



BRANNEL



Karder Hub



Bosvena School



Curnow School



Budehaven Community School



Brunel School



Falmouth primary academy



Three Ways School

Newsletter
April 2026

Special Partnership Trust



A Message from our

As we begin the summer term, I'm delighted to share this update with you and hope you find the content both interesting and useful.

After what I hope was a restful and restorative break, it's great to get right back into our shared work with renewed energy and a sense of purpose. This term brings new opportunities, new challenges, and, importantly, continued collaboration across all our schools and settings.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

As always, your thoughts and perspectives matter. This newsletter is for you, and I want it to reflect the information, stories, and insights that you find most valuable.

I warmly welcome your comments, reflections, and suggestions, whether it's about the topics included, areas you feel deserve more focus, or ideas you would like to see covered in future editions. Please let us know, what would you like to hear more about? What questions do you want answered? Which aspects of our Trust's work would you like us to shine a brighter light on? Your feedback will help ensure the newsletter evolves in a way that truly serves our staff community.

"Every setting has the potential to contribute to a strong, united Trust."

"Every staff member deserves to thrive professionally."

"Every learner deserves the best possible support."

CEO, Guy Chappell

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We are also entering a period of significant national change within the SEND landscape.

With the ongoing SEND reforms and the developments outlined in the recent White Paper, it is clear that the system around us is shifting. While we welcome change that strengthens outcomes for children and young people, we must also approach this moment with careful thought and collective insight.

Change, especially in education, must be shaped by those who understand the work and that includes us. Our teams, leaders, and practitioners have a strong and informed voice, and we must ensure that voice is heard as policy evolves.

This is an opportunity for us to influence, to advocate, and to champion the needs of the children and families we serve every day.

LOOKING AHEAD

This term is also an important moment for us as we look ahead to the future of the Trust.

Our vision sets out an ambitious, values led direction, one that places our pupils, families, and staff at the centre of everything we do. Our vision is not simply a document; it is a 'pathway' for long term growth, stability, and excellence.

Over the coming months, we will continue to share more about how this vision translates into real steps, real improvements, and real opportunities for us all.



Working Together

WHAT'S CHANGED AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR TRUST

The Department for Education has recently published an updated version of Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2026). This statutory guidance sets out how all organisations and professionals should work together to help, protect and promote the welfare of children.

This update does not change our core safeguarding responsibilities, but it does strengthen expectations around early help, joined-up working and inclusive practice, and reinforces that safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility.

A stronger focus on early, coordinated support

There is an increased emphasis on Family Help, bringing early help and statutory support together into a more joined-up approach. The aim is to support children and families earlier, with fewer handovers and clearer plans to prevent concerns escalating. This reinforces the importance of the early help work already taking place in schools.

Safeguarding applies to all children

Safeguarding responsibilities now explicitly include all children, including unborn babies, children with SEND, and those at risk of harm outside the home, such as exploitation or online abuse.

Clearer expectations for multi-agency working

The guidance strengthens expectations around timely information sharing, professional curiosity, and considering risk over time rather than isolated incidents. In schools, systems such as CPOMS already support prompt sharing of concerns, and this reinforces consistent practice across all agencies.

Inclusive and anti-discriminatory practice

There is a stronger focus on challenging discrimination and ensuring safeguarding systems effectively support disabled children and children with SEND. Inclusion and equality remain central to good safeguarding practice.

to Safeguard Children

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR STAFF

Safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility. In line with the updated guidance, all staff should:

Be Alert to Concerns and Changes

Notice changes in behaviour, attendance, wellbeing or presentation. Concerns may build over time and not always be immediately obvious.

Act Early and Share Concerns Promptly

Do not wait for concerns to escalate. Share any worries with your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) as soon as possible so support can be considered early.

Record Clearly and Professionally

Record concerns factually and objectively, following Trust safeguarding procedures. Clear records support effective decision-making and multi-agency working.

Be Professionally Curious

Ask questions, share concerns, and use safeguarding systems in place. This helps the DSL team consider patterns over time and understand the child's lived experience.

Work Collaboratively

Safeguarding relies on strong partnership working. Share relevant information appropriately and contribute to joined-up support for children and families.

Practice Inclusively

Be aware that safeguarding concerns may present differently for children with SEND, disabilities, or those affected by trauma, culture, poverty or discrimination.

Speak Up and Seek Advice

If something doesn't feel right, or you are unsure, speak to your DSL. You will always be supported for raising safeguarding concerns in good faith.

