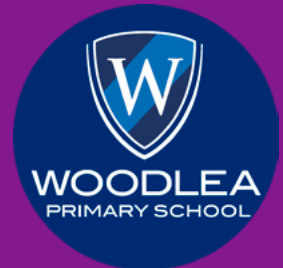


Tandridge Learning Trust

Trust Talk
Parent Edition
December 2022



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Tandridge Learning Trust!



The Autumn Term is always such a busy time in our schools and this one has been no exception. This edition of Trust Talk should give you a flavour of all the exciting things which have been taking place in our schools. It is so good to see our

pupils taking part in learning beyond the classroom again and this edition highlights the benefits of learning about History through high quality and impactful experiences both for our younger pupils and our more senior students.

Despite the difficult economic climate, we have seen the completion of some important improvements to our school premises across the Trust over the last few months. Each year we

review the condition surveys for our school buildings and assess the priority areas we should be investing in to maintain and improve our premises for the future.

Warlingham has had new fire doors fitted in the main building and the College toilets have been fully renovated with further external repairs ongoing.



Rebecca Plaskitt

Hamsey Green has benefited from a new boiler and heating system across the school which has been completed in plenty of time for the cold season, which is now upon us. The new boiler will hopefully be much more efficient and economic, which is so important as we see the huge rise in energy prices this year.



Bletchingley Village Primary School & Nursery has upgraded their door security system, refurbished the Nursery and the toilets and resurfaced their car park.



Tatsfield Primary School has seen improvements in school security and CCTV.



Woodlea Primary School has had some extensive work undertaken in terms of damp proofing.



This year we are focused upon improving our ICT provision and planning a medium to long term IT strategy for improvement in all our schools.

We are currently seeking a new Chair of Governors for Woodlea Primary School, if you know of anyone who might be interested do please direct them to more information, which can be found on pages 4-5. Woodlea is a fabulous village school with so much to offer and the work of our Local Governing Committees is so important. We hope to find someone who can spare us some time and enthusiasm to lead this committee.

We continue our online safety guides for parents linked to *National Online Safety* and *Common Sense Media* and this term we have an article on page 14 all about TikTok, which has a very high profile currently. We encourage you to read this.

This term we have witnessed increasing rates of absence across our schools and we want to work closely with families to try and



reduce this if we can. The article on pages 8 and 9 shares some important facts and statistics around pupil attendance and the impact this has on studies at all ages. Although we fully recognise that absence due to illness can be hard to avoid, we urge all parents to continue to work with your school to support us in reducing pupil absence wherever possible.

As this term draws to a close, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and seasons greetings to you all! We hope you enjoy the holidays and make the most of family time together.

Warmest wishes

Rebecca



Woodlea Primary School is a one-form entry school, situated in the beautiful country village of Woldingham. The school joined Tandridge Learning Trust in May 2017 and works closely with the other schools in the MAT to offer the best possible education for all pupils, seeking improved outcomes through mutual support and collaboration.

The main school building is a former country house which has been adapted for school use with the addition of a hall, kitchen and cloakroom areas. The school also has an additional, purpose-built, four-class junior building adjacent to the house.

The grounds provide a rich and varied environment including woods, a pond and an environmental area in addition to their 'paddock', a multi-use games area and a trim trail. The nearby Glebe offers sporting facilities for team games and athletics.

This friendly school is very much about partnership; its children are full of enthusiasm and are well supported by dedicated, experienced staff who benefit from excellent parental involvement.

Woodlea is currently seeking an enthusiastic and passionate individual to Chair its Local Governing Committee (LGC). This volunteer position would suit dedicated people who care about improving education. It is a perfect role for professionals looking to improve their skills, give back to society and enhance children's futures.

Good governance is central to the work of Tandridge Learning Trust, providing rigour, support, challenge and accountability. Those involved in our governance share a common aim which is to secure the best possible life changes for the children and young people in our care.

Our LGCs are made up of a wide variety of different people: some are parents, some have commercial backgrounds, some are members of the community with its interests at their heart.

Local Governing Committee Chair?



For more information about this opportunity and how to apply please [click here](#). Alternatively, if you would like to arrange an informal chat with Steve Burn, Chair of Trustees, Tandridge Learning Trust, please contact us by emailing Info@TandridgeLearningTrust.co.uk. You are also very welcome to visit our Trust and/or Woodlea Primary School, contact us on the email address above to arrange a visit.

