



# West Surrey Partnership

## July 2026 Newsletter



**Jenni Hall**  
WSP Operations Group

As our fourth year draws to a close, the WSP continues to grow and move forward. Our Reading Together project has gone from strength to strength, with the majority of our senior schools now providing reading mentors to the majority of our junior schools. I have the pleasure of accompanying a group of mentors each week, and the mutual benefit of the relationships these students have built is a joy to behold. We look forward to seeing the project continue to grow next year.

Finn West, our Partnership Co-ordinator, is leaving us at the end of the academic year. Finn has been a fantastic addition to the team, and we will miss them enormously. We extend our sincere thanks for all they have done and wish them every success at the Guildhall School, where they will be pursuing a Master's degree in Music Therapy.

We hope this newsletter gives you a sense of the many events and activities that have taken place this term, and we encourage you to take a look through next year's schedule. We very much look forward to working with you all in 2026/27 and wish everyone a happy and restful summer.

## Literally Brilliant Book Award Ceremony

We had a wonderful time at the 2026 Literally Brilliant Book Awards last week! Fabulously funny host Jack Meggitt-Phillips took us on quite a journey, encouraging us to design our own spies and to clap like crocodiles - it was certainly 'literally brilliant'!

Huge congratulations to our winner, Olivia Wakeford - it was so exciting to meet her in person and hear all about her beautiful and heartwarming book 'My Dog'. It was also lovely to see videos from our shortlisted authors, and even to have a virtual Q&A from Peter Burns, where we learned all about the inspiration behind 'Shadow Thieves'.

Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in making the LBBAs happen, our partners the Guildford Book Festival, and also thank you to all our participating schools for getting stuck in. We can't wait to see you all at next year's awards!



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## Year 12 Leadership Development Day

We were pleased to welcome around 75 Year 12 pupils to our WSP Leadership Development Day, facilitated by the experts at Salt & Light Coaching.

Students were given the chance to develop deep self-awareness of their leadership, communication and teamworking preferences by using C-me Colour Profiling, an industry-grade personality profiling tool. They also collaborated in cross-school groups, working on practical leadership challenges and reflecting on their own leadership strengths and development.

98 percent of students who attended found the day helpful in developing their leadership skills, and 95 percent would recommend to their peers.

## PSHE Day



We were pleased to invite PSHE and RSE leads to a PSHE cluster event in June. It was a highly valuable and informative morning, featuring a keynote from Emily Setty who shared her expertise on delivering effective RSE. Her insights offered practical guidance and thoughtful reflection on how we implement the changes to RSE content and how to create effective RSE learning environments.

We also heard from It Happens Education, who are experts in the field of PSHE. They presented on the range of talks they offer to schools (pupils, parents and staff training) and also provided time for a Q&A, supporting staff in thinking about how to approach the breadth of new content they are expected to teach.

In addition to these speakers, there were also opportunities for collaboration and discussion around the implementation of the new statutory guidance, including space to explore the challenges this presents and to share ideas and best practice.





## WSP Masterclasses

Year 5 and 6 pupils were invited to an exciting series of masterclasses designed to inspire and engage pupils in Art, Food & Nutrition, Government & Politics, History, Biology, Chemistry, STEM, IT, Computer Science, Geography and English. We also offered sessions on transition to senior school for Year 6 pupils.

These masterclasses provided a unique opportunity for young learners to explore these subjects in greater depth, using specialist facilities and material, under the guidance of Tormead teaching staff. We were so pleased that so many of our schools could take part - thank you to everyone who made these exciting masterclasses happen!

## Aerospace Careers Roadshow

We were thrilled to be able to welcome our schools to this Aerospace Careers event. The morning consisted of presentations covering the 5<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution and the history leading up to it. The message was one of positivity that technology will not take jobs but rather create opportunities. This was followed by a talk on how to become a pilot, which highlighted a range of ways to work as a pilot, beyond well-known large airlines and private jets. We then heard about virtual reality environmental engineering and watched an expert create his own world. The afternoon was interactive, with students sampling an incredible range of technology including VR headsets to learn to fly drones, flight simulators and interacting with Spot the Boston Dynamic robot. The students were delighted to discover that they could converse with Spot in Spanish. It was a fascinating day which has inspired many to explore the aerospace sector for their future career, in all types of roles including non-technical. We are grateful to the Aerospace Careers Programme Roadshow for taking the time to come to Tormead and showcase their amazing technology and expertise.





