

Welcome from the CEO



Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of our termly newsletter! I want to begin by offering an apology for the delayed release of this issue—our recent email migration project, though essential for improving our long-term communications infrastructure, meant that we were unable to issue this newsletter before the end of term - however the improvements this project has delivered to how our staff work has been huge and with continued investment in our it infrastructure across all aspects of the trust - has laid a solid foundation for ongoing improvement

This term, we've seen continued growth and collaboration across all three of our Salterns schools. It was a pleasure to open our recent Trust-wide staff conference, and was delighted to welcome a familiar face: Steve Labeledz, founding CEO of Salterns Trust and former Headteacher of Admiral Lord Nelson School, who is now a valued Member of our Trust. You can read more about our conference below



1 - Nys Hardingham, Steve Labeledz and Matt Hutton

I want to thank our staff for their unwavering commitment to delivering inclusive, high-quality education. Their hard work makes a tangible difference in the lives of our young people every single day. To our students—you continue to amaze and inspire us with your achievements and dedication. And to our parents and community members—thank you for your continued support.

As ever it is not possible to include details of all of the wonderful achievements across our community but I hope you enjoy reading this snapshot of all our Schools have accomplished this term

Trust Conference 2025 - the Power of Connection

On the 20th of January 2025, the Salterns Academy Trust brought together staff from across its three schools for a day of collaboration, inspiration, and professional development. Under the theme “The Power of Connection,” this year’s conference aimed to strengthen networks, build resilience, and harness the benefits of working as a united trust serving over 3,000 students—including, for the first time, primary-aged children.

A highlight of the event was the keynote address by Lemn Sissay, an acclaimed poet, artist, writer, and broadcaster. Sissay’s remarkable journey—from a childhood in foster care to becoming one of Britain’s leading artistic voices—informed his work on identity, social justice, and education. His powerful storytelling and advocacy for equality inspired and resonated with attendees.





Throughout the day staff participated in faculty-specific workshops designed to enhance curriculum development, teaching strategies, and student support. Topics ranged from AI in language learning and Holocaust education to curriculum mastery in Maths and adaptive teaching in primary education.

Beyond academic discussions, the event also served as a vital networking opportunity, enabling teachers and support staff to share best practices and explore innovative approaches to education.

With its focus on connection and collaboration, the 2025 Salterns Academy Trust Conference reaffirmed the Trust's commitment to providing high-quality education and fostering a strong professional communities.

Trust values

At the heart of Salterns Academy Trust's mission is a clear and collective vision: to deliver an excellent and inclusive education that prepares our students for the world of tomorrow .

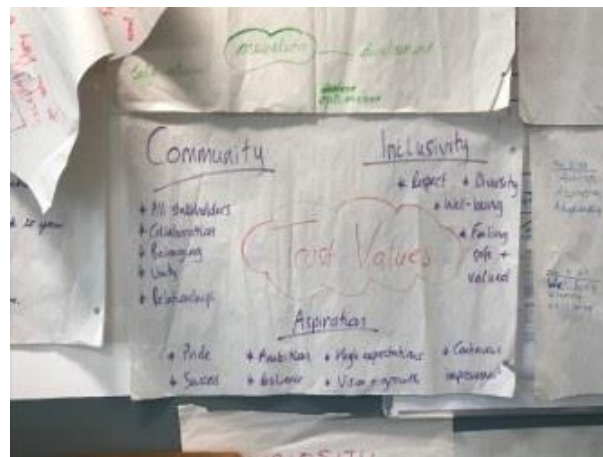
Following our Trust-wide conference in January 2025, where over 450 staff worked together, three guiding values emerged to define who we are as a Trust of three schools: **Inclusion, Aspiration, and Community**

Inclusion ensures every student and staff member feels safe, seen, and supported. We celebrate diversity and remove barriers to success.

Aspiration means we aim high for every learner, nurturing their ambitions and preparing them for lifelong learning and success.

Community reflects our strong culture of connection and collaboration, both within our schools and with families and partners across Portsmouth.

Together, these values form the foundation of our commitment to creating a thriving, respectful, and opportunity-rich environment for all!



Trust Curriculum Directors

A key part of the Trusts school improvement framework is the appointment of curriculum directors - whose role it is to drive curriculum and assessment development across all of our trust schools. Directors of Science and English are in post and working with subject leaders to develop excellence in curriculum and assessment across the trust learning form and sharing good practice in all three schools.



Hi, I'm Catherine Green, Trust Director of English, and since beginning my role in January, I have been working closely with the Heads of English at Trafalgar School and Mayfield School. Together, we have focused on how we can develop teaching and learning across our schools and strengthen the transition from primary to secondary education.

