

# Spring 26



## Welcome from the CEO



Welcome to our Spring 2026 Salterns Academy Trust newsletter. As always, this edition celebrates the energy, commitment and ambition across our schools, and the collective work taking place to ensure every child is supported to achieve and thrive. I am immensely proud of our staff, pupils and wider community, and the positive momentum you will see reflected throughout this newsletter

This term also brings a moment to say farewell to Claire Copeland, who is leaving the Trust after making a valued contribution to our work. Claire has been a highly respected colleague, and we are grateful for the dedication, professionalism and care she has shown during her time with us. We wish her every success in the next chapter and thank her sincerely for all she has given to the Salterns community. I would also like to congratulate Gemma Pearse, who will be taking on the role of Acting Headteacher at Trafalgar School. Her leadership will provide continuity and stability, and we are grateful for her unwavering commitment to Trafalgar School and the Salterns Academy Trust.

I hope you have a restful Easter Break, and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities next term will bring!

## Salterns Trust welcomes new Trustees to the Board

We are delighted to welcome Marvin Fray to our Board as a new Trustee . Marvin brings a valuable blend of digital, governance and community experience, alongside a deep personal connection to the Salterns school community. With a background in technology,

organisational strategy and governance, and prior experience as a school governor and founding trustee of a community-based charity , Marvin offers insight into both opportunity and risk in a rapidly changing digital landscape. His strong belief in the transformative power of education, shaped by lived family experience and professional practice, will support the Trust as it continues to balance innovation, inclusion and high expectations for every child.



We also pleased to welcome Lisa Lischak as a new Trustee. Lisa brings significant expertise in governance, compliance and strategic leadership, with extensive experience in senior in-house legal roles within large, complex organisations. Her professional background, combined with a strong commitment to inclusive values and lifelong learning, aligns closely with the Trust’s mission to provide high-quality education in safe, supportive and inclusive environments. Lisa is keen to build strong relationships across the Trust and to contribute thoughtfully to the long-term stewardship and success of our schools.



## **Every Child Achieving and Thriving - Salterns Trust responds to the Governments Education White Paper**

The Government’s Schools White Paper, [Every Child Achieving and Thriving](#), sets out a long-term direction for education in England, with a strong emphasis on inclusion and high standards for all pupils. Key themes include:

- **Inclusion as a core design principle**, not an add-on – ensuring pupils with SEND and those facing disadvantage are supported effectively within strong mainstream provision
- **Earlier identification and intervention** for additional needs, reducing reliance on crisis-driven systems and lengthy processes
- **High expectations and ambition for every child**, with inclusion and academic standards seen as mutually reinforcing rather than competing priorities
- **Broader definitions of success**, including personal development, wellbeing, enrichment and preparation for adult life, alongside academic achievement
- **Stronger collaboration between schools, families and communities**, recognising that education does not begin and end at the school gate



Many of the priorities set out in the White Paper reflect work already underway across Salterns Academy Trust and its schools.

Our Trust-wide approach already includes an inclusive, student-centred ethos and commitment to high ambition for all pupils and a focus on collaboration across schools and with external partners to strengthen teaching, support and professional development.

Across our Schools, Salterns Academy Trust offers:

- A strong mainstream SEND offer with graduated support and targeted intervention
- Emphasis on personal development, wellbeing and belonging, alongside academic achievement
- A values-led culture explicitly rooted in aspiration, resilience and inclusion
- Inclusive SEND provision within calm, supportive mainstream environments
- Consistent SEND and inclusion practice from early years through secondary

**Taken together, these examples show that the Trust is already well positioned to respond constructively to the ambitions set out in the White Paper, while continuing to develop**

**inclusive, high-quality education for every child and delivering our values of Inclusion, Aspiration and Community.**

## Mayfield School leading the way

Following on from our piece in the last Trust newsletter, highlighting the innovative work being carried out at Mayfield School in relation to its approach to SEND support. We were delighted that colleagues from Mayfield School featured on Meridian News after a morning of filming in the school. Please click on the following link if you would like to view the broadcast shown on ITV Meridian: [Portsmouth schools that are leading the way in SEND support | ITV NEWS MERIDIAN \(West\) - YouTube](#)

## Solent Languages Network: a strong start to 2026

The beginning of 2026 marked a particularly active and productive period for the network, with schools, universities and cultural partners working together to strengthen language learning across Portsmouth and the surrounding region.



