

TRUST MATTERS

Southport
Learning
Trust



EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES TO
POSITIVELY IMPACT THE WORLD

EDITION 4 - SPRING 2025

HI THERE!

Welcome to our fourth edition of Trust Matters our termly celebration of the remarkable achievements and opportunities across our schools. 'Trust Matters' displays how you put our vision into action and truly embody Empowering our communities to positively impact the world.

It's been an exciting and eventful term, filled with collaboration, creativity, and growth across all our schools. Our recent Annual Conference was a true highlight, bringing together staff, and partners for a day of shared learning and innovative thinking. The conference enforced a spirit of collaboration, with inspiring workshops and events that allowed us to celebrate the remarkable work happening within our Trust and strengthen the bonds between our schools.

One of the standout moments of the conference was the official launch of LYFTA, an exciting new initiative designed to inspire and engage our students to develop them as compassionate, critical thinkers in an age of mis information. It was wonderful to see the passion and enthusiasm as we introduced this innovative resource, which will undoubtedly be a valuable tool in our classrooms.

We also celebrated our growing partnership with the Shakespeare North Playhouse, as we continue to work together to provide students with unique and enriching opportunities. This partnership, alongside many other initiatives, reflects our commitment to providing our students with the very best educational experiences, both inside and outside the classroom.

Finally, I'd like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the new Trust Subject Leads . Their leadership will be instrumental in driving forward our shared vision and ensuring that the Southport Learning Trust continues to thrive and grow.

English - Jen Tipping - Birkdale High School

Maths - Dave Woodcock - Birkdale High School

Humanities - Sharon Naughton - Greenbank High School

PSHE - Natalie Ford - Meols Cop High School

MFL - Bronagh Dooris - Meols Cop High School

Thank you for your continued dedication and support. Together, we're building something truly special for our students and the wider community.

Ian Raikes
CEO



REALISING ASPIRATIONS

*We are committed to not only raising aspirations for our young people but ensuring that aspirations are realised. Working in partnership with our communities we will ensure students are **visionary** thinkers, ambitious innovators and pioneers of the future.*



SHAKESPEARE STARS LIGHT UP THE STAGE

After months of rehearsals, hard work, commitment and enthusiasm in abundance, Bedford Primary's Year 4 aspiring thespians finally took to the stage at the Shakespeare North Theatre to perform in their play. Class 4D presented their version of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and Class 4K chose A Midsummer Night's Dream. The children and teachers

worked on their plays every week from the Autumn term and collaborated on all aspects of the production including props, costume design, lighting and sound.

'We are so proud of our children and our teachers and support staff who worked as a team to make this whole production and experience so memorable,' says Mrs Braithwaite, Head at Bedford Primary. 'We would also like to thank our families who helped the children to learn their lines and supported them on the night.'



STUDENT LEADERSHIP - LOOKING AFTER THE WORLD AROUND THEM

As part of Maghull's current focus across school to respect and look after the school environment, and the wider community, all students have been making a more conscious effort to dispose of their litter

appropriately. This week, our Student Leadership Team conducted a litter pick across our school site after-school. We are proud of our school community and will continue with our drive to ensure we keep all areas clean and tidy.



TIA'S BOXING TRIUMPH & INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

We're thrilled to share the fantastic news about Tia's recent success in the boxing ring! After a fierce and determined fight, Tia emerged victorious in her latest match, showcasing her skill, strength, and dedication to the sport.

But the excitement doesn't stop there! Tia has been given an incredible opportunity to represent her skills on the international stage. She will have the chance to compete in an international boxing competition in Scotland. Her hard work and perseverance have clearly paid off, and this upcoming competition will be an amazing experience for her as she takes on new challenges and pushes her limits even further.



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LITTER PICKING

Turing House litter pickers began the fantastic work of tidying up Windy Harbour Road, with the work much appreciated by local residents – quoted as hoping that it “creates a caring environment and community, and gives students a sense of pride to be part of an excellent educational establishment.”



MATILDA

Greenbank's production of Matilda was nothing short of spectacular, showcasing the immense talent and dedication.. With a cast of over 80 students, the production ran for five shows, captivating an audience of over 1,500 people throughout the week.



SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCE

Our Year 5 pupils took part in Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival and performed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Hamlet' at the Shakespeare North Playhouse, Prescot. The children worked

extremely hard and put a lot of effort into their rehearsals. Their performance on stage was fantastic; they showcased their acting talents along with their oracy skills.



GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM VISIT LFC ACADEMY

The girls' football team recently took part in the Sefton School Sports Partnership Football Tournament at the iconic Liverpool FC Academy, winning 3 games and drawing 1!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

Fifteen Year 10 students participated in the three-day Practice Silver Expedition completed with flying colours. The YCP team praised their teamwork, navigation skills and campcraft. A huge well done to all who took part. They are completing their Qualifying Expedition in a few weeks' time, and we wish them the best of luck with this.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

*We are extremely fortunate to have teams of exceptional practitioners across our Trust ensuring the highest quality of academic experience to our young people. **Collaboration** is a key value of Southport Learning Trust and it is this connectivity that will maximise the positive impact we have on our communities.*



LITTLE PEOPLE DREAM BIG FOR WORLD BOOK DAY

This year for World Book Day each class chose a different Little People Big Dreams book. Classes spent the day learning about their influential person and creating Artwork and fact cards to use in a whole

school display. The classes learned lots of facts and figures about their people and the important lesson that they need to remember to dream big. The children's amazing artwork is now taking pride of place in a display in the corridor walls.



STEM CLUB SUCCESS

Congratulations to the STEM Club students whose innovative and environmentally friendly product prototype saw them win the Sustainability Award at Unilever's Bright Futures event. James, Harry, Archie, Joseph and George have spent 5 months designing and creating their seaweed based shampoo and packaging which they proudly displayed at Thursday's event to

be assessed by judges from each of the on-site functions. Marks were provided for how well students have evidenced the learning they gained in the original workshops. A 'best in category' prize is awarded for each function, with first place winners given the opportunity to return to the Unilever site to have their product 'mocked-up' and get to see their ideas come to life!



SIXTH FORM AIMING HIGH AT RANGE



Range 6th form students have been waiting to hear about university and apprenticeships offers. After a great deal of hard work in relation to completing their UCAS applications, with

students are now in a position to confirm their first-choice university. In addition, a significant number of our students are applying for degree apprenticeships over university and we are beginning to hear about these success stories as well, often after going through very competitive processes.



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SONNETS ALOUD

Ali Harwood from Shakespeare North's Theatre gave a workshop for Year 7, 8 and 9 students – studying writing methods and developing oracy, communication & confidence skills.

The boys wrote and performed their own sonnets, with two boys being selected to recite their sonnets live on the theatre stage.



CRACKING THE CODE ON CYBER CRIME

Students at Greenbank recently put their problem-solving skills to the test in an innovative Cyber Crime Escape Room experience, delivered in collaboration with Merseyside Police. The interactive session challenged students to work together to solve digital puzzles, uncover cyber threats, and learn about online safety in an engaging and memorable way.



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Kew Woods celebrated British



Science Week with a variety of activities throughout the week designed to engage and inspire students. The week included discussions around science careers, linked to the theme – change and adapt. Students across the Year groups enjoyed a week of fun activities, experiments, and investigations.

LIBRARY LAUNCH



The launch of the new Meols Cop Library coincided with World Book Day, providing students with a perfect opportunity to explore the joy of reading in a safe and quiet environment. The library isn't just about books—it's a peaceful environment where creativity and the love of reading can flourish. We can't wait for our students to make the most of this amazing space!



AUTHOR VISIT

Year 7 students were visited by the author of Kick, Mitch Johnson. The students enjoyed not only his talk about the book, but also playing games and asking questions. A small group of students also took part in a creative writing workshop and really enjoyed sharing their ideas.



INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

*High quality Professional Development for all colleagues across our Trust will lead to the biggest single **sustainable** impact on the progress of our young people.*



E SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT FOR BEDFORD COMMUNITY

Leading independent e-safety expert Karl Hopwood was welcomed to Bedford Primary to present to children, families and staff on the subject of the challenges of the internet and keeping people safe. During the sessions, which were delivered separately to children, families and staff, Karl discussed the good and the not so good on the Internet and particular applications, including WhatsApp, TikTok and SnapChat.

The sessions focused on making people aware of issues surrounding the Apps, in particular safeguarding concerns that can arise when children have unsolicited accesses to such sites and the possible consequences.

VOICE 21

Ahead of the oracy launch on 3 July 2025, Oracy Champions, Natalie Murphy, Kate Kirby and Ben Perkins attended two days of training as part of Voice 21's Discover Programme. Becoming familiar with the oracy framework and benchmarks, our Oracy Champions were able to work with other colleagues from a range of schools to explore how to embed oracy throughout the curriculum. It was an exciting process as they explored various strategies and case studies and look forward to rolling this out across Maghull High School for the next academic year.



CELEBRATING PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



We are proud to celebrate the dedication of our staff who have embraced continuous professional development. Staff have recently achieved prestigious National Professional Qualifications, completed Masters degrees, or taken the next step in their professional journey by enrolling in the Chartered College of Teaching's CPD modules.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

300+ student leaders and representatives of the Student Council gathered for the 2nd annual conference, exploring the theme of Belonging - both to school and to the community. They welcomed Stephen Watson, ex pupil and now executive director for Regeneration, Economy and Assets at Sefton MBC to talk about exciting regeneration projects around Southport.



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ENHANCING TEACHING THROUGH EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

At Greenbank, professional growth is at the heart of our commitment to delivering the highest quality education. This year, our staff have been engaged in an ambitious initiative to refine their teaching practice, focusing on persistent challenges in pedagogy.

By adopting an evidence-based approach, teachers have been exploring the most effective strategies for improving student learning and progress. Through collaborative research, lesson observations, and professional discussions, staff have been analysing what truly makes a difference in the classroom.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

The Kew football team represented school at the primary school's football league. We have been playing all season since September and have won the league undefeated. Our year 5/6 Indoor Athletics team competed in the North Sefton event. There were some amazing performances across all the events and the team spirit and encouragement shown did Kew Woods very proud.



CAREERS FAIR SUCCESS

Stanley hosted their very first careers fair this term. Along with Elevate, they welcomed over 20

visitors from Industry, Armed Forces, Local Government, Universities and Post 16 providers. The event was attended by Year 9 and 11 students who were absolutely amazing and engaged enthusiastically with all of the providers.



BUILD YOUR FUTURES DAY

What an incredible day at Meols Cop High School celebrating Build Your Futures Day, as part of National Careers Week!

Students enjoyed a jam packed day, with guest speakers delivering incredible workshops, employers, colleges and local businesses taking part in careers fair and a networking event. It provided an opportunity for students to gain an insight for their post 16 career journey.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

*We will remove barriers for all of our young people ensuring **equity** and embedding ambition for all.*



INCLUSIVITY IS KEY FOR YEAR 4 BOYS

Year 4 boys have worked on a continuing project with **The Inclusive Hub**, which provides bespoke fitness and education sessions to schools, on several areas including physical and mental fitness. The projects have focused on developing pupils' self-awareness to the lifestyle choices they make; the impact of social media and how to use strategies to regulate their emotions, including speaking out when feeling uncomfortable.



SEND SEFTON YOUTH CONFERENCE

Year 11 students represented Maghull High School at the SEND Sefton Youth Conference. Students spoke about SEND in school and in the community. The conference focused on four key strands of the **Preparation for Adulthood: Employment/education, Relationships and community, Independent living & Good health**. Facilitators described students as being 'impeccable' throughout the day for their behaviour and engagement.



OVERCOMING THE ODDS - REBECCA'S STORY

When Rebecca was a Year 7 student, her life took an unexpected turn with the sudden onset of severe Tourette's syndrome. Recognising the need for awareness, Range provided training for both staff and students—some led by Rebecca's parents. With this understanding and inclusive environment, Rebecca was gradually reintroduced to school life. In the beginning, she required constant support from two teaching assistants due to the severity of her condition. But as the years passed, her independence grew.



By Year 11, she needed only minimal support, and by Years 12 and 13, occasional check-ins for emotional well-being were all that was required. Her perseverance paid off—she successfully completed her A levels and is now pursuing her lifelong dream of becoming a primary school teacher, studying at Hope University. A huge congratulations Rebecca, we are all very proud of you and wish you every success in your future career as a teacher.



