

TRUST STAFF NEWS

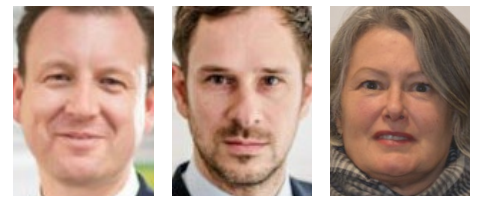
DECEMBER 2023



DEAR COLLEAGUES

We're sure you will all join us in reflecting on what an incredibly busy term it has been. It started with some fantastic pupil outcomes across all of our schools and has ended with all the usual festive fun that makes this time of year in schools so very special. Thank you to everyone who attended the Trust Christmas party – a good time was had by all!

As we approach the end of term it is important that you step off the treadmill and enjoy some time with family and friends. Next term will bring with it a whole new set of challenges and so it is important to us that you take the time to re-charge your batteries. Have a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to continuing to work with you all in 2024!



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

NEWS FROM PAXTON

At Paxton, we love any excuse to celebrate and through working in partnership, we know that when we work as a team we can achieve more.

IT'S OFFICIAL!

A year ago, on Monday 5th December 2023 Paxton received a phone call which could have cancelled Christmas but two days later, Paxton was judged by Ofsted to be Good with Outstanding leadership and management.

The journey to transform all aspects of school life had not been easy but thanks to the commitment from staff, support from families, partnerships with the local community and organisations who had helped us to create a school which lives and breathes reading, it was worth it.

HAPPY 5TH BIRTHDAY BOOKMARK

Bookmark was one of those invaluable partnerships. During the last two years, Bookmark volunteers have forged relationships with the children which are unique and magical in equal measure. The 1:1 time spent reading together is something so precious the children look forward to each week. These sessions have been, in many

cases, the seed that was needed, to plant a love of reading.

In November, Headteacher Theresa Moses and Deputy Head, Vicky Linke were joined by Trust Co-CEO Mark Siswick at Bookmark's 5th birthday celebrations, where Vicky had also been invited to speak. It was a beautiful event in a room filled with people who were passionate about all things reading.

WE LOVE THE ARTS

This half term, children in Year 5 have taken part in a project to improve their artistic techniques with sixth form students from Kings College School Wimbledon. Each week, the children explored a different medium, from how to mould clay effectively to create mini-beasts to replicating a piece of art work using different techniques such as sketching, shading and tinting. Next half term, children in Year 6 will pick up the paintbrush and have the opportunity to extend and enrich their artistic flare.



Chestnut Grove Academy



NEWS FROM CHESTERTON

The autumn term at Chesterton has been as busy as always, although it has been lovely to not be constantly waiting for Ofsted to call. It is quite strange to think that we're at our 1-year anniversary already!

The children have all had a great term and they continue to make us proud with all their achievements. They loved taking part in the first Wandle Maths Bee this term, which was hosted by Ravenstone. The event really made them feel a part of the wider Wandle Learning Trust.

The Nurture Nest is now set up and has proved to be an essential space to support our children with their SEMH needs. The Nest is led by our learning mentors and ELSA trained staff. We have seen a reduction in behaviour-related incidents with key children and an increase in children being successful with their learning in class.

At this year's UNICEF national conference Whitney Shore was asked

to speak about the impact of being a Gold Rights Respecting School. She came away from the conference having learnt a lot but also able to share with national colleagues the impact that being a Rights Respecting School has on the children.

We were honoured this term to have hosted a visit from Damian Hinds- Minister of State for Education. He came as part of a fact-finding visit to learn more about the Maths Hub and the wider school. It was a great opportunity for us to share the impact that all the Hubs make to a wide group of professionals, schools and children. He visited classes, had a tour of the school, and listened to a presentation about the Maths Hub and school.



NEWS FROM RAVENSTONE

Ravenstone received the call just before the last edition of the staff newsletter! For anyone who doesn't yet know, we retained our Good grading which was great news.

