



Salterns Academy Trust

Salterns Academy Trust Newsletter - Autumn 24

Issue 6

Welcome from the CEO



Welcome to the December 2024 edition of our termly Newsletter! For the first time, we are enjoying festive celebrations at the end of term in three Salterns schools, across both the primary and secondary phases of education. Visiting the local church to see Mayfield School children from Year R confidently perform their nativity play to a big audience of parents and guests was a wonderful new experience for me at work, and a reminder of the incredible privilege it is for us to work every day supporting the development and nurturing the talent of all the children in our Salterns schools.

A significant change took place on 1st October when Mayfield School formally joined Salterns Trust and we are already reaping the benefits of the increased opportunities for

collaboration that this brings to our school leaders. Headteachers from all 3 schools are now guiding the ongoing development of Salterns Trust, and also working alongside Deputies and Assistant Heads to further develop our inclusive practice and continue to develop our high-quality curriculum experience for all our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our fantastic staff for their commitment and dedication over the past term – they do a superb job as they work tirelessly every day to help each child experience success and develop a love of learning. We are immensely proud of our students, and you can see some of our celebrations of their successes in this newsletter. I want to thank them for all their hard work over this past term and thank their parents, we really value their support. Whether you are reading this as a member of staff, a parent, a volunteer, a student, or a member of our local community, I send you my warmest wishes for an enjoyable time over the festive season!

Mayfield School - Welcome to the Salterns Academy Trust



We are delighted to have formally welcomed Mayfield School into the Trust from 1st October 2024. The event was marked with a gathering of Mayfield school staff and School and Trust leaders to reflect on the history of the Trust and the new journey we will be taking together.

As part of the Trust, Mayfield will continue its rapid improvement journey supported by colleagues from across Admiral Lord Nelson and Trafalgar Schools - as well as contributing to the further development of the wider trust and the schools within it.





A Busy Time at the Solent Language Hub!

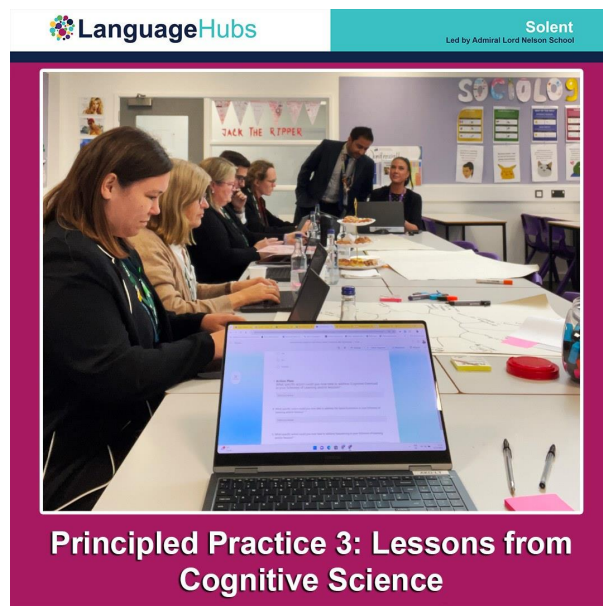
The Solent Language Hub has had an incredibly productive start to the academic year, marked by exciting initiatives and impactful collaborations.

In September, we hosted our **third Working Group meeting**, bringing together educators from across the Primary, Secondary, Further, and Higher Education sectors. This diverse representation fostered meaningful dialogue about the future of language education.

Our Specialist Lead Teachers, **Rebecca Britti** and **Aamir Kohli**, delivered **core CPD sessions on Principled Practice** to our partner schools. These sessions emphasised evidence-based teaching strategies, empowering educators to elevate their practice. Additionally, we were honoured to welcome **Suzanne Graham** as a guest speaker. Her insightful talk on "Motivation through Foundational Knowledge" provided valuable perspectives on how to inspire students in language learning.

Work has also continued with **Liz Lord**, our primary Hub lead, who is deeply committed to improving the transition to secondary school. Liz has worked closely with a great number of primary schools across the city, fostering collaboration and continuity in language education. In addition, Liz recently organised a successful Teach Meet that brought together over 40 primary and secondary colleagues. The event, which included a session led by **Vicky Gough** from the British Council, provided an excellent platform for sharing best practices and strengthening partnerships across educational phases.





