



REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2025-26





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INTRODUCTION

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.

This year, together we have delivered for our pupils:

- **Reading Together:** 93 secondary mentors trained and paired with 105 primary mentees for weekly reading support, building literacy and confidence on both sides
- **The Literally Brilliant Book Award:** 413 pupils reached, 170 books given out, and direct access to published authors through our Guildford Book Festival partnership
- **RGS & Tormead Masterclasses:** 175+ Year 6 pupils and families given a taste of secondary school life, with 90% saying they felt more confident about the transition
- **VEX IQ Robotics & STEM events:** 120+ primary pupils designing, coding and building robots, developing problem-solving skills that support the wider curriculum
- **Leadership Development Day:** 95% of Year 12 pupils would recommend it to their peers, and 98% said it helped develop their leadership skills
- **Model United Nations, Politics Forum and Careers events:** real world experiences and access to expert speakers

None of this happens by accident; it relies on schools coming together, sharing resources and expertise, and committing to the partnership. We would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make our partnership events happen this year, including schools who have hosted events, teachers who given up their time to run events or to attend events with their pupils, and facilitators who have brought us their expert knowledge and skills.

Finn West, our Partnership Co-ordinator, is leaving us at the end of this 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 gives you a sense of the many events and activities that have taken place this year, 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.



Jenni Hall
WSP Operations Group

Our impact numbers only tell part of the story. Behind them are hundreds of individual moments: a Year 6 pupil feeling more confident about starting secondary school, a shy reader finding their voice with a mentor, a sixth former discovering a passion for politics or engineering.



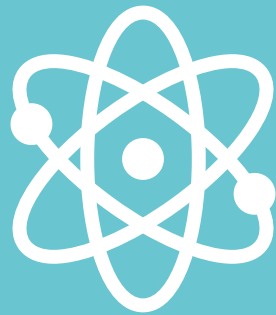
LITERACY



SUSTAINABILITY



LEADERSHIP



STEAM

OUR 2025/26 THEMES

Our themes for this year were Literacy, Sustainability, Leadership and STEAM. Many of our events are related to multiple themes, and we made sure to run every event with sustainability in mind.





PUPILS IMPACTED

2682



HOURS DELIVERED

7062



SCHOOLS IMPACTED

42



EVENTS DELIVERED

33

**OUR IMPACT
AT A GLANCE**



THEME 1:
LITERACY



READING TOGETHER

We were incredibly excited this year to launch our new Reading Together programme. This ambitious project pairs over 90 students from 9 secondary schools with primary pupils across 25 schools. Secondary students train as reading mentors, learning phonics and reading methodologies from primary teachers, before delivering weekly mentoring sessions throughout the year.

For primary pupils, working alongside a secondary mentor can be transformational. They gain not just reading support but also a secondary school mentor. Secondary students build confidence through training and develop genuine leadership skills.



MENTORS
93



MENTEES
105



THE LITERALLY BRILLIANT BOOK AWARD

The Literally Brilliant Book Award is a programme which gives KS2 students the opportunity to read and vote on their favourite book from a shortlist of five debut authors of fiction for 7-11 year olds.

The shortlist is selected by a primary school librarian, demonstrating the vital role school libraries play, and their impact on pupils' reading enjoyment. Through partnership with The Guildford Book Festival, pupils gain access to the authors directly, sharing opinions and questions.

In addition to enjoying the books and events pupils gain confidence in self-expression and an understanding that their viewpoints are valued; they develop independent thinking and analytical skills important for both academic success and personal growth.



The Literally Brilliant Book Award celebrations began in February with an Afternoon Tea, giving around 100 children the chance to meet other readers from different schools and to discuss the shortlisted books over some delicious scones and brownies. It was wonderful to hear which books everybody liked the most, and to hear what everyone thought about the characters and the writing styles in each book. We were also lucky enough to meet author Fidan Meikle over Zoom, who told us all about how she wrote 'My Name is Samim', as well as answering some of the pupils' questions about the book.