If you have any questions or concerns about Safeguarding – or feel you would like more support or information - please contact your Safeguarding Lead.

Governance Update

Following a successful autumn recruitment drive, we are delighted to welcome several new Trustees and Governors to our Trust. Their expertise, experience, and enthusiasm will help strengthen governance across our schools and support our ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality education for all pupils.

These appointments bring fresh perspectives to our Board and school communities, and we are excited to work with them as we continue to grow and improve opportunities for our learners.

Our New Trustees and Governors

Board of Trustees

- Antony Power
- James Taylor
- Simon Elliott

School Governors

Pencalenick

- Laura Dolan-Kos
- Heather Street
- Lewis Sullivan

Curnow

- Charlotte Lewis
- Imogen Coleman
- Matt Marlow

Doubletrees

- Chris McQuillen-Wright

Orchard Manor

- Ingrid Quick
- Emma Hill

Introducing James Taylor

As Inclusion Lead for Crofty Education Trust, James strengthens provision for children with SEND and those who are disadvantaged. With experience as a Headteacher, SENCo, and inclusion leader across a range of schools, he combines strategic insight with practical classroom expertise. He also contributes to national SEND leadership and policy discussions.



SPT STRENGTHENS SPECIALIST AUTISM SUPPORT

COLLABORATING TO MEET THE GROWING NEED FOR SPECIALIST AUTISM PROVISION

In response to increasing demand for specialist SEND provision, highlighted in a recent [BBC News report](#), Special Partnership Trust continues to play a key role in strengthening local support for children and young people with additional needs.

Across our network, we are working in close partnership with schools, families and local authorities to expand specialist expertise, improve inclusive practice and ensure provision reflects the needs of our communities. This includes supporting schools to develop targeted approaches, sharing knowledge across settings, and building capacity to meet a wider range of needs locally.

“Our focus remains on early intervention, collaboration and delivering high-quality provision that enables every child and young person to thrive. By working together, we are helping to create a more responsive and sustainable SEND system for the future.”



INSIDE THE TRUST

Meet Amanda Burrows SEND Advisor

SINCE JOINING THE TRUST, WHAT HAS KEPT YOU BUSY?

I've been getting busy across the Trust. My favourite activity by far is visiting schools, I've really enjoyed getting to know the North Cornwall and Devon schools and working alongside leaders and teachers. It's always refreshing and energising - definitely a two-way process.



WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED THIS TERM?

Visiting schools is by far my favourite part of the role, and I've really enjoyed getting to know the North Cornwall and Devon schools within the Trust. Spending time alongside leaders and teachers is always refreshing and energising, it's very much a two-way exchange.

WHAT'S BEEN PARTICULARLY EXCITING FOR YOU?

Leading the Prepare for Adulthood and Learning Communities has been amazing. It's been such a unique opportunity to meet and work with all of the leads across the Trust, coming together to learn and share ideas.

WHAT KIND OF WORK HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN?

I have supported curriculum thinking and planning at Orchard Manor, helped Brunel to prepare for inspections, assisted Bosvena as it grows, and developed leadership capacity at Lampard through the appointment of a new Deputy Headteacher. I love that my role is so varied - these are just a few examples!

ETRUST

Meet Lianne Jory Trust Governance Manager

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

I love working with so many dedicated people who give their time to support the Trust, and being able to support them in return. I also really enjoy visiting schools for governor meetings and development days - it's inspiring to see the amazing opportunities and experiences the young people have.



WHAT LED YOU TO THIS ROLE?

I worked as a PA to the Education Director at Cornwall Council while also supporting primary and secondary schools as a Clerk. Over time, I developed a real passion for governance, and after 10 years I moved into it full time by joining SPT. When I started six years ago, the Trust had four schools in Cornwall - it's now grown to 10 across Cornwall, Devon and Torbay, and it's been exciting to be part of that journey.

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED RECENTLY?

We have had three new schools join the Trust from September and I have enjoyed being involved in the process of recruiting and inducting the new governors for the new Free Schools and for Lampard School supporting the school and the governors with their governance as they became part of the Trust.

DO YOU HAVE A HOBBY OR INTEREST OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I love kayaking, paddleboarding and I am with a Gig Rowing Club and have attended the Isles of Scilly Championships a number of times. My favourite place to be is on the beach or in the sea!

SCHOOL S

CURNOW CREATES AT TATE ST IVES!



