

Summer 25

Welcome from the CEO



Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of our termly newsletter!

As we come to the end of another remarkable academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the extraordinary progress and achievements across Salterns Academy Trust and express my sincere gratitude to the team across all our schools for their hard work and dedication.

From school improvement milestones to national recognition, our Trust has continued to grow in ambition, quality, and impact. Whether it's the sustained improvements at Mayfield School, the continued success of the Solent Languages Network, or our newly adopted Climate Action Plan, this year has demonstrated what can be accomplished when passion, professionalism, and purpose come together.

I am especially proud that I had the honour of attending a Royal Garden Party on behalf of the Trust—a fitting recognition of the incredible work taking place across our schools and the collective effort of our entire community.



I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all whose commitment underpins everything we do, and I want specifically to acknowledge the contributions of our students, whose fresh energy and growth inspire us daily, and whose curiosity, courage, and kindness remain at the heart of our vision.

As we look ahead to the opportunities and challenges of the new academic year, we do so with pride in how far we've come—and with excitement for the journey still to come.

Thank you for being an important part of our story.

School Improvement Highlights

From rising attendance to empowering student achievement, **Salterns Academy Trust schools** are making waves. Here's how we're building momentum into 2025–26:

- SEND and disadvantaged students are better supported than ever. A new **Trust Inclusion Strategy** is in the works, and cutting-edge tools like Class Charts and CPOMS are streamlining support and safeguarding.
- Core subjects are aligning across schools with new **Curriculum Directors**, shared assessments, and quality reviews. We can look forward to even closer collaboration and curriculum design by 2026.

- Attendance is up across the board! **ALNS** and **Trafalgar** lead the charge, with **Mayfield** on a promising path. Targeting the 85–95% group is our next mission to reduce persistent absence further.
- **Mayfield School's** rapid improvement journey continues . Curriculum changes, behaviour improvements, and better SEND support are pushing it firmly towards an anticipated 'Good' OFSTED by 2027.
- From Restorative Practice to Modern Languages and receiving the National Autism Award accreditation , Salterns is shaping education city-wide and beyond. National recognition from the **German Ambassador** and **Restorative Lab** highlight the impact of our innovative leadership.

Celebrating Progress and People at Mayfield

At the beginning of the second half of the summer term, Mayfield School welcomed a Whole School Effectiveness Review. This important milestone in our journey of rapid school improvement was led by six highly experienced external professionals and provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on how far we've come and where we are heading next.

The process was both thorough and rigorous. Reviewers engaged in a wide range of activity, including meeting with school leaders, visiting lessons across both the primary and secondary phases, observing transitions, break and lunch times, and listening to our youngest children read - all underpinned by our value of **ambition** for every learner, in every phase.

Reviewers praised our leadership team's clarity and focus, noting that they have a strong understanding of the priorities and the next steps needed to continue driving improvement. In the primary review, they commented:

"The school has made impressive progress since an initial review in Summer 2022...The change in environment for Early Years has been transformational. Leaders have acted swiftly... and should now be rightly proud of the environment and the great offer and start pupils at Mayfield receive."

In the secondary phase, they said:

"This is a rapidly improving school; leaders have taken decisive action to focus on culture, which has improved behaviour and relationships between adults and students. In addition, expectations have been raised and accountability strengthened; so that students can learn more effectively and standards are improving."

This progress reflects our ongoing **respect** for the learning journey of every child and our commitment to an inclusive culture where all can thrive.

Salterns Academy Trust at the Teach Portsmouth Awards

Mayfield School Headteacher Ashley Howard had the honour of co-hosting the **Teach Portsmouth Awards**, an inspiring evening celebrating the unsung heroes of education. From teaching assistants to headteachers and dedicated volunteers, the event was a powerful reminder of the value of **inclusion** and the difference individuals make when they go above and beyond to improve life chances for young people. The Trust was proud to sponsor the Inclusion and Diversity award, which this year was won by Kate Donovan from Ark Dickens Primary Academy.

The volunteer award category showcased individuals who give their time for free using their own life experiences to support pupils in different ways. The community award highlighted partnership working between schools, colleges and other organisations.

Andrew Beecher won the volunteer award supporting pupils in gardening club at Admiral Lord Nelson School.

The judges said that he enables pupils to learn new life skills and helps foster self-belief.

Andrew said: "I was blown away when I was nominated as it was unexpected. The journey from being shortlisted to winning has been a rollercoaster ride but one I have enjoyed immensely.

"Winning the award is also recognition for the pupils I work with. Their efforts are my successes too. I would like to thank everyone who put me forward for the award - it has given me a real boost."