Staff at Ravenstone go above and beyond every week, and really excelled themselves during inspection week when we all worked together to showcase Ravenstone at its best. This was the school's first inspection since joining Wandle Learning Trust, and it was a huge help having members of the Trust team supporting us throughout.

We were particularly pleased to see this comment about our use of Little Wandle for early reading.

"Pupils are well supported to develop a genuine love for reading as soon as they start school."

"Teachers are expertly trained to implement the phonics programme consistently and with precision. They check pupils are keeping up. Those at risk of falling behind are supported to catch up quickly. Pupils practise reading using books that are closely matched to the sounds they have learned. This means pupils learn to read with accuracy, fluency and confidence."

MATHS BEE

This half term a group of children in Year 4 were joined by children from

Chesterton and Paxton to take part in our first ever Wandle Learning Trust Maths Bee! The children had to answer quick fire times tables questions and a group of 27 children was whittled down to one overall winner. There was lots of excitement and nerves, but the children thoroughly enjoyed the element of competition! The children from Ravenstone performed admirably and we were delighted that Aisha from 4B finished in third place. A big well done to all the children who were involved.



LET IT RAVENSNOW!

Our annual festive event led by the parent community has raised over £5,000 for school funds. As always, Ravensnow provided an action packed and fun-filled day for all the family including food stalls and activities for the children.

TRUST STAFF NEWS



NEWS FROM CHESTNUT GROVE ACADEMY

Sixth Formers from Chestnut Grove Academy wowed the Leicester Square Theatre in November as part of a fantastic one-off event designed to tempt London's public into political discord, debating the motion:

**'THIS HOUSE BELIEVES
BREXIT IS A DISASTER AND
MUST BE REVERSED.'**

Chestnut Grove Sixth Form was contacted by co-producer Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh OBE, a Scottish politician who was MP for Ochil and South Perthshire from 2015 to 2017, and who is now a member of the Alba Party

As Tasmina is keen to see state school participation in politics she asked CGA if we would like to nominate two students who would join the 'Proposition' and 'Opposition' sides of the debate. Participants had to be willing to take part in a live show, in front of a packed audience of over 400 paying guests at the Leicester Square Theatre in Central London.

Immediately, thoughts turned to our Year 13 A level Politics class and priority was given to students we knew were applying to university to study Politics at undergraduate level and who felt comfortable performing against each other in public.

Cora White joined the Proposition side of the debate, and was paired with Alex Salmond, Gina Miller and Andrew Marr in advancing the motion, while Dominic Boyle joined the Opposition side, and was paired with David Davis MP, Baroness Claire Fox and Mike Graham. Former Speaker of the House of Commons and Chestnut Grove parent, John Bercow, chaired the event, keeping order in his own inimitable way.

Tasmina provided us with 20 sponsored tickets so Cora and Dominic's fellow A level Politics

students, friends and accompanying Chestnut Grove staff could attend too.

Suffice to say that Cora and Dominic did themselves PROUD, in true Chestnut Grove fashion, relishing the cut and thrust of a well-honed argument and visibly growing in

stature from the experience, which was magical to behold.

A special thanks goes to John, for suggesting Chestnut Grove Academy to Tasmina initially and for his diligent care in ensuring a positive experience for our students. Both students received an incredibly warm reception from the general public throughout the event.

In the words of Alex Salmond, as he summed up for the Proposition, "What Cora and Dominic have just learned is that they will never be worried by anything ever again, having just spoken in front of an audience of 400 people."

Now, that's some true personal development and 'transformational' character-building that Headteacher Christian Kingsley will be sharing with Ofsted inspectors, the next time he meets them!





NEW FROM

WANDLE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

MATHS HUB

The Right Honourable Damian Hinds, Minister of State for Schools, visited Chesterton School on 23rd November to find out about the work of the Maths Hub. We were delighted to share highlights of our work with Early Years, primary and secondary maths teachers and leaders across South West London, and showcase maths lessons. The Minister enjoyed meeting pupils and teachers alike, and was pleased to learn about the workings of a rekenrek! You can see pictures from the Minister's visit in News from Chesterton above.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE MATHS HUB!