The year began with a planning meeting for “A Week of Celebrating Languages”, where colleagues collaborated to design activities highlighting the importance of languages in intercultural understanding, civic engagement and global careers.

Students across the network also experienced language learning through live theatre with a performance by Onatti Productions at Mayfield School. The interactive performance allowed pupils to engage with authentic language in an engaging and memorable setting.

Another highlight was the Languages Taster Day at the University of Portsmouth, where students explored what studying languages at university might look like and discovered the wide range of career opportunities that language skills can support.

*"I really enjoyed the careers session at the University of Portsmouth. I didn't realise how many opportunities languages can give you, especially the chance to live and work abroad."*

**Aisha B, Year 10 – Trafalgar School**

### **Collaboration and Cultural Engagement**

Collaboration continued to sit at the heart of the Solent Language Network's work. During the Spring term, colleagues came together for a Key Stage 2 Transition meeting, strengthening links between primary and secondary language learning and supporting smoother progression for pupils.

Cultural engagement was also a key focus. In partnership with the Portsmouth Music Hub and Portsmouth City of Languages, students participated in a multilingual song recording at Admiral Lord Nelson School, celebrating the rich linguistic diversity of Portsmouth.

*"I felt nervous but excited because I knew the song would be released nationally online. Being chosen to take part made me really happy, and I found the song so much fun. I especially enjoyed all the practising and the final recording."* **Chloe M - Year 7 Admiral Lord Nelson School**

International collaboration was strengthened through a French School History Visit at Admiral Lord Nelson School, where visiting French pupils worked alongside local students in shared cultural and historical activities, creating authentic opportunities for communication and exchange.

*"It was very good day. It was a great experience to practise my French. We could have conversations that were genuine and meaningful. My favourite part was the history board game because it mixed French and History."* **Oscar Year 9 - Admiral Lord Nelson School**

The work of the network was also shared nationally when Aamir Kohli and Rebecca Britti presented at the ALL Language World Conference with their session *Opening Doors: Using Cultural Trips to Inspire Collaboration and Global Learning*. Also at the ALL Language World conference, Liz Lord was able to bring attendees up to date with the Portsmouth, City of Languages initiative, which the Solent Language Network is proud to support.







### **Celebrating Languages Week in Portsmouth!**

During this week, Portsmouth celebrated the many languages that help shape our city and bring our communities together. Schools, colleges, libraries and the university took part with the theme “Sharing and Belonging.”

Throughout the week, activities celebrating languages and cultures across the city took place, including:

- A special Portsmouth City of Languages song shown on the Guildhall Square Big Screen
- Events linked with the University of Portsmouth’s 'One World' celebrations.

- Cultural events and activities in schools and community spaces

At Salterns Trust, as part of “Celebrating Languages” week, we finish off the Spring term with Mingalaba language and cultural workshops, with a focus on football, delivered across schools in the Trust, and a trip to the Festival of Culture at the University of Portsmouth.

Languages help us connect with others, share culture and understand the world around us - and Portsmouth is proud to be a city where many languages are spoken every day.