This has involved collaboration with Mayfield Primary School to ensure both challenge and support for our students from Key Stage 1 through to the end of Key Stage 4, preparing them for Key Stage 5. In addition, I have been researching effective pedagogical approaches and strategies to unify and enhance collaboration across our three schools.

A key aspect of this work has been our joint efforts in GCSE moderation, ensuring consistency and high standards. Looking ahead, we are excited to further develop our schemes of learning in the summer term with the support of an external specialist, reinforcing our commitment to excellence in English education across the Trust.



Hello, I'm Paul Greer and I am the Trust Director of Science. As well as leading Science at Mayfield School I am working closely with the brilliant Heads of Science at Admiral Lord Nelson and Trafalgar Schools. I am a firm believer that education in Science is as vital now as it has ever been as we all try to navigate a modern world full of technology and information.

My vision is for all pupils across the Trust to leave school having an excellent understanding of science, skill in communicating ideas and opinions on scientific matters and confidence to critically think about scientific issues. We are endeavouring to not only have an engaging Science curriculum from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4 but have the best teaching to help make the subject come to life.

To begin to achieve our vision, we are going to focus on how to write in Science and in particular, to be able to explain.

Solent Language Hub Hosts the Institut Français at Admiral Lord Nelson School



The Solent Language Hub recently organised a fantastic event at Admiral Lord Nelson School, where students had the exciting opportunity to engage with the Institut Français during their national roadshow's final stop in Portsmouth – Francophonie on the Road! The event, focused on French Impressionism, ocean conservation, and cutting-edge technology, was an enriching experience for students of French from five Portsmouth secondary schools.



Throughout the day, students explored the world of French Impressionist painting, delving into the history and significance of this ground-breaking art movement. As part of the experience, they were able to learn about the famous artist, Monet, while also engaging in discussions around the visual techniques and cultural impact of his work. This was a perfect way to combine history, art, and language learning in a dynamic and creative way. In addition to exploring the world of French art, the event also focused on an important global issue: ocean conservation. Through engaging presentations, puzzles and activities, students learned about the critical role our oceans play in the environment and how we can all contribute to their protection. It was a thought-provoking session, encouraging students to reflect on the importance of sustainability and the role of education in creating positive change.

One of the most exciting features of the day was the opportunity to experience French culture through innovative technology. Students were immersed in a Virtual Reality (VR) experience that allowed them to explore the fascinating world of French Impressionist art from a whole new perspective. The VR experience brought the paintings to life, offering a deeper and more interactive understanding of the art movement. To cap off the event, students watched a short film that further explored French culture, and language, leaving them with a greater appreciation for both the richness of the French language and the importance of cultural exchange. The film served as a perfect conclusion to a day filled with inspiration and learning.

Throughout the event, all activities were conducted in French, giving students the opportunity to practice and immerse themselves in the language. This seamless integration of French into every aspect of the event helped to reinforce language skills in a fun and engaging way.

A huge thank you to the Institut Français for visiting Portsmouth and providing such a memorable experience for our students. The Solent Language Hub is proud to have facilitated this incredible opportunity, and we look forward to more inspiring events that bring language, culture, and learning to life for our students.

School Improvement Update

At Salterns Academy Trust, we are committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best outcomes for our students. Here's a brief update on our latest initiatives and successes.

Supporting Vulnerable Learners We have enhanced Additional Provision (AP) across our schools, with improvements at all three schools including introducing new qualifications. A Trust-wide AP Offer booklet now supports Year 9 students in selecting suitable courses.

Raising Attainment in English and Maths Trafalgar School is on track to meet national GCSE averages, and phonics outcomes at KS1 are predicted to exceed national benchmarks. Trust-wide interventions and cross-school moderation are strengthening assessment accuracy and targeted support across all three schools are in place.

Closing Learning Gaps All schools have clear strategies to support SEND and disadvantaged students, with strong collaboration among Inclusion leaders. An external SEND review at Mayfield School is scheduled for April 2025.

Improving Attendance Attendance is improving across all schools, with Trafalgar exceeding national and local averages. Schools have secured funding for mentoring programs to reduce absenteeism and enhance student engagement.

Strengthening Teaching and Leadership Professional development initiatives, including Trust-wide training, moderation, and leadership programs, are enhancing teaching quality. A new 'Aspiring Senior Leaders' course is now available.

Looking Ahead As we move forward, our focus remains on ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education that prepares them for success. From curriculum development to safeguarding and leadership training, our Trust is united in its vision for excellence. We thank all our staff, parents, volunteers, governors and Trustees for their continued support in driving these improvements and making a difference in our students' lives.

Primary News

Year 4 had an amazing time on their residential trip to Minstead Study Centre in the New Forest. The children enjoyed exploring the natural surroundings during a 3 hour walk, stream-dipping and songs around the campfire. The adults were grateful that the weather mostly behaved whilst they were there too!