Students from Curnow School recently took part in an exciting three-day creative project at Tate St Ives.

Led by specialist Susanna Webster, learners enjoyed a sensory gallery tour and hands-on workshop inspired by the Małgorzata Mirga-Tas exhibition. Using a range of materials, students from both Upper and Lower Schools created their own textile artworks, celebrating their individuality and stories. Their pieces will now form two collaborative displays across the school sites.

This project was delivered through the Tate St Ives Schools Programme, which opens up creative opportunities for children and young people in our community. Well done to all our Curnow creators!

POTLIGHT

BRUNEL: PROPSER PAINT PROJECT



Six KS4 pupils from Brunel School transformed the Prosper Café with hands-on guidance from local professionals, including builders, interior designers, graffiti artists, and decorators.

Supported by Plymouth, Devon and Torbay Careers Hub and Build Torbay, and with generous contributions from local businesses, pupils gained real-world experience and celebrated their achievements with festive refreshments.

The café is now a vibrant space for the school and local community, full of exciting possibilities for the future.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Ivybridge Reaches a Key Milestone

“Providing the innovative and flexible approach required to refining and personalising provision, the school offer will be shaped through close partnership working with pupils, families, professionals and the local community.”

We're pleased to share the latest progress on the Ivybridge development. The Strategic Project Meetings (SPMs) are now complete, marking an important step in shaping the final design.

Our planning application has been submitted and is now live - a major milestone that brings us closer to delivering the new school.

Take a look at the images included here for an early view of the internal and external spaces taking shape in the design.



SPT OUTREACH

DRIVING INCLUSION ACROSS TORBAY AND DEVON

We're proud to be working with Torbay Council to deliver Outreach Support in 14 schools, strengthening provision for neurodiverse learners through a peer-to-peer model. Our experienced staff lead coaching, mentoring, CPD sessions, and strategic support for inclusive practice.



“Our goal is to ensure every learner feels seen, supported, and able to succeed, shaping joined-up SEND support across the region.”

INNOVATING SEND SUPPORT

In partnership with Devon County Council, Special Partnership Trust is delivering initiatives to strengthen SEND provision and promote inclusive practice across the county.

Our Year 6-7 Transition Project embeds inclusive strategies at a critical stage, helping pupils move confidently between key stages. We are also establishing SEN Hubs as Centres of Excellence, starting in Newton Abbot and South Hams, with plans to expand these hubs county-wide.

Our 1:1 Outreach Support provides tailored, peer-led assistance for individual pupils. Developed with Education Southwest and the Ted Wragg Trust, these initiatives aim to improve SEND provision and foster inclusive cultures across Devon.



JOIN SPECIAL PA

At Special Partnership Trust, we believe that supporting our staff is just as important as supporting our pupils. We are committed to creating an environment where every member of our team can thrive, grow, and feel valued.

The Trust offers a range of perks and benefits to support your health, wellbeing, and lifestyle.

- **Extra Special** – Enjoy exclusive discounts, rewards, and offers tailored for our staff.
- **My Money Matters** – Securely manage your pay, view payslips, plan finances, and access money-related resources.
- **Simply Health** – Access health and wellbeing benefits, including mental health support and physiotherapy.

Simply click each logo to find out more!

A photograph showing three individuals, two women and one man, looking at a large screen. The woman on the left is smiling and wearing glasses. The woman in the center is also wearing glasses and looking down. The man on the right is seen in profile, wearing a white headband with a large white flower.

RTNERSHIP TRUST

Our Trust is adopting MyNewTerm, a recruitment platform built for schools and multi-academy trusts. It streamlines hiring by posting vacancies, managing applications, and ensuring fully compliant, standardised processes.

“
COMMITTED TO CULTIVATING TALENT AND WELLBEING, WE STRIVE TO BUILD A WORKPLACE WHERE EVERY COLLEAGUE CAN THRIVE, GROW, AND ENJOY A TRULY REWARDING CAREER.
”

Candidates can apply online easily and receive automatic updates, while our teams benefit from improved visibility and reduced admin. The system also supports GDPR and Keeping Children Safe in Education requirements, strengthening safer recruitment.



We also have a new feature, the Talent Pool - either follow the QR code, or click [here](#) to explore opportunities.



CELEBRATING ANOTHER TERM OF ACHIEVEMENT AND COLLABORATION

As we move through the summer term, we hope this newsletter helps you stay connