner in our family of schools. We look forward to working alongside them for many years to come and are already benefitting from the wealth of experience they bring to the team.

Finally, Chestnut Grove was inspected by OFSTED in March and the report is available to view [here](#). It was an ungraded inspection and

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

the school successfully retained its previously good judgement with the inspection team stating that if it had been a graded inspection the school might have been awarded an outstanding judgement - so they are returning within the next 12-24 months to carry out a graded inspection. Congratulations to the team at Chestnut Grove for securing such a positive outcome.

NEWS FROM THOMSON HOUSE SCHOOL

On 1st April 2024, Thomson House became the fifth school in the Wandle Learning Trust. We are thrilled to be part of the Trust and have already enjoyed a warm welcome coupled with much support and guidance from Mark, Christian and the wider WLT team. We saw in WLT a similar drive to want to improve educational standards for all children; your values aligned with ours and we hold a mutually beneficial vision. THS hopes to share our outstanding practice and bring to the Trust a group of passionately driven teachers who strive for excellence in all they do.

THS Has Talent

At THS we have termly house competitions - last term was the annual Talent Show. The heats allowed our pupils to display their many talents - singing, dancing, gymnastics, drumming, musicianship, comedy, drama, and magic. Voting took place and the winning three acts performed

at the end of term assembly in front of a huge audience. We do this intentionally to build courage through performance and the children loved it.

Business Enterprise Scheme

Every Easter holiday our pupils are tasked with establishing a 'business' to help raise funds for the school and to learn about profit and loss. Children baked, designed, produced, scavenged, raffled, and sponsored with a variety of different services and products. One child designed, produced, and sold his own range of socks; another child organised a raffle for a range of beauty products! Funds were raised and everyone learnt something from the process.

Magical Musicals

We do a lot of performing at THS. Most recently it was the turn of Years 2 and 3 to perform excerpts from various musicals. This time they transported us from the city of Zootropolis to Shrek's swamp with some truly beautiful performances.



**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 CHESTERTON

We have had a fantastic half term at Chesterton. We started off with our Eid day celebrations, which included four concerts for our families to enjoy and the children sharing food with their classes. The children loved performing and we were very proud to be able to celebrate with them.

Later in the term we moved on to *Run Chesterton Run*. This was a Sunday afternoon event where over 130 Chesterton children and families came to run for the school. Due to the high turnout we managed to raise a HUGE £5,000 for Chesterton. We are using the money raised to redesign one of our outdoor spaces for the children, which will be used to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Year 6 children have also had their SATs. We are very proud of all the hard work they have put in throughout their time at Chesterton and it has been wonderful to see them all trying their best.



NEWS FROM PAXTON

In April, our Reception children climbed onboard a double decker coach and set off on their first adventure to RHS Wisley Gardens.

Once at RHS Wisley it did not take long for our Reception to begin to explore. Packed full of horticultural inspiration, the gardens and woodland provided the children with the opportunity to discover all creatures great and small in the wildlife-friendly areas and learn about nature.

At the end of a day filled with learning, the children set about conquering the play areas which provided spaces to run free, climbing the treehouses linked via an aerial walkway, swing, slide, trampoline, and lots more.

New Reading Area

At Paxton, reading opens the window to the wonderful world of books. As part of the Literacy Trust 'Libraries

for schools' project something magical helped on the second floor. First, volunteers from Bloomberg UK helped Ms Dedman and Ms Linke sort through over 300 donated new chapter and picture books. At the start of the Summer term, our Librarians created the perfect place to read. A brand-new library space filled with awe and wonder, including hot air balloons created in designs of their favourite books.

Reflecting Realities

At Paxton, we celebrate our diversity and create a platform for children to become confident, articulate their emotions and celebrate their identity.

In a time filled with fear and uncertainty, the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) did what they do best, they nurtured a dream to change the narrative for schools to embed quality rich representative texts.

Over the last three years, Paxton has been one of 10 schools selected

to take part in the Reflecting Realities project. This term, the official book entitled 'Representation in Children's Literature', which captures the project, was released.