DARTS FOR GHANA

Birkdale boys held a charity darts competition to raise funds for a partner school in Ghana, with the top five scorers in each group going into a prize draw. Other fund raising activities have included a tuck shop, an Own Clothes Day, and collection of donated clothing, with sponsored events taking place after exams.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

We will remove barriers for all of our young people ensuring equity and embedding ambition for all.



VAWG EVENT

A group of Year 8 students participated in a ***Violence Against Women and Girls*** event, organised by Merseyside Police and the LFC Foundation. The event provided a crucial platform for discussing the challenges faced by women and

girls in society and exploring ways to create a safer, more respectful future. By engaging in these conversations, our students are developing their awareness, empathy, and understanding—empowering them to be advocates for change.



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Kew Woods students participated in activities for the five areas of well-being. The well being ambassadors created calm boxes, which were delivered to each classroom. KS1 watched a performance from Altru Drama 'Sunflowers and Stormy Days'. They used the garden as a metaphor for mental health and helping pupils explore feelings, emotions and wellbeing.



MAN UNITED 'UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL' TRIP

The Scholars have had a great day visiting Manchester United's Old Trafford ground to take part in an 'Unlocking your potential' workshop. Students learnt about future careers,

employability and personal branding which taught them how to really stand out from the crowd. Students enjoyed a tour of the stadium, a visit to the museum to learn about the history of the club and, of course, a visit to the gift shop!



DRUG AWARENESS PERFORMANCE & WORKSHOPS

Year 9 and 10 students were joined by Tie-It-Up' Theatre Company who performed the Mark Wheeler play 'I love you Mum, I promise I won't die'. Following the performance, students took part in a drug awareness workshop. The students showed great maturity with what is a sensitive topic and were fantastic ambassadors for the school.



TOGETHER STRONGER

Celebrating Collaborative Excellence: Schools United in Southport Learning Trust for Brighter Futures. Empowering Education Through Unity and Shared Vision, Strengthening Bonds and Enhancing Learning.



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY CONFERENCE

What an unforgettable day at the Southport Learning Trust International Women's Day Conference! With the theme Accelerate Action, we were thrilled to welcome 6 incredible guest speakers who shared their wisdom, passion, and experiences with over 500 Year 10 girls from our 5 high schools.

The room was filled with energy, curiosity, and a commitment to creating change. Thank you to our amazing speakers and all those who made this event unforgettable. We're excited to see how these brilliant young women will accelerate action in their own lives and beyond!



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual Southport Learning Trust Conference brought together educators and professionals to focus on collaboration and the sharing of expertise. Hosted at a variety of locations, there was a range of insightful guest speakers, the event offered valuable opportunities for attendees to learn from industry leaders. The conference also featured subject-specific sessions, allowing teachers to engage in focused discussions and share best practices within their fields. It was a day dedicated to professional development, networking, and strengthening the educational community.



SIGNATURE SANDWICH COMPETITION

Year 10 students from across Southport Learning Trust put their culinary skills to the test to create 'The best sandwich in Southport!' Students were given a briefing from Tracy Holgate from Sefton Council's Tourism team to come up with a Southport Signature Sandwich for potential sale at Southport Food and Drink Festival which takes place at Victoria Park this summer.

Students from schools worked with their Food & Nutrition or Catering and Hospitality teachers to design and make their sandwiches in school, with the final two winners chosen to represent their school in the grand final! Huge congratulations to Meols Cop's Dominic, who won the competition, with his creation of the Asian Chicken Wrap.



FARADAY CHALLENGE

Year 9 students from across the trust took part in the IET Faraday Challenge, hosted at Birkdale High School. Students were tasked with creating prototype solutions that include a working electrical circuit. Huge congratulations to Greenbank with their innovative watch design tailored for the deaf community. Their sustainable, functioning prototype, along with their teamwork, budgeting, and presentation skills, really impressed the judges.



IFTAR CELEBRATION



Greenbank High School was honoured to host an Iftar event that brought together over 130 people from across our trust schools. This special evening, held during Ramadan, was a moment of reflection, inclusivity, and shared celebration, reinforcing the values of community and understanding that define our school.