### **Looking Ahead to the Summer Term**

The momentum continues into the summer term with a number of exciting initiatives planned

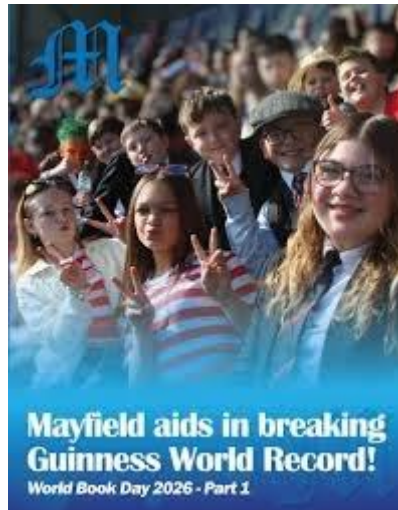
Students will take part in a D-Day Commemoration Visit to Caen, strengthening the historical and cultural links between Portsmouth and France, as well as a careers workshop day at the University of Portsmouth delivered in partnership with the Goethe-Institut. In addition, the network will host further Solent Language Network CPD webinars and the Solent Language Network Conference in July, bringing educators together to share ideas and best practice.

*"I'm really excited about visiting Caen because it feels like we are bringing history to life. Rehearsing for the visit has helped us understand the importance of remembrance and how languages allow us to share that story with students in France." Emmie. P - Year 10 - Trafalgar School*

**Through these initiatives, the Solent Language Network continues to promote collaboration, celebrate linguistic diversity, and create meaningful opportunities for young people to engage with languages beyond the classroom.**

## **Trafalgar and Mayfield Join Portsmouth's World Book Day World Record Attempt**

Pupils from Trafalgar School and Mayfield School took part in an unforgettable citywide celebration of reading on World Book Day 2026, as Portsmouth came together for a Guinness World Record attempt at Fratton Park. The event formed part of *In Our Words*, a year-long literacy campaign led by Portsmouth Creates and delivered in partnership with Portsmouth Football Club, Pompey in the Community and Portsmouth Library Services.



Thousands of children and educators from across the city filled the stadium in colourful World Book Day costumes, joining author Dan Freedman for a shared 40-minute reading lesson that helped set a new Guinness World Record for the world’s largest reading lesson, with 6,715 participants officially recorded.

The atmosphere was described as “a historic moment for the city,” bringing young people together to celebrate stories, build confidence and inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Trafalgar and Mayfield pupils played their part in this city-wide achievement—an uplifting day of imagination, community spirit and pride in Portsmouth’s commitment to literacy.

## Primary Update

Our Primary Phase have enjoyed an action-packed Spring Term filled with enriching experiences and exciting visitors!

Most recently, we were delighted to welcome Paralympian Louise Hunt, who delivered an inspiring assembly celebrating her achievements in Tennis and the importance of inclusivity.

She also worked with our Year 2 pupils during their PE lesson, helping them develop their racket skills with plenty of enthusiasm and encouragement.

Learning in our classrooms continue to focus on our developing Teaching & learning Toolkit, ensuring chosen pedagogical strategies are applied consistently, and routines and expectations are thoroughly embedded. Our OPAL programme at Lunchtimes is still going strong and we continue to be incredibly grateful for contributions from staff and families to provide pupils with resources during their play times.







Our pupils have spent time engaging in a number of varied curriculum experiences out of school this term too. Year 3 visited St Nicholas Church, where they met Reverend Sam and explored the church's history and role in the community. Year 4 travelled to the Mayflower Theatre to watch *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, a performance that beautifully

complemented their curriculum learning. Year 6 enjoyed a walk to Admiral Lord Nelson School to watch their production of Aladdin—and may have taken a few mental notes on props for their own end-of-year performance! A small group of Key Stage 2 pupils also attended Global Languages Day, sampling a “world of flavours” while exploring different cultures.

Back at school, Year 5 were treated to an Inflatable Planetarium in the main hall, bringing their science learning to life in a truly immersive way. Key Stage 1 also welcomed Wild Science into their classrooms, where the children were able to not only learn about a number of more unusual animals like Gary the African Snail, Tequila the Tarantula and Bert the Royal Python, but also hold a handsome Green Tree Frog. To celebrate British Science Week, Primary took part in an engineering challenge by designing and building a parachute to protect an egg dropped from the school roof by our brave Site Team!