For further information about Woodlea's LGC, please see the [Governance page](#) of Woodlea's website.

Tandridge Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to demonstrably share this commitment. Successful candidates will be subject to safer recruitment checks, including an enhanced DBS check.

Very few come with any background educational experience, but they all bring different personal and professional knowledge and skills which can be beneficial and valuable to the LGC.

You will need to attend meetings approximately six times per year, normally in the early evening. In addition, you will work closely with the Headteacher, supporting the development of an environment conducive to enhancing children's learning experiences.

This role would provide the right candidate with a great opportunity to contribute to the community as well as to develop your business and leadership skills.





It was starting to look a lot like Christmas at Hamsey and Acorns as the children (and staff) took on their Enterprise challenge! To help the children develop an understanding of the world of business, marketing and selling, they choose a product to sell, learn about material costs for profit and loss and persuasive advertisement!

This culminated in the children pitching to the Dragons in a Dragon Assembly. This year, we were lucky to have our very own Trust Director of Finance & IT, Becky Rush, and Kathryn Sussemilch, Finance Officer for the Trust as guest judges.

From the youngest children in Acorns Nursery who pitched some Christmassy playdough to the Primary pupils persuading the judges to invest in their products ranging from slime to various Christmas decorations and yummy treats, it was a close call!

The winning product pitch was Year 1's, with their very cute sock snowmen. The children then worked very hard to make their products to sell at the Winter Wonderland on Friday 2nd December. With sparkling fairy lights and hot chocolate with marshmallows flowing, it was a great success, raising money for a new light and sound system for the hall.



and Winter Wonderland

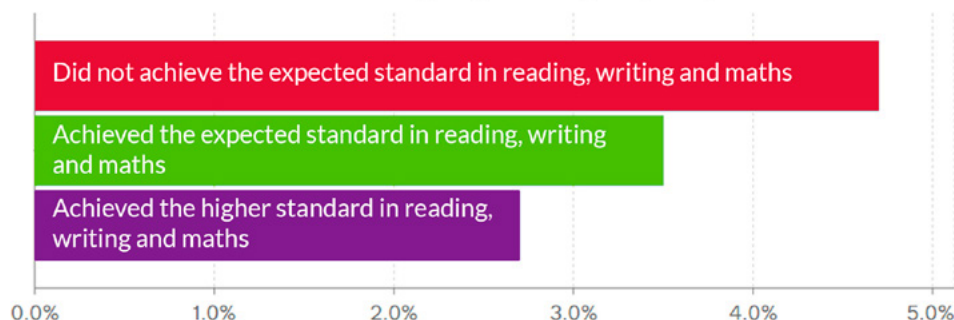


Being in school is important to children's achievement, wellbeing, and their wider development and evidence shows that those pupils with the highest attendance gain the best exam results.

Why is attendance important?

Reasons for children to attend regularly at their Early Years setting are to support their learning and development, to make sure that children are kept safe, their wellbeing is promoted, and they do not miss out on their entitlements and opportunities. Social interaction with their peers is critical to support children's learning in the Early Years. Good attendance promotes good outcomes for children. Missing school also has a significant impact on GCSE results: Pupils with no absence are over twice as likely to achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades 5-9 including English and Maths.

Overall absence rate over the key stage by attainment in reading, writing and maths at the end of key stage 2 in England (2019)



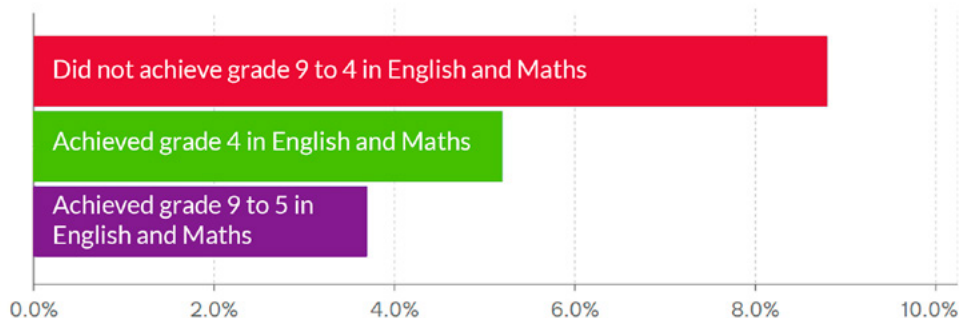
Government data from the 2018-2019 Academic Year shows that:

- Pupils with higher attainment at Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) and Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) had lower levels of absence over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment.
- Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 4.7% over the key stage, compared with 3.5% among pupils who achieved the expected standard and 2.7% among those who achieved the higher standard.
- Pupils who did not achieve grade

9 to 4 in English and maths GCSEs in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 8.8% over the key stage, compared with 5.2% among pupils who achieved a grade 4 and 3.7% among pupils who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths.