Students, staff, and families came together to break their fast, share a meal, and listen to meaningful words about the significance of Ramadan and unity. The event highlighted the power of education in enhancing inclusivity and ensuring that every student, regardless of background, feels seen, valued, and respected.

LYFTA LAUNCH

Students from our secondary schools came together for an inspiring day of learning and growth with Lyfta Education. With the theme of creating compassionate critical thinkers in a world full of misinformation, these students are starting their journey toward becoming Lyfta Ambassadors.

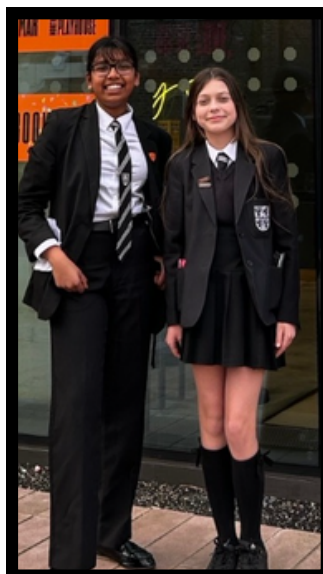
They spent the day diving deep into understanding diverse perspectives, developing the tools to think critically, and encourage empathy – all essential skills in today's fast-paced, information-driven world. We can't wait to see how they'll use their newfound knowledge to spark positive change and lead with compassion!



SONNETS ALOUD

This term, students from across the 8 Southport Learning Trust schools have been immersed in the power of poetry through the Sonnets Aloud project. Working with poet and facilitator Ali Harwood, these young writers have honed their skills and found their voices, creating original pieces.

The culmination of their hard work was the Sonnets Aloud Showcase, held in the stunning Cockpit Theatre at Shakespeare North Playhouse. The event brought together 16 talented young poets from across the Trust, providing them with a platform to perform their poems and share their creative journeys with friends, family, and the local community.



SHAKESPEARE NORTH PLAYHOUSE

20%
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DISCOUNTS

This partnership allows your school to access a broad network of industry professionals, as well as exclusive discounts, resources and workshops.



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Contact our wellbeing team on:

01773 814403 | nurse@uk-sas.co.uk



- **Wellbeing Telephone Support** - Confidential support from our NMC registered nursing team.
- **Cancer & Chronic Illness Support** - Support for staff if they or their family are affected by a diagnosis of a chronic, long term condition.
- **Bereavement Support** - Emotional support and guidance for navigating bereavement of a loved one.
- **Menopause Support** - Support from nurses who have attended recognised menopause courses
- **Manspace** - Support for men's health and wellbeing related queries.
- **Mindfulness with June** - Guided mindfulness & meditation evening webinar sessions.
- **Ask Andy** - One hour video call with SAS Director of Wellbeing: former NAHT President Andy Mellor to discuss how to create a wellbeing culture within the school.
- **Preparing Parents** - Support for existing or new parents/guardians.
- **SAS Gym** - Exercise and nutrition programmes for all levels of abilities and experience.
- **Be A Champion Pupil Wellbeing** - Pupil mentoring programme to encourage improved mindset, sleep, healthy eating and physical activity.
- **Pupil Yoga Videos** - 10 guided video sessions aimed at Primary and Secondary aged children
- **Counselling** - Confidential, individual therapy sessions.
- **Physiotherapy** - Physiotherapy resources to assist with the treatment and management of a wide variety of conditions.
- **Complementary Services** - Therapies to assist with physical or psychological symptoms which can accompany cancer/chronic long-term illnesses.
- **Integrated GP Service** - Appointments for medical support and advice with active GPs.
- **Ask Andy Leadership Clinic** - Weekly leadership support meetings, including guidance on improving whole school wellbeing.
- **Wellbeing Governor E-module** - Supporting mental health and wellbeing across your organisation.
- **Financial Wellbeing** - A comprehensive financial wellbeing online portal for help and advice
- **Weight Management** - Weight Management programmes and Nutritional advice and support.
- **Staff Mindfulness** - A 4-week mindfulness programme for schools.

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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE WORLD



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