BOOKS GIVEN OUT

170



PUPILS IMPACTED

413



We finished our celebrations with the Awards Ceremony in June - 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'. We enjoyed greatly the videos from our shortlisted authors and 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, including Geraldine Tame, the librarian at Holy Trinity; our partners the Guildford Book Festival; and to Guildford High School for hosting. We can't wait to see you all at next year's awards!

CWIZZ

We had the fantastic CWIZZ Literacy Quiz in November, facilitated brilliantly by CWISL (Children's Writers and Illustrators for Stories and Literacy).

Over 80 children from 10 different schools attended the event, forming teams and working together to get the best scores and to show off their literary knowledge in themed rounds. They were also treated to readings of some new books by some wonderful visiting authors, and even had the chance to win books and other prizes in a raffle!



PUPILS IMPACTED

84



GUILDFORD BOOK FESTIVAL LECTURES

As part of our ongoing partnership with the Guildford Book Festival, we were thrilled to have a number of visiting authors speak about their books in September and October. The brilliant Maz Evans spoke about how to write a good story, as well as telling us about her new book 'The Last Bard', which introduces young readers to Shakespeare's characters. For older children, bestselling author Kate Mosse spoke about her book 'Feminist History for Every Day of the Year', in which she vividly brings to life inspiring stories of 366 remarkable women from across the globe, and Mike Berners-Lee spoke about 'A Climate of Truth', a book which asks questions about what exactly is holding us back from solving the climate crisis.



I just wanted to say a huge thank you from me and the kids for organising the event yesterday - it was so much fun! The kids were buzzing when they left and Maz has definitely picked up a few more fans... and Elliot was delighted to get his book signed by his first ever real life author! Thanks so much for making it happen for them.

- Teacher



GUILDFORD BOOK FESTIVAL 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.

THEME 2:

STEAM



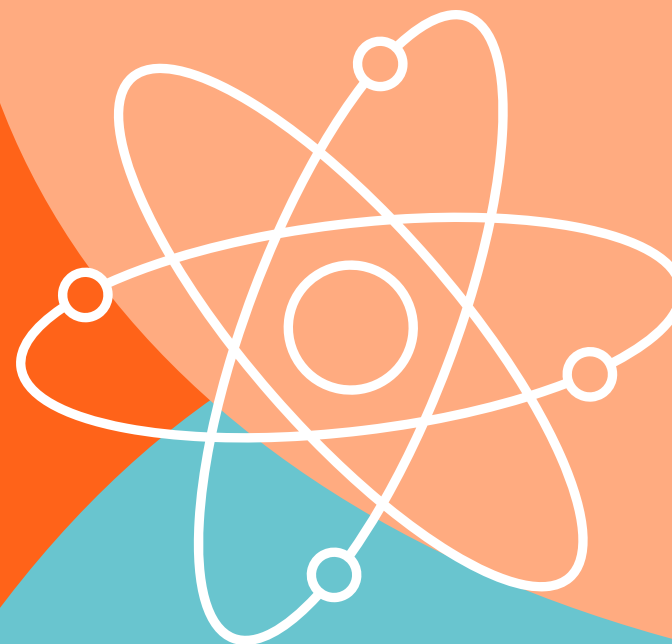
RGS MASTERCLASSES

The purpose of the RGS Masterclasses is to promote passion and deeper interest in subjects and enhance a love of learning for learning's sake; to provide a secondary school experience to generate excitement about the next steps into secondary school; and to boost confidence generally via new and different experiences.

In September and October, 175 Year 6 pupils and their families came from 28 different local primary schools every Saturday morning in September. They joined one of seven strands in Classical World (classical civilisation, Latin, Greek & Philosophy), Creativity (Drama, Art, Music & creative writing), Humanities (Geography, History, Economics & Politics), Modern Foreign Languages (Arabic, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian), Mathematics, Science, and Design Technology.