- Generally, the higher the percentage of sessions missed across the key stage at KS2 and KS4, the lower the level of attainment at the end of the key stage.
- Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who

Overall absence rate over the key stage by attainment in English and Maths GCSEs at the end of key stage 4 in England (2019)



were persistently absent.

- Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent.
- These trends are similar to those seen in previous years, published in the following research reports: 'The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4: 2012 to 2013 academic year' and 'Absence and attainment at key stages 2 and 4: 2013 to 2014'.

Source: 'The links between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4'. [Click here](#) to view the full data.

How does lack of attendance in school affect a child's behaviour?

Poor attendance can affect a child's ability to make and keep friendships which is a vital part of growing up and socialisation. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school and on through senior school will help your child develop good habits for later on in their life. Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other children in the class.

Research has also shown that children who are not in school can become vulnerable. For example,

children who play truant are more likely to be drawn into crime than those who do not.

All parents want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. They only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school or alternative provision regularly.

We ask all parents to make sure that your child attends on every school day unless they are unwell. Each of our schools has an attendance policy which all parents should be aware of.

For any queries regarding absence/attendance or for further information, please contact the school on the appropriate email address below.

Info@BletchingleyTLT.co.uk

Office@HamseyTLT.co.uk

School@TatsfieldTLT.co.uk

V.Stokes@WarlinghamTLT.co.uk

Info@WoodleaTLT.co.uk



Bletchingley pupils have had an action-packed term, full of learning both in and out of school.

Here are some of the highlights...

The youngest children are now well settled in school and have been busy learning about the world around them. Badger Class enjoyed making homes for hedgehogs outdoors.



Year 2 pupils have loved their learning outdoors this term and created some natural pictures in the style of Andy Goldsworthy and Chris Drury.

In October, Bletchingley welcomed Nabhi into the school, who shared



with pupils and staff the story of Rama and Sita and why Diwali is an important part of the Hindu faith. It was a great introduction to Diwali, in preparation for the school's Hinduism RE Day at the end of the month. Nabhi is part of a Temple in Coulsdon, which the school will be visiting later this year.



n-packed learning!



During Black History Month, Year 3 put their History skills to good use to research the lives of famous black people from history. They used different primary and secondary

sources such as photographs, videos and information books to learn about the lives of Martin Luther King Jnr, Rosa Parks and Mary Seacole. The children thought about the contribution they each made to the world and how history would have been different if those people hadn't acted the way they had.

Pupils from Years 1 to 6 took part in some cooking sessions with a local Jamaican chef. The children made fried dumplings, jerk chicken, plantain and saltfish fritters, which was enjoyed by many! They heard about some Jamaican traditions and how food is an important part of Jamaican culture.

On Remembrance Sunday, representatives from Years 4 and 5 took part in the local village service



and laid a wreath in honour of those that we were commemorating.

Each class created a wreath in school as part of their reflections.





Tatsfield's Year 6 class got the new academic year off to an active start by taking part in the Surrey Bikeability Scheme. The scheme was arranged over a period of two weeks.

Well done to Eagle Class for taking part in sunshine and rain! The instructors were very complimentary about the children's

attitude and behaviour which is lovely to hear.



In the week beginning Monday 10 October Year 6 went for their residential visit to PGL in Little Canada on the Isle of Wight, accompanied by Mrs Pascal, Mr Bellinger and Mrs Ellis. The group all had a lovely week, helped by some lovely autumn sunshine.



- out and about



Activities included, buggy building, archery, abseiling, zip wire, giant swing, trapeze and much, much more. A very big thanks to the members of staff who gave up their time to take the children away and well done to Year 6 for their impeccable behaviour. They were a credit to the school!

On Wednesday 16 November, Kestrel Class went to visit the Horniman Museum. There they

attended a workshop about ancient Egypt to link in with their topic. The children were able to handle real ancient artefacts and got to pretend to be archaeologists. Around the galleries, they also found lots of interesting things in the natural history section. The children had a wonderful day, thank you to Mrs Russell, Mr Hill and Mr Bellinger who kindly accompanied the children along with two parent volunteers.