## Year 6 Maths Competition

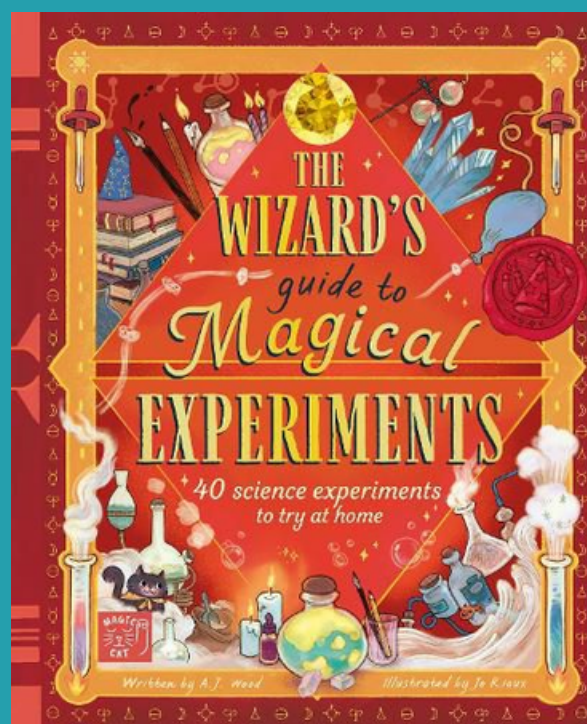
We recently hosted our very first Primary Maths Team Challenge for local primary schools. Using resources provided by the UK Mathematics Trust, the competition featured a variety of engaging rounds, including: team challenge, cross-number puzzle, logic round, make-a-number challenge and relay race.

We welcomed seven teams from six different primary schools, and the standard of competition was exceptionally high throughout. In a closely fought contest, the winning team from RGS Prep School finished just one point ahead of second place Busbridge CofE Junior School, highlighting how competitive the event was.

There was a real buzz in the room all day, and it was wonderful to hear Year 6 pupils discussing mathematics so enthusiastically and collaboratively. A huge thank you goes to the staff who accompanied their teams and helped with scoring throughout the event.

## Guildford Book Festival Illustration Workshops

We invited groups of children from 7 of our schools to two Illustrator Workshops run by Guildford Book Festival, aimed at Year 4 pupils who show an interest in art but would not usually have access to art lessons. Illustrators Emma Dodd and Jonny Lambert led brilliant sessions which introduced children to art and nature, and we were treated to an interactive science event with author Amanda Wood, author of 'A Magician's Guide to Magical Experiments' - the children even went home with goody bags containing art supplies and free books. We hope that all the children involved will feel inspired to be creative!





## Model United Nations

Over 70 students attended the West Surrey Partnership's second Model United Nations Conference in June. Model United Nations aims to give students a simulation of life in the United Nations, inviting pupils to 'represent' the views of their allocated country in a series of debates on international issues. Students were given the chance to research their country on the day and given training on the MUN format, while older and more experienced students from each school trained, led and chaired committees for the conference.

A range of interesting topics were debated, including 'Global Economy & Economic Disparities', 'Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems', and 'The Advancement of Women'. The event was a great success, and it was wonderful to witness students become more confident at public speaking and debating as the event progressed.

## Hockey Taster Sessions and Festival of Hockey

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils in the West Surrey Partnership were invited to have taster sessions in hockey, led by the expert hockey coaches at Tormead. It was an excellent opportunity to discover the sport of hockey with first class resources and coaches - no prior knowledge was assumed, and all equipment was provided.

The scheme culminated in a Festival of Hockey, where participants were invited to Tormead's Urnfield site to have a friendly competition and show off their new skills.

We were so pleased to see the progress that the children had made - well done all!

## Careers Convention

All WSP schools were invited to a careers convention at RGS Guildford, with over 100 advisors present who represented a diverse range of career paths. It was wonderful to see students making the most of this opportunity and asking lots of tough questions - we hope the event provided inspiration as they consider their future careers.