We are also delighted that the Innovation award - Sponsored by City of Portsmouth College was won by Chris Furnell of Trafalgar School.

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners!!





Solent Languages Network

We are thrilled to announce that the Solent Language Hub has been successful in securing continued support from the National Consortium for Languages Education (NCLE). As part of this exciting next chapter, we will now lead the National Priority Project for Civic Engagement, recognising the powerful role of languages in building inclusive, outward-facing communities. With this funding, we will transition into a Strategic Learning Network and become known as the **Solent Language Network**.



We will continue to work closely with all the educational settings and valued colleagues we have collaborated with so far and to support the Portsmouth: City of Languages initiative. Our aim, our hope, is for our work to become even more wide-reaching, both in Portsmouth and the Greater Portsmouth area.

This change marks a significant milestone in our journey, enabling us to expand our impact across the region and deepen our engagement with schools, educators, and community partners to champion language learning for all.

Language leaders recognised by German Ambassador

Salterns Language Leaders Rebecca Britti and Aamir Kohli were honoured to have been selected for the German-British Friendship Award – Network Champion for German, recognising their commitment to promoting the German language and strengthening UK-German ties.

The award was presented by the German Ambassador to the UK, Miguel Berger, on Tuesday 24th June at the Ambassador's residence in Belgravia—our sincere thanks to the Goethe-Institut and our European partners for their invaluable collaboration!



Solent Languages Annual Conference

On Wednesday 2nd July, the Solent Languages Network hosted its summer conference, A Love of Languages: Recipes for Success, bringing together language teachers from across the region for a day of professional learning and inspiration. Attendees enjoyed a rich programme of expert-led sessions on topics such as using AI in language education by Jerome Nogues, delivering audio feedback by Jonathan Mumford, adding sparkle to your lessons by Angela Smith, designing engaging curricula by Ian Astbury, and decolonising language teaching by Ellie Chettle-Cully.

We were especially honoured to welcome distinguished guest speakers Bernardette Holmes and Steven Fawkes, whose insights left a lasting impact. The conference was a fantastic opportunity to share ideas, reflect on practice, and celebrate our shared passion for language learning. Attendees were also treated to a preview of the different strands of work being undertaken by the Solent Languages Transition working Party.



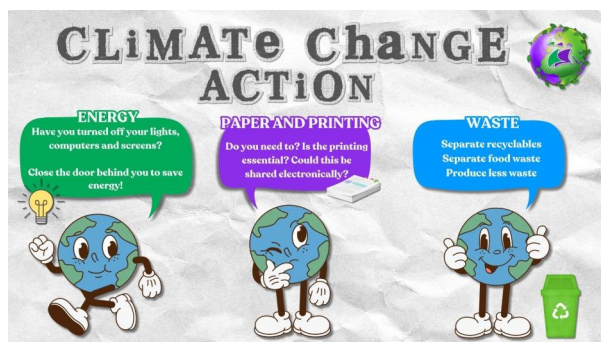
Salterns Schools Launch Ambitious Climate Action Plan!

Salterns Academy Trust, has unveiled an exciting and ambitious **Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan** aimed at transforming all three schools into eco-forward communities by 2026. Developed by Mr Doherty at ALNS and with students, staff, and site leaders at the helm, the plan breaks down big ideas into actionable goals that are already in motion!

Covering topics such as greener energy, walking and cycling to school, recycling and creating nature areas at each school, this isn't just a plan—it's a movement. With everyone involved,

from site teams to students, Salterns is setting the bar for what school sustainability should look like.

Our student leaders are at the core of this work — and next year we will see them collaborating across schools, shaping sustainability messaging, and driving grassroots change. From energy campaigns to running nature areas, the future is in good hands.



Green Tree School Award

We re delighted to announce that Admiral Lord Nelson School has been awarded the Green Tree School Award: Gold, by the Woodland Trust a ds a result of their tree planting scheme. The Woodland Trust's Green Tree Schools Award is an environmental award scheme designed to encourage outdoor learning and inspire pupils about trees, woods, and wildlife, with schools earning points through various activities, and the scheme aims to foster a generation that cares about the environment and benefits from the positive impacts of nature on wellbeing.

Well done everyone involved!



Trafalgar Activities Week 2025

Activities Week 2025 was a brilliant few days filled with fun, new experiences, and the chance for students to learn outside the classroom. There was something for everyone, whether you stayed on site, went on a day trip, or took part in a residential

This year included an exciting range of residential trips both in the UK and abroad. Students travelled to Paris, Germany, Athens, Barcelona, and took part in themed experiences at

Thorpe Park and Gothic London. These trips gave students the chance to explore new places, experience different cultures, and grow in independence.