Congratulations and thank you to the CLPE who were fundamental in the creation of this project and for being Bold, Brave and Beautiful in the face of adversity. Thank you also to everyone who has taken part in the project. As a school we recognise the difference we can make in being aspirational for the children and in empowering them to be confident in their own skin, believing that anything is possible.

To find out more about this inspirational project please visit this [link](#).





NEWS FROM CHESTNUT GROVE ACADEMY

Decolonising the Curriculum

We're incredibly PROUD to share that Nona Anderson, Geography Teacher at Chestnut Grove Academy (pictured below in white) has recently, through her membership of the Decolonising Geography Teacher



Collective, formed part of a panel alongside Pearson Edexcel's senior examining team to review the A Level geography qualification.

The review of the A Level Geography syllabus aimed to show any instances of geographical terms, examples or place contexts that could be considered problematic, offensive or could cause harm to students. As an outcome of the review, the group recommended improvements to equality, diversity, and inclusion, which were adopted as follows:

- They identified immediate changes to the specification language that could cause harm to students by perpetuating stereotypes.
- They included a better balance of place examples to give students a more nuanced perspective on issues.
- They added locational or historical

context where they felt it is an important part of the issues explored.

- They also identified opportunities to include the perspectives of marginalised voices.

These updates to the specifications will be taught from September 2024.



Sir, I don't know what I am doing

We were delighted this half term to learn that Hugo Marx, Head of Art, (pictured above) has become a published author exploring the use of 'happy accidents' as agents for facilitating more meaningful and critical exploration in secondary school art. If you want to read his insightful MA thesis, titled "Sir, I don't know what I'm doing...",

[here's the link](#)

NEWS FROM RAVENSTONE

Year 2 have been working in earnest at developing reading fluency through the Little Wandle Fluency programme. The children and staff love it, and it is helping children build their confidence and independent reading skills.

Maths fluency is also a focus area which we are developing through mastering numbers in Early Years and KS1 and through times tables daily practice in KS2. The children are enjoying setting themselves personal challenges and seeing their own progress.

Our Sports Day has also taken place this half term and we were lucky to have a glorious day of weather. The children had the opportunity to run and compete on a proper track and field and showed great resilience, determination, and comradery throughout the day.

This half term, families have had the opportunity to visit their children's classrooms, look at their work and meet teachers thanks to our popular *Inside Ravenstone* event.





NEWS FROM WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

English Hub

We enjoyed working with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to run a Research into Practice Seminar on Oral language in May. Look out for other Research into Practice events in this series coming soon.

On Wednesday 26th June at 3.30pm, we will be running a webinar on implementing the recommendations from the DfE's Reading framework. You can sign up [here](#).

In July, we will be celebrating the achievements of our Partner Schools who have been working with us for two years. Their Graduation Event is taking place in the amazing Literacy Library at the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) pictured below.

Maths Hub

We are counting the days... to the Maths Hub summer conference - a one-day event for all teachers and leaders of maths in South West London! The conference is taking place at Chestnut Grove Academy on Friday 5th July from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

We would love to see as many Wandle teachers there as possible. It is free to attend and with a programme to interest and engage everyone from Early Years, primary to secondary/Post-16, this event brings together maths education professionals for thought-provoking keynote speeches and practical workshops.

Find more information and signing up details [here](#)