90%

**OF PUPILS FELT MORE
CONFIDENT ABOUT
STARTING SECONDARY
SCHOOL**



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.

TORMEAD MASTERCLASSES

TUDOR WORKSHOPS

Year 4 and 5 classes had the chance to experience Tudor themed lessons based in RGS Guildford's original Tudor building and 'Big School' hall. They enjoyed sessions in Tudor History, including a visit to the Chained Library, Tudor Music and dancing, some Drama, Tudor Games & Gambling, and Tudor portraiture. The Tudor Project runs every Friday throughout the year, and is a fun, interactive day for children thanks to the energy and passion of the staff involved.



Thank you so much for the Tudor day we enjoyed today. The children were buzzing about all the aspects of the day and got so much out of it. Thank you for all your hard work and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

- Teacher

POLITICS FORUM

We welcomed Sixth Form students from six different schools to a Politics Forum in February. Politics students were given the chance to hear from two expert speakers - Professor Sarah Childs, who has held the chair of Politics and Gender at the University of Edinburgh since 2022, and Dr Simon Curtis, a Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Surrey. Topics discussed included the growing power of China and the interactions between gender and Westminster, and students were given the chance to ask questions and speak about these issues.



PHILOSOPHY TALK

We were pleased to invite Dr Natalie Banner, Director of Ethics at Genomics England, to speak to many of our philosophy, medical and RE students about ethics, health data and public engagement. It was a hugely interesting session, involving discussions about how to keep patient data safe and about the potential role of AI in genomics, and it was so valuable to hear about Dr Banner's career path and the non-linear road to her current position.

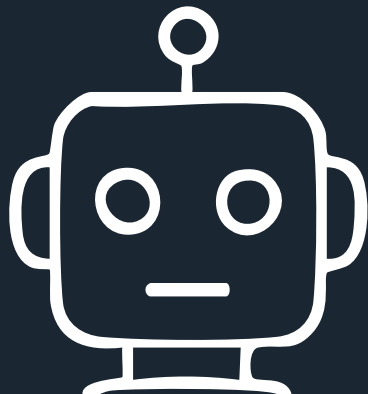


VEX IQ ROBOTICS PROGRAMME

In January, 120 Year 6 students from 10 primary schools attended the VEX IQ Robotics Competition. This scheme gives pupils the opportunity to design, code, and build their own robots, developing key skills in teamwork, problem solving, coding, and iterative design. The competition day was the culmination of all their hard work and planning, and it was great to see each team of pupils working together to score points in matches against other schools.

As well as the robotics competition, pupils were also given the chance to take part in a STEM poster competition, judged by Proactive, a local prosthetics company. This year's theme focused on designing a robot to support elderly people living independently at home.

The event was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff alike, and we are already looking forward to next year's competition!



ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY LECTURE

In October we welcomed Professor Kevin Wells, Professor of AI in Human and Veterinary Healthcare at the University of Surrey, to talk about how Artificial Intelligence is revolutionising pet healthcare in a lecture called “Pets, vets and AI”. His current research is based around One Health: the transfer of knowledge between human health and veterinary healthcare, for the benefit of both domains.



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.

EMMA JOHNSON MUSIC FOUNDATION PERFORMANCES

We were delighted to welcome musicians from the Emma Johnson Music Foundation to perform for a number of primary schools in the West Surrey Partnership.

Emma and her band told stories about four different instruments - the clarinet, the trombone, the violin and the double bass - and children had the chance to get to know each instrument as well as take part in some fun musical games.

We very much hope that every child who saw a performance will be inspired to learn an instrument!

It was incredible and has left a lasting impression on the whole school community. For our children to be given the opportunity to watch live musicians was incredibly special and to have beautiful music floating around the school on a Friday morning was quite something! Thank you for all that went into organising the event.