Looking ahead, we're excited to host several enriching initiatives in the coming months. In **January 2024**, the Goethe-Institut will deliver **bespoke German Days** for primary and secondary students, offering immersive experiences designed to inspire a love for language learning. In **March**, a city-wide celebration will spotlight Portsmouth's cultural richness through the themes of **Home, Heritage, and Community Languages**, showcasing the importance of diversity and intercultural understanding.

These initiatives align with the broader mission of the **National Consortium for Languages Education (NCLE)** to make language learning inclusive, dynamic, and impactful for all students. Through the combined efforts of the NCLE and its Lead Hubs, including the Solent Language Hub, we are making meaningful strides to transform language education and unlock its full potential for learners across England.

Celebrating Our Students Success

In November ALNS hosted their annual Awards Evening to celebrate the successes of our outstanding students during the academic year 2023/24. Over 100 of our students across year groups 8-12 won awards. As well as students, parents and carers the event was attended by award sponsors and other special guests who helped present the awards and make the evening that little bit more special.

It really was an evening full of celebration, and in between the presentation of the awards there was performances from the schools very own up and coming singers, musicians and dancers who displayed their amazing talents. The evening concluded with a very inspirational and somewhat humorous speech from the Co-Chair of Governor's – Mrs Jane Beecher.

At Trafalgar School, an evening of celebration was held this half term to celebrate the outstanding achievements and recognise the incredible efforts and successes of our students from last academic year. The evening started with a welcome from our Head Boy and Head Girl and saw musical performances from some of our hugely talented Year 11's. Students won awards in subject areas as well as for overall academic achievement and excellent attendance. Our much-coveted values awards were also won by students who consistently demonstrated these both within and beyond our school community.

The evening was also a chance for our previous Year 11 students to return and collect their GCSE certificates whilst enjoying canapes and drinks catching up with each other and their teachers.

Mayfield School also proudly hosted a remarkable Presentation Evening to celebrate the outstanding achievements of their students. The event highlighted their dedication, talent, and hard work through a range of Curriculum Awards and 11 special awards, each nominated by staff to recognise exceptional effort and success.

Adding to the evening's excitement, our talented dance team delivered two spectacular performances, fresh from their triumph at '*Dance Live*'. Their energy and skill engaged the audience, making the evening even more memorable.

Parents, pupils, and staff came together to enjoy a fantastic celebration, sharing drinks and canapes while reflecting on the incredible accomplishments of Mayfield Students.











A massive thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to the success of all of awards and celebration events – the staff who organised, nominated, and supported these evenings,

and the parents who have continually supported their children throughout the year. Finally, a massive congratulations to our amazing Salterns pupils. Your achievements inspire us all and set the bar for the future students to reach even greater heights.

Mayfield Nativity

Trust leaders were delighted to attend the Mayfield School Year R Nativity that took place at The Parish Church of the Ascension on Stubbington Avenue. Our students proudly performed to a packed church of parents, carers and staff, and we are sure you will agree that they all looked spectacular in their costumes. Well done year R!!





Portsmouth Festival of Friends Project

Trafalgar School has been working with the Armed Forces Education Trust on an exciting project with our service children.

The project aims to help to mitigate the disadvantage that sometimes befalls children of members of the armed forces. With key partners we are working to support the most disadvantaged children to improve education that has been compromised or put at risk by their parents' service.

Over that past 5 years the Armed Forces Trust has given grants of over £3 million which as:

- Helped numerous service children through individual grants.
- Helped 100s of service children through collective grants.
- Budgeted grant spend of £600k per annum.



The Festival of Friends is a year-long model of collaborative, peer-supported activity for supporting Service children across our area, in association with Portsmouth University and supported by the Local Authority. It aims to develop and share good practice, upskill teaching staff, and encourage service children (and their parents) to consider the benefits that Further and Higher Education can have post-16.

We are delighted that Trafalgar School is a lead school for the Portsmouth hub - supporting our service pupils with this important and exciting project.

Holocaust Memorial Trust Visit – An Immersive Learning Experience

In November, thirty Year 9 students at Admiral Lord Nelson School had a unique opportunity to engage with history in a deeply immersive way, thanks to the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Using advanced virtual reality equipment, students spent the afternoon exploring the life of Manfred, a Jewish-German Holocaust survivor. Through an innovative virtual technique, students were able to interact with Manfred, asking questions and gaining a firsthand perspective on his experiences during one of history's darkest periods.