If you enjoy teaching maths, and are keen to take this further, why not look into the funded leadership programmes currently on offer? Whether leading in-school professional development or working with external colleagues (teachers and/or leaders), we have something for everyone!

	2024/2025	Mastery Specialist	Professional Development Lead	School Development Lead
• Primary Mastery Specialist	Early Years		✓	✓
• Secondary Mastery Specialist	Primary	✓	✓	✓
• Post-16 GCSE/FSQ Mastery Specialist	Secondary	✓	✓	✓
• Professional Development Lead	Post 16	✓	✓	✓
• School Development Lead				

To find out more, sign up [here](#) for our 30 minute interactive twilight on Thursday 25th January 2024, at 4pm. Or take a look at our [website](#) for more details and application.

LITTLE WANDLE

The Autumn term has been a busy one for Little Wandle. In October, some of our team had the pleasure of leading training sessions at the Joint Professional Day. Teachers from across the Trust attended sessions on all parts of the Little Wandle programme: Foundations for EYFS, our core programme for Reception and Year 1, and our exciting Key Stage 3 pilot: Code. The trialling of the Code programme continues apace at Chestnut Grove. With assessments for the programme now complete, the team are all set and ready to run the interventions.

In other very exciting news, the Little Wandle SEND programme has won a national Teach Primary award. We faced stiff competition to be recognised our impact, ease of use, adaptability and value for money. What's more, we have been shortlisted for two BETT Awards for the core programme and SEND programme, respectively. We will find out whether or not we have won in January - watch this space!

ENGLISH HUB

We have had another busy half term at Wandle English Hub, with colleagues from many schools joining us for free CPD. This includes our Transforming your Schools Reading Culture programme, Developing Early Language programme, Reading Leader Network and Phonics for pupils with SEND training to name just a few. In January we will be running a session on Developing Reading Fluency. Do sign up to [our newsletter](#) to hear about our future events.

TEACHING SCHOOL HUB

The Hubs ECF programme continues to support new teachers into the profession. We are delighted to share that the ECT and Mentor satisfaction rates remain high in our Trust at above 90% for both groups.

The deadline to join the last cohort of guaranteed government funding for NPQs is 24th January 2024. We have an extensive programme of National Professional Qualifications, including the *NEW* NPQ Leading Primary Maths. We'd love to see a good representation of WLT leaders. If you are interested, or want further details, you can sign up [here](#).

ITT

If you are a member of support staff interested in training to become a teacher, we have a number of training options available through Wandle Teaching School Hub. We are a lead delivery partner for:

- Roehampton University (Primary)
- Inspiring Future Teachers (Primary SCITT)
- UCL (Secondary)

Details of our recruitment events for you to find out more, can be found [here](#).

We've also got an energising professional development course to kick off your New Year. If you'd like to develop greater expertise in Coaching, EAL leadership or teaching, Emotion Coaching or Positive Behaviour Management you find more on our website [here](#)

JOINT PROFESSIONAL DAY EVALUATION

Thank you to everyone who completed the evaluation for the JPD. It is really helpful to have your feedback to help us improve future events. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with comments describing the event as 'thought provoking' and a 'fantastic day'.

'I thought today was very thought provoking, Keynote speakers were knowledgeable and engaging. I took a lot away from the professional day and will seek to implement changes in my lessons to better support and enhance the opportunity for students with lower reading comprehension, to access all texts. Kathy's talk was very informative and inspiring - the idea that 'reading isn't intuitive' but speaking is was a very interesting point I would like to explore further. Explanations of coding and the English language shed light on the challenges to reading and also the necessity of using phonics as direction to build a strong foundation for reading. An excellent and insightful day' Thank you.'

CHESTNUT GROVE COLLEAGUE