- Teacher



SPM CONCERT

261 pupils from five schools were given the chance to attend Southern Pro Musica's Concerts for Children. Southern Pro Musica was founded to meet the demand for a professional orchestra that could support choirs across Hampshire and West Sussex. As more talented freelance musicians chose to establish their careers in the south, the orchestra expanded its reach, collaborating with choral societies in other regions and taking on purely orchestral performances. This event provides children with the unique opportunity to experience live orchestral music and engage with the arts in a meaningful way.



THEME 3:
LEADERSHIP



STUDENT COUNCIL

The WSP Student Council, formed of Sixth Form students from seven WSP schools, has been meeting periodically throughout the academic year. Their three working groups (Academic, Careers & Leadership, and Sustainability) have come up with some fantastic ideas for how we can work together effectively as schools, including some great collaborative events which we hope to include in our programme next year.

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'.



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.

95%

OF PUPILS WOULD
RECOMMEND THIS DAY TO
THEIR PEERS

98%

OF PUPILS FELT THE DAY
WAS HELPFUL IN
DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP
SKILLS

SPORTS COACHING

As a part of their Sports Leadership Coaching activity, Sixth Form students from RGS Guildford ran practical sports sessions with primary age pupils from WSP schools. These sessions were highly successful, providing both an enjoyable and educational experience both for primary students and sixth formers. The sixth formers worked to design inclusive activities to cater for pupils of all abilities and needs, and it was clear that the sessions were mutually beneficial.



HOCKEY TASTER SESSIONS & 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!

US UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS EVENT

Students attended a talk from leading education consultants Crimson Education on Thursday 12th February, which gave a clear, behind-the-scenes introduction to the US university admissions process.

Chloe Godsell, Crimson Education's Partnership Manager, explained how admissions decisions are made and gave top tips about the application process and about how to start building your application from Year 9.



CAREERS NETWORKING EVENING

On Wednesday 4th March, pupils from local schools were invited to a Careers in Creative, Performing Arts, Design and Sport Networking evening.

There were a huge number of experienced and insightful speakers: The Performing Arts Careers lineup included an experienced actor, a writer/comedian, and a film/TV director and playwright who imparted excellent advice to those interested in pursuing a career making or starring in theatre, television or film. The Design Careers speakers included an interior architect and an urban designer, and the Sports Career room included a physiotherapist and a sports psychologist.

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 5th 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.



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.

STAFF EVENTS



EDI NETWORKING EVENT

We were pleased to welcome 11 EDI leads across 8 schools to an EDI Networking Event in February. It was a pleasure to be able to discuss various EDI-related topics with a group of like-minded people, and it was truly insightful to get an idea of how different schools encourage diversity and inclusion. It was also a great opportunity to plan some cross-school EDI events for the future.

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.

 *We thought the venue and presentation was excellent. We are looking forward to putting the approaches into practice. We would highly recommend this day to others.* 

- Workshop Attendees

STAFF DECISION-MAKING WORKSHOP

Our Decision-Making workshop, facilitated by Salt and Light Coaching, was an insightful and energising professional development experience. The day focused on how we make decisions under pressure, an area that resonates strongly with the daily realities faced by teachers and school leaders.

Through a combination of guided reflection and practical activities, delegates explored how we justify our decisions, quantify the information available to us, and process that information effectively to arrive at sound, confident conclusions. One of the most valuable aspects of the session was the opportunity to step back from the pace of school life and think more deliberately about our cognitive habits. The workshop encouraged honest reflection on both our strengths and the blind spots that can emerge when we are managing competing priorities.

SEND CONFERENCE

We were delighted to be able to invite our schools to 'Beyond the Label: Intentional Inclusion', an adaptive teaching conference for educational professionals supporting pupils with special educational needs in the classroom. This event brought together experts, practitioners, and academic research to explore what truly inclusive practice looks like, and delegates had the chance to hear from a wide range of specialist speakers including Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore and Professor Joni Holmes.

 *The high level of content delivered by both the speakers and the seminar sessions was truly impressive. The depth, clarity, and practical relevance of each contribution reflected a real commitment to excellence.*

- Conference Attendee 