Following this, the students virtually visited Holocaust sites, including concentration camps, bringing to life the stories they had learned and enhancing their understanding of the Holocaust's impact.

The visit was an eye-opening and emotional experience, allowing students to connect with history in a powerful, modern way.





Focus on Personal Development

At the Salterns Trust we pride ourselves on providing an outstanding education to all of our students. In addition to the core curriculum, students also experience days when the usual timetable is suspended and each year group undertakes a different whole day experience designed to further their education outside the curriculum.

Below is a snapshot of the latest PD day at Trafalgar School, which saw students undertake a wide range of activities to help them develop skills and experiences that prepare them for the future through a number of different exciting and challenging activities. The day included:

Year 7 ventured to Fort Purbrook, where they took part in team-building activities designed to improve communication, problem-solving, and collaboration. The day was packed with challenges that encouraged students to work together and build trust. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to strengthen friendships and learn the value of teamwork in a fun, active setting.

Year 8 tackled the Unloc Business and Enterprise Challenge, a hands-on programme that encouraged them to think creatively and work as a team. Students were asked to solve real-world problems, develop innovative ideas, and present their solutions confidently. It was a great way for them to practise critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills in a business-focused environment.

Year 9 took on the role of detectives during our ever-popular CSI Day. They learnt about forensic techniques such as fingerprint analysis and evidence gathering as they worked together to solve a mock crime. The mystery of who “murdered” Mr Dudley (who, thankfully, made a miraculous recovery!) had students fully engaged, using their problem-solving and analytical skills in a practical and exciting way.

Year 10 stepped into the world of work with The Big Interview, where they had the opportunity to practise their interview skills with real employers. Students were coached on how to present themselves professionally, gaining invaluable feedback and advice. This

year's event was our most successful yet, with many students impressing the professionals and gaining confidence in their abilities.

For Year 11, the day focused on preparing for the next steps in their academic journey. Students took part in exam booster sessions to refine their revision techniques and build confidence ahead of their GCSEs. They also attended college preparation workshops, which provided useful advice on applications and helped them feel more prepared for life after Trafalgar.









It was a productive and rewarding experience for all involved and we look forward to seeing the impact of these activities as our students continue to grow and achieve.

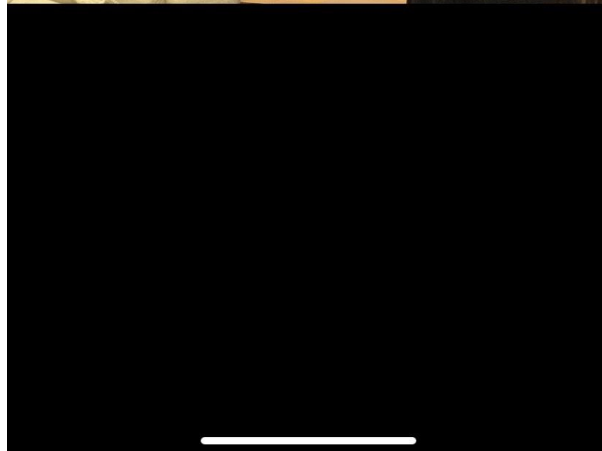
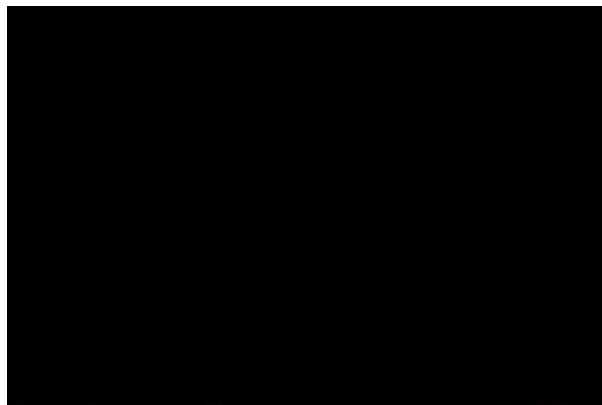
Salterns Trust & HISP - working in partnership to deliver teacher training

We have had another busy term working in partnership with HISP Teaching Hub to deliver a range of CPD to colleagues both from within the city and beyond!