A special highlight was our first ever Year 7 Camp. It gave our youngest students the chance to enjoy the outdoors, try new things, and build new friendships. Highlights included a t-shirt painting ice-breaker activity, and an incredible evening talent show as well as students cooking their own meals together on the camp stoves.

There were also many exciting day trips. These included the Natural History Museum, Thames boat ride, paintballing, sailing taster day, water sports multi-activity day, Sensas London and Laser Quest, Longleat Safari Park, Go Ape, Chiquito's and bowling, London Dungeon, Harry Potter Studio Tour, Living Rainforest, and Madame Tussauds. Each trip gave students the chance to have fun, try something different, and learn in a new way.

Students also chose to take part in some sessions on site, where there were lots of creative and hands-on activities. These included Stitch and Style, Lego and Retro Gaming, the HSDC Creative Workshop, Chemistry Fun Day, Plan Your Own Festival, and a writing challenge to find the next children's author.

Engagement across the whole week was fantastic and it was great to see so much enthusiasm and teamwork. Many students have reported that it was one of the best weeks of the year! A big thank you to all the staff who planned, supported, and led activities across the week.

We're already looking forward to Activities Week 2026!







Student Visit to Goethe Institut

On Tuesday 8th July, Solent Languages organised an exciting trip to the Goethe-Institut in London for students from three Portsmouth secondary schools. The day was packed with immersive, German-themed activities, beginning with interactive workshops on the Women's Euro Championship and a treasure hunt around the Institut's impressive library. Students then enjoyed a delicious two-course lunch at the traditional German restaurant Stein's, before rounding off the day with a screening of the German film Ostwind. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience German language and culture in an authentic setting, sparking enthusiasm and curiosity beyond the classroom.





Primary Phase Update – A Year of Growth, Enrichment, and Ambition

Our Primary curriculum has truly come to life this year, with pupils enjoying a wide range of trips, workshops, and unforgettable experiences that have deepened their understanding of their year group topics.

- Year R pupils visited Longdown Dairy Farm, where they were able to connect their classroom learning to real-world experiences with animals and farming life.
- Year 1's trip to Harold Hillier Gardens provided rich, hands-on learning linked to seasonal changes and plant life.
- Year 2 pupils were immersed in both local and historical learning through their visit to Sea City Museum and an inspiring workshop on influential women, helping to develop a sense of identity, community, and curiosity about the past.





- Year 5 delved into ancient civilisations during their on-site Mayan Workshop, making cross-curricular connections with history, geography, and art.
- Across various year groups, trips to the Winchester Science Centre enhanced pupils' engagement in STEM learning and encouraged their scientific thinking.





Our Phonics Screening results show continued improvement, with an 8% increase in outcomes compared to last year. This is a direct result of our consistent implementation of the Little Wandle Phonics Scheme, as well as a collective commitment to the importance of early reading.

We continue to embed CUSP Reading and Writing as a key element of our English curriculum. The structure and quality of these materials are helping to raise standards and deepen pupils' understanding of rich texts and effective writing.

In Mathematics, we are steadily developing our staff's confidence and expertise in using the NCETM curriculum. This professional learning journey is supporting more coherent teaching sequences and a stronger emphasis on teaching for mastery.

Looking ahead, we are excited to begin the process of adopting CUSP Geography and History. This move will not only bring greater depth and rigour to our foundation subjects but will also enhance the way we integrate learning across the curriculum—particularly through reading and writing.



We are currently preparing for a transformative new initiative—OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). This project will revolutionise the way our pupils experience lunchtimes, offering

richer, more inclusive and creative play opportunities. We believe that play is fundamental to children's wellbeing, social development, and problem-solving skills, and OPAL will support us in ensuring our outdoor provision reflects this.



Summer Plans

The summer is always a busy time for our Estates and IT teams, with lots of activity across all our sites to ensure our buildings and facilities are well maintained and improved to support the delivery of excellent inclusive education.

Work planned over the summer includes:

- Mayfield School IT upgrades including moving to Arbor Management information System and bringing the school in line with the rest of the trust in terms of its network, This will involve new email addresses for all staff -but don't worry the current emails addresses will continue to work!
- Upgrading all School IT provision to windows 11
- The installation of Solar Panels at Mayfield School
- Fencing repairs and improvements at Mayfield
- Works to improve the quad to create additional outdoor space for students at Trafalgar
- the installing of an upgraded fire alarm system at ALNS
- Repairs, painting and landscape works at all sites





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.salterstrust.co.uk) or contact 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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