During this edition of Trust Talk, we felt it was important to focus on TikTok in our online safety feature.

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets users create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text.

TAKE NOTE!

Common sense recommends the app for age 15+ mainly due to the privacy issues and mature content. TikTok requires that users be at least 13 years old to use the basic TikTok features; however, there is a way for younger children to access the app, so parents need to be vigilant.

Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around 1 billion active users worldwide.

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns - leading to irritability - and distract them from other activities.

TikTok offers a few ways for parents and carers to manage children's accounts. You can enable time limits and the content filter on your child's phone and protect the settings with a passcode. Or you can download

TikTok, create your own account, and use the Family Pairing feature to manage your child's TikTok settings using your phone. (If you choose Family Pairing, you'll need your kid's phone to sync the settings.) Ensuring appropriate privacy settings is also important.

The website Common Sense Media gives detailed instructions about parental controls and privacy settings. You can access the relevant page by [clicking here](#).

There is also a video that explains what TikTok is, which you can watch by clicking the image below.



r parents: TikTok

National Online Safety produces a very helpful guide for parents that covers Tik Tok. This has recently been updated (November 2022). In the guide - which you can access by clicking the image on the right hand page - you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as age-inappropriate content, addiction and in-app spending.

From January, we will be regularly sharing the National Online Safety guides on our social media feeds so be sure to follow us:



<https://www.facebook.com/TandridgeLearningTrust/>



<https://twitter.com/TandLearnTrust>

If there is a subject in particular that you would welcome more information on, please do let us know by emailing us: Info@TandridgeLearningTrust.co.uk.



TAKE NOTE!

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On Saturday 3rd December, Woodlea celebrated its first Christmas Fair since the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. The PTA and many of the staff worked hard until late on the Friday night to set up the Grotto and other stalls.

The next morning, the preparations continued and at 12pm the doors opened! Mulled wine, present wrapping and piping hot tomato soup were some of the things on offer for families. A wealth of craft and games stalls filled the junior classrooms and the Elves prepared the children for their visit to Father Christmas in his grotto. The choir also performed a selection of carols.

It was lovely to see many Woodlea families at the fair, including grandparents and past pupils.

The staff and children have also been working hard to prepare for the Key Stage 1 Nativity and are looking forward to performing the Nativity in school.

Meanwhile, Key Stage 2 pupils were preparing to sing Christmas Carols at the local church - another event which last took place pre-pandemic.

It is so lovely to be able to return to all the traditional events which bring the school community together in the run-up to Christmas!



ing to Woodlea!





On Thursday 10th November, four Warlingham Sixth Form College students and the Head of College, Rupen Chotai, had the privilege of visiting the Holocaust Memorial and Museum at Auschwitz in Poland. This was part of a project that they undertook through the *Lessons from Auschwitz Project* run by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

To participate in the project, students were invited to submit statements of applications and the College was fortunate to receive several excellent statements. Normally, only two places are available to each school / college but, on this occasion, Warlingham was awarded two additional places. On the Sunday before the trip, the students participated in a 2.5 hour seminar, where they learnt about pre-war Jewish life and the circumstances leading to the Holocaust.

On the day of the trip, the group met

very early at Gatwick, along with 150 students and teachers from other schools and colleges, ready for take-off at 6.30am.

Rupen Chotai describes the experience below:

Nothing I write here can fully do justice to our visit. 'Shocking' and 'unbelievable' are words that somehow don't fully convey the feelings we all had during the day in which we visited two camps; one a concentration camp and the other an extermination camp. We were fortunate to have an extremely knowledgeable tour guide



It is very easy to become overwhelmed by the numbers involved and, therefore, a key part of the project is to humanise the stories. Throughout the day, we were told very poignant, personal stories about many of the people who suffered and died reducing many of the students and staff to tears at various points during the trip.

Our visit ended with an incredibly moving memorial service in between the remains of the two giant crematoria, where up to two thousand people at a time were murdered. Whether religious or not, it was impossible not to have your emotions stirred as we lit candles in the dark.

and an educator from the Holocaust Educational Trust who were able to paint a vivid yet dark picture of the horrors that had taken place at these sites. These ranged from the well-known gassing of millions of innocent people, to the experimentation on children.



“At the end of the day, we all lit a candle, said some prayers and held silence for the victims of the Holocaust. I am so grateful that I was able to be a part of such an educational trip that has completely changed my perspective of life. It is truly something I will never forget.”