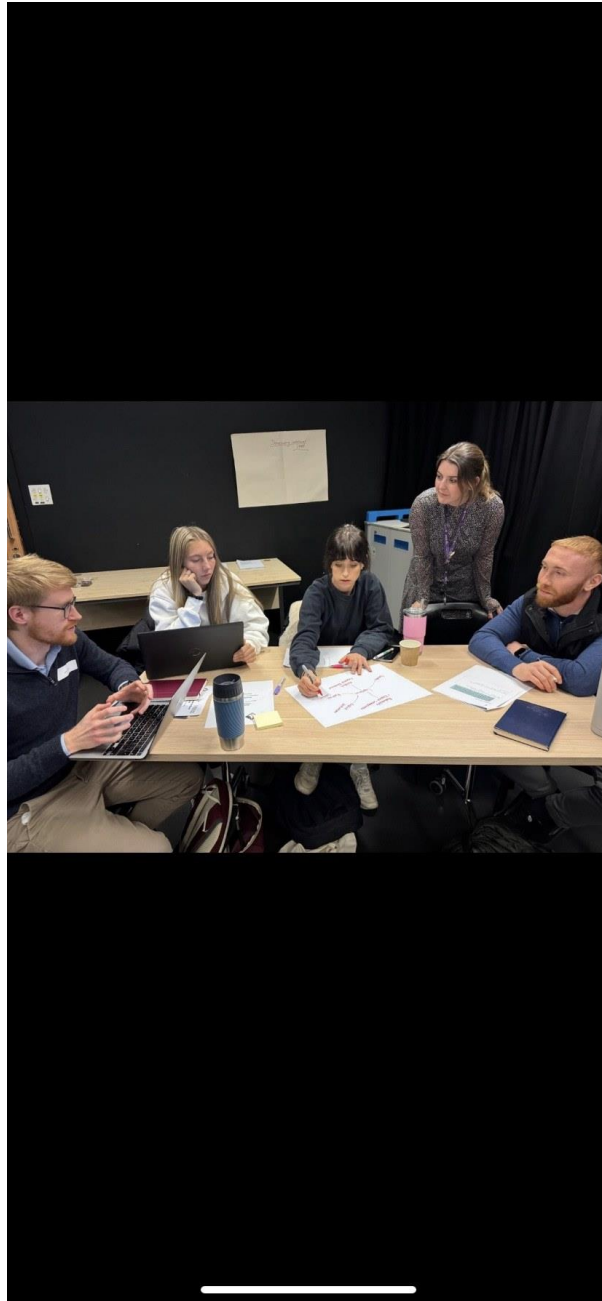
A huge thank you to leaders across the Trust who have been involved in facilitating National Professional Qualifications in Leading Teaching, Leading Behaviour and Culture, Senior Leadership, Headship and Special Educational Needs. Well over 100 teaching colleagues from across the region have been working closely with us attending the face to face training sessions, including leaders from within our Trust.

This is an incredible internationally recognised programme to be supporting and is strengthening practice at all levels of leadership. In addition, colleagues from Trafalgar and ALNS continue to be leading facilitation of the Early Career Framework for a huge number of ECT's. This has included facilitating and hosting both local and regional training sessions as well as visiting local schools to support the quality assurance of ECT induction.

A huge congratulations to all our ECT's who have successfully completed their first (Year 1) and fourth (Year 2) terms of induction!



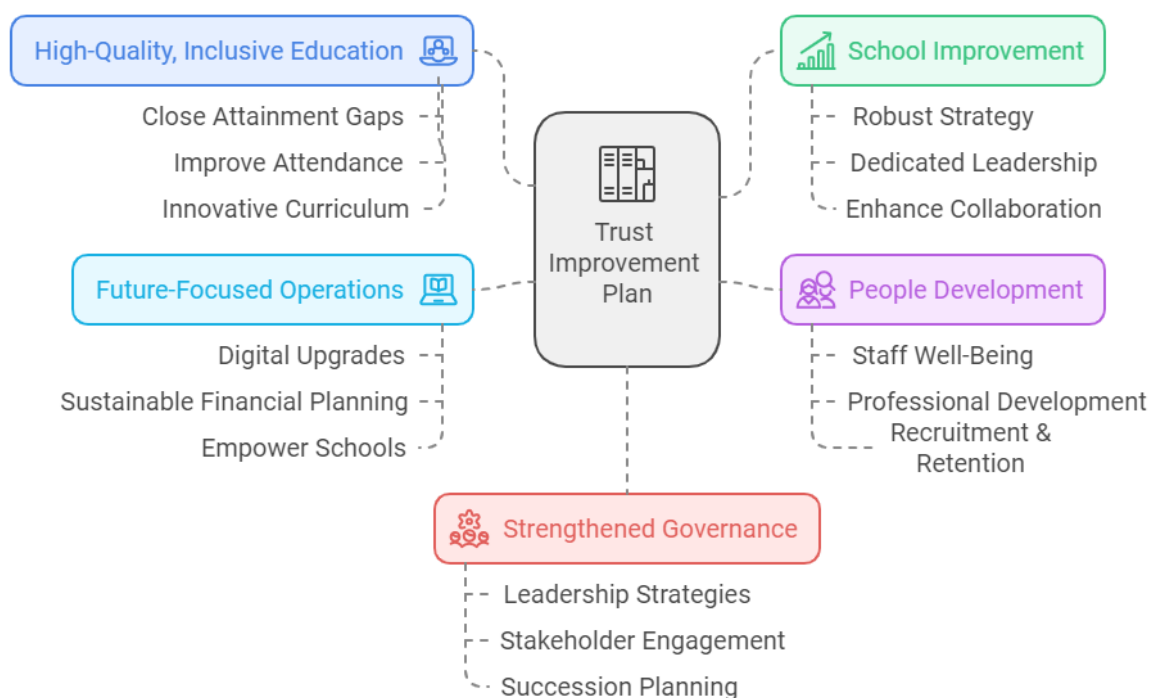




The Trust Improvement Plan

We are excited to unveil the Trust Improvement Plan 2024-2027—a bold roadmap designed to continually improve educational outcomes, enrich our students' learning experiences, and grow our thriving community across our three schools. Guided by our vision to provide an excellent and inclusive education, this plan places the success and well-being of every student and staff member at its heart.

Key Highlights of the Plan include:



With collaboration and innovation driving every step, this plan positions us to transform lives through education. Stay tuned for updates as we achieve these milestones together!

Meet our new Governors!

As a trust we are always on the lookout for committed individuals to join our governing bodies. James and Lisa recently joined the Trafalgar School Local Governing Body and have explained below what motivated them to do so. In addition we welcome new parent Governors at Mayfield School - who we will profile in our next newsletter. Further information on becoming a school governor is available on the [Trust Website](#) or by contacting clerk@alns.co.uk

James said:

“A good education is a fortune a child can never spend” (Andrew Reed). When I was first told this quote as a child I’m not sure I fully believed or appreciated it. However towards the end of my childhood years, leaving school and transitioning into adult life I realised just how true it was. Now more so than ever I truly believe this quote and it forms the foundations of why I chose to pursue a role as a governor.

Lisa said:

I am delighted to become a Parent Governor at Trafalgar School. Having been a parent here for 9 years and the proud mother of 3 children who have all attended the school, I am excited to support the headteacher, staff, and the wider school community in this new role.

I am particularly passionate about strengthening the links between primary and secondary education to ensure that students transition smoothly through their educational journey. As a local primary school teacher, my experiences provide me with valuable insights into how children develop as individuals. This unique perspective helps me relate to parents/carers and understand the challenges they face in supporting their children's development.

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) or contact clerk@alns.co.uk

In memoriam

Justeen White, a longstanding and highly regarded member of the Admiral Lord Nelson Local Governing Body, sadly passed away in October.

Justeen was a valued member of the school community and had been on the Governing Body since 2018, supporting the LGB and the school with her extensive knowledge of finance and as the link Governor for SEND

Justeen, and her contribution to the community at Admiral Lord Nelson School, will be greatly missed.

Trust AGM

 Salterns Academy Trust

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 15TH JANUARY 2025

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the Salterns Academy Trust will take place on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 18:00 hours to transact the following business:

- To receive the Trust annual report and audited accounts
- To elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the Trust Board
- To confirm the Trust's auditors
- Receive an update from the Trust CEO and Chair of the Board
- To respond to any questions submitted in advance by Parents, families, and other members of the community.

We welcome Parents, families, and other members of the community to attend this meeting via Microsoft Teams, and to submit questions to be answered by the board.

To allow sufficient time for informed answers to be provided by Trust leaders, questions must be submitted no later than 24 hours before the scheduled start time of the meeting.

To register your interest in attending this meeting, or to submit a question to be answered at the meeting, please contact clerk@alns.co.uk

Please be advised that recording of the meeting is prohibited.



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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c/o Admiral Lord Nelson School, Dundas Lane, Portsmouth PO3 5XT

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