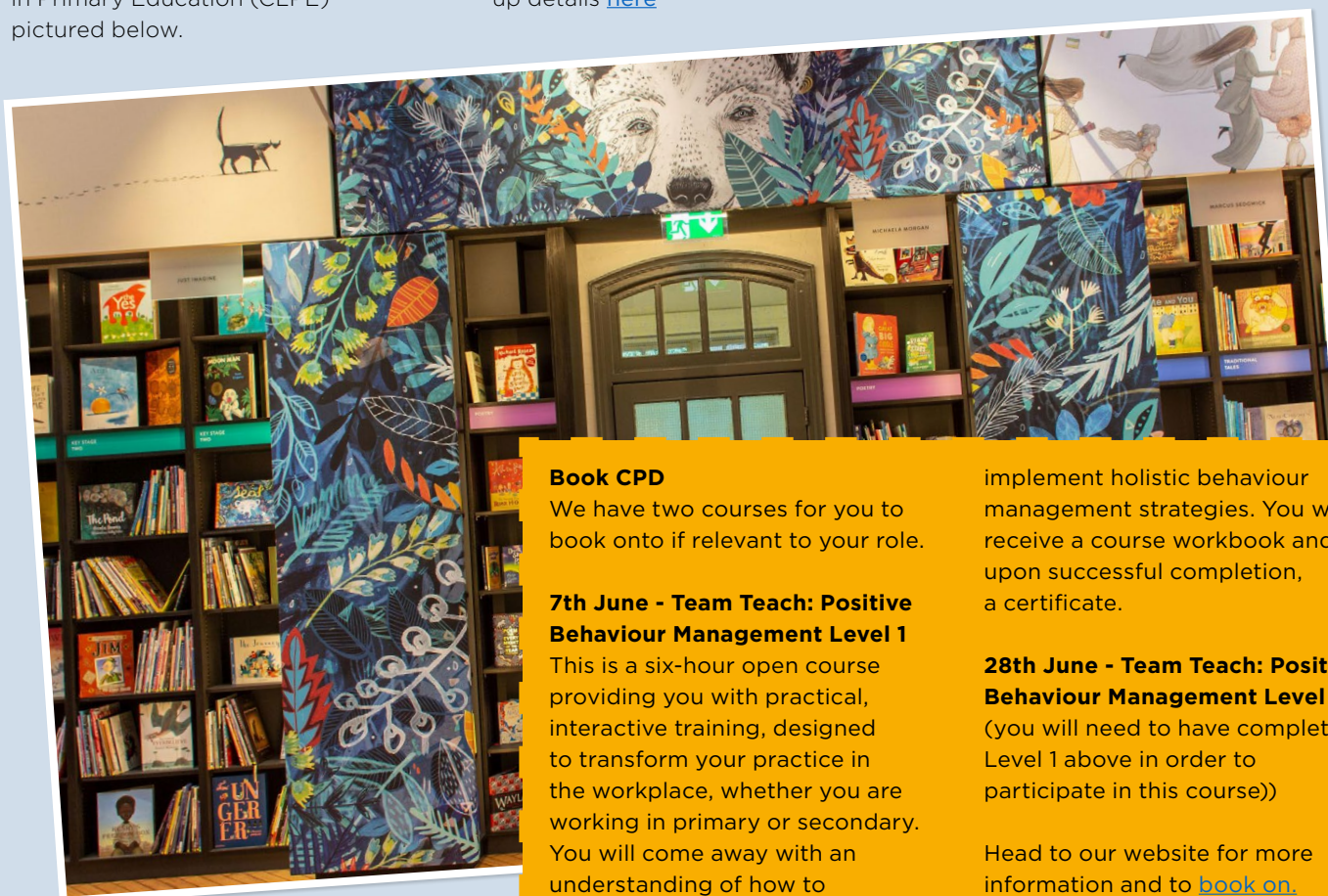
Teaching School Hub

A few important updates from the Hub as follows:

NPQs: We will soon be opening the application process for the next intake onto the various NPQs. For more information and funding opportunities please look on [the website](#)

ITT: Last term we ran briefing events on the new ITT framework and how this might impact you. The information and recording from the events can be found on [our website](#).

ECF: We are starting to recruit for cohort 4. The registration process and timetables are available for information and planning. Please head to [this link](#).



Book CPD

We have two courses for you to book onto if relevant to your role.

7th June - Team Teach: Positive Behaviour Management Level 1

This is a six-hour open course providing you with practical, interactive training, designed to transform your practice in the workplace, whether you are working in primary or secondary. You will come away with an understanding of how to

implement holistic behaviour management strategies. You will receive a course workbook and, upon successful completion, a certificate.

28th June - Team Teach: Positive Behaviour Management Level 2

(you will need to have completed Level 1 above in order to participate in this course))

Head to our website for more information and to [book on](#).