Alanna B, Year 13 Student



“When we left the camps, I felt numb. You hear about the horrors but only when you see the barracks and how cold it is to sleep, when you see the names of millions who died and yet so many blank pages of the ones who are forgotten in human history, it's impossible to come back down to earth.”

Noah R, Year 12 Student

Finally, the project was summed up best in the words of one of our students who, as we were leaving, said to me, “Everyone in our generation NEEDS to make this visit.” It was a very long day, as we returned at 10.30pm.

After the visit, we attended a follow-up seminar. During this, we were honoured to hear a first-hand account of the atrocities from a Holocaust survivor. Although in his 90s, the eloquence and clarity with which he spoke will stay with me forever. A key purpose of the programme is for participants to become Holocaust ambassadors. Unsurprisingly, the

number of living survivors is growing smaller and smaller, and so it is vital that there are people who are able to advocate for them in years to come. Part of this is for the students involved to prepare a follow-up activity where they can present their thoughts to a wider audience, for example through assemblies, and the College Team looks forward to seeing their plans later in the year.

Detailed accounts from the students who attended the trip, are available on the Warlingham Website, please [click here](#) to read them.

Thank you to Rupen Chotai, Head of College at Warlingham, for escorting the students and for writing such a moving article about his experiences.

LESSONS FROM Auschwitz



“Our final destination at Auschwitz 1 was to see a replica of a gas chamber, which was restored to its original state after the Nazis tried to blow the gas chambers up to hide the evidence of mass murder. It took some courage for me to enter but I did, and I could feel my chest being pushed down and just the overwhelming feeling of sadness. I tried to make sense of it but it's just impossible.”

Rajveer U, Year 13 Student



“Whilst it was distressing to see, knowing the true stories of the Holocaust and its victims is both an honour and responsibility to teach others and keep the Holocaust from being forgotten.”

Daisy B, Year 12 Student

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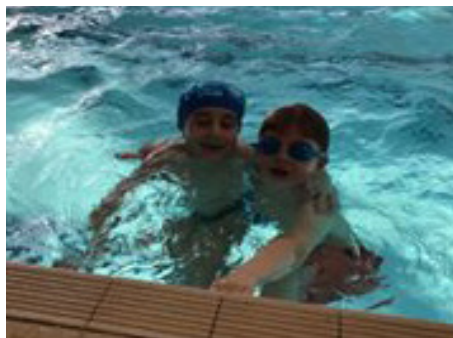
School Holiday

Sports & Activity Camp



Camp 4 Champs provides an active environment where children can experience fun, make friends and develop new skills. Their excellent staff can help children understand the power of sport, without the pressure of competition. The activities are inclusive to all abilities so everyone can achieve and have fun.

The sports and activity camps are open to children from 4-14 years old and run from 9am-4pm, (with extended hours available, 8am-6pm). There are camps running during the Christmas break at Warlingham School & Sixth Form College from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd December 2022.



Children can take part in a variety of activities, including: swimming, nerf wars, arts and crafts, cookery, and various sports, so will have lots of fun!

Camp Prices

Single Day £33

Full Week £150

Early / Extended Camp £7

To book, [click here](#).

Funding

Camp 4 Champs has secured funding for this Christmas camp for those parents/carers eligible for Free School Meals (FSM's) including the provision of lunch. If you are eligible to book a FREE place, you will receive an email from your child's/children's school with a unique code.





Following on from our successful MAT Conference Day on Wellbeing, September's MAT Conference was focussed on creating a positive culture and consistent approach to behaviour throughout our Trust. Staff also had a Safeguarding update.

The first keynote speaker was Dave Whitaker, author of *The Kindness Principle*. He explained how relationships should be at the heart of behaviour management and culture, and he set out the ways in which the adoption of relational approaches can help create safer and happier schools.



Sarah Dove, author of *Behaving Together in the Classroom* followed by giving staff some practical strategies outlining collaborative approaches to supporting positive behaviours.

The last session was statutory safeguarding training, which was delivered expertly by Ian McGraw,



who we have been working with for a few years now. Ian is capable of delivering some difficult messages and updates in a very engaging and easy to understand manner.

We are delighted to report that we have secured Mark Finnis, author of *Independent Thinking on Restorative Practice: Building relationships, improving behaviour and creating stronger communities*, to work with each of our schools during their January INSET.



Tandridge Learning Trust



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WOODLEA
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