We celebrated World Book Day in style, with pupils dressing up as their favourite characters and our primary children joining the exciting attempt at Fratton Park to break the Guinness World Record for the largest reading lesson ever. Our primary pupils also shone in the Literature Quiz, proudly securing 1st place.

It's been a wonderful period of creativity, curiosity and community spirit at Mayfield, and we look forward to an equally exciting and busy Summer Term.

## **Trafalgar triumph at the Portsmouth Literature Quiz 2026!**

We're incredibly proud of the amazing Trafalgar students who won this year's Portsmouth Literature Quiz – Trafalgar's first-ever victory! Competing against 32 teams from 11 schools, our readers impressed with their knowledge of works by Max Boucherat, E.L. Norry, Lucy Strange and Aoife Walsh.

Huge congratulations to Bella, Holly, Khloe and Megan, who clinched first place in a tense tie-breaker – and to Diana, Emily, Lucie and Summer for their brilliant performances throughout!



The team even met the authors, took part in Q&As and brought home a fantastic prize: new books for themselves and the school library. Well done Team Trafalgar!

## Our People, Our Culture, Our Students

The development of our Trust People Strategy is grounded in a clear and shared belief: the culture we create for our staff directly shapes the experience of our students. Our last INSET day gave us the opportunity to focus on activities which engaged all staff in the process and has reaffirmed for us how strongly colleagues value belonging, development, wellbeing and clear opportunities to grow — and how important these are in enabling everyone to give their best. This work reflects our core values of **Inclusion, Community and Aspiration**, and our commitment to creating an environment where everyone can belong, grow and succeed.







By listening carefully to staff perspectives on what matters most now, and what they want our culture to develop into, we are building our collective approach as a Trust. This work helps us focus on creating an environment where people feel connected, supported and confident in the contribution they make every day.

For students, the impact is powerful. A positive and inclusive staff culture underpins stability, consistency and strong relationships across our schools. It supports calm, purposeful learning environments and enables colleagues to focus their energy on delivering high-quality education, care and support for every child and young person.

This is our Trust strategy and values in action. Working together, investing in our people and valuing wellbeing and development, whilst keeping students at the heart of every decision we make means we are building a Trust where staff and students can truly thrive.

## **Improving contact with our schools: New Trust-wide phone system**

Over the coming weeks, we will be introducing a new phone system across our schools. This change is about making it simpler and more reliable for parents and carers to get in touch with our schools, particularly at busy times of the day.



For families, the most important thing is that calls are answered quickly, messages reach the right people, and urgent matters are clearly identified and responded to. The new system is designed to support this.

Each school will share further information directly with parents, including any new extension numbers so please keep an eye out for communications from your school.

As with any change, there may be a short settling-in period, but our schools will continue to prioritise clear communication and support for families throughout. Thank you for your patience and partnership as we make improvements that help us serve our school communities better.

## Governor Vacancies

Becoming a school governor is a great way to make a lasting impact to the lives of young people in our community. As a school governor, you'll have the opportunity to contribute your skills, experience, and passion to help shape the direction and policies of our schools. Whether you're a parent, a professional, or a community member, your involvement as a governor will help make positive change and help to ensure that our schools provide the best possible learning environment for our students. Join us as a school governor and become an integral part of building a brighter future for our children and our society as a whole.

To find out more about our current vacancies please visit our website ([www.salternstrust.co.uk](http://www.salternstrust.co.uk)) or contact [clerk.alns@salterns.org](mailto:clerk.alns@salterns.org)



We welcome your feedback on anything contained in this newsletter or on any matters related to the Trust or its schools.

In addition to the usual channels of communication you may already use, feedback can be provided by clicking in the following link and completing this form.

[feedback form](#)



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