Our Key Stage 1 children had some very special animal friends to visit just a couple of weeks ago, courtesy of Wild Science. They had the opportunity to learn about different animals, their habitats and how to care for them with hands-on experiences that sparked curiosity and a love for wildlife.





In another exciting development, our Year R had the chance to watch ducklings hatch right here at school! The children loved learning about the life cycle of ducks and observing the process first-hand.





As part of their recent science learning, Year 5 pupils have been exploring the solar system and made a trip to Winchester Science Museum. They have, over the last few weeks, completed homework projects on the planets, which were both informative, creative and

quite frankly outstanding. It's fantastic to see their enthusiasm for space and thank you to all the supportive parents out there who have enabled them to build such magnificent models!



Festival of Culture at the University of Portsmouth

The Solent Language Hub recently had the pleasure of inviting students from five secondary schools and four primary schools to the exciting Festival of Culture at the University of Portsmouth. This incredible event provided a wonderful opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds to experience and celebrate a world of culture, language, and tradition.

The festival featured a range of cultural stalls representing countries such as Kenya, Bulgaria, Ukraine, the Dominican Republic, Japan, and India. Each stall was an interactive experience, offering a deeper insight into the unique customs, languages, and heritage of these nations. Students had the chance to explore and appreciate the richness of global cultures through a variety of engaging activities.





One of the main highlights was the delicious selection of traditional foods offered at many stalls. From savoury dishes to sweet treats, the food provided a wonderful taste of the different countries represented, allowing students to discover new flavours while learning

about the culinary traditions of each culture. There was even the chance to eat a cooked caterpillar!

In addition to the food, students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the languages and traditions of the featured countries. Many stalls offered the chance to hear and even practice speaking in native languages, bringing a personal connection to the experience. The event also showcased lively music, singing, and dancing performances, adding to the vibrant and dynamic atmosphere.

The Solent Language Hub was proud to invite students to this celebration of diversity, which aimed to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of different cultures. The Festival of Culture was a fantastic occasion that brought students from various backgrounds together, encouraging cross-cultural communication and connection.

Rachel Milne, at Solent Junior School said:

" The children had in their words 'an epic time'. They all spoke in their native languages to stall holders, played games, ate a lot of food and had lots of brilliant experiences. They even came away saying how much they would like to go to Portsmouth university when they are older. I can't tell you how amazing it was, it actually melted my heart to hear them chatting with the students and how they felt connected to it all"

A big thank you to the University of Portsmouth for hosting such a memorable event, and to all the students who joined us for this enriching experience. We look forward to more opportunities to explore and celebrate the diverse cultures that make our community so unique!

Trafalgar School achieves the mainstream and specialist autism accreditation awards



Trafalgar School have achieved both the Autism Accreditation Mainstream Award and The Autism Accreditation Specialist Award through the National Autistic Society. We are the first school in Portsmouth to achieve these awards.

The Autism Accreditation Programme is the UK's only autism-specific quality assurance programme of support and development for all those providing services to autistic people. Achieving accreditation evidences our commitment to understanding autism and setting the

standard for autism practice. It is one of the ways for us to show we offer excellent support to autistic children and adults.

Autism Accreditation is an internationally recognised quality standard and, with over 30 years of accreditation expertise, we are the longest running programme in the world

Easter IT Improvements

Over the Easter break, we completed a major upgrade to our email system across schools within the Salterns Academy Trust. This work was carried out to enhance communication and collaboration between staff at Admiral Lord Nelson School and Trafalgar School.

Why was this work done?

The new system allows staff to work more closely and effectively across sites. Staff can also access shared resources such as OneDrive files, SharePoint sites, and mailboxes from both schools. Additionally, a unified Microsoft Teams environment allows smoother communication and easier collaboration on projects. Staff can now log in at either site using the same credentials, making cross-school working simpler and more efficient.

Important Note:

All ALNS and Trafalgar School have new email addresses:

All previous staff emails will continue to work as normal.

We are also excited to share that **Mayfield School will be joining this system in Summer 2025**, further strengthening collaboration across our trust.

Meet our new Governors!

As a trust we are always on the lookout for committed individuals to join our governing bodies. Jonathon recently joined the Mayfield School Academy Committee as a Parent Governor and has explained below what motivated him to do so. Further information on becoming a school governor is available on the [Trust Website](#) or by contacting clerk@alns.co.uk



I wanted to become a parent governor primarily to be more actively involved in my child's education and future. I care deeply about contributing to the school community and helping shape the environment where my child, along with their peers, can thrive. I believe that by having a voice in the decision-making process, I can help support the school's continued growth and success.

Additionally, I saw this as an opportunity for personal development. Being a parent governor allows me to broaden my skills, particularly in areas such as governance, collaboration, and strategic thinking. It also gives me valuable insight into the education system, which I feel will benefit me both personally and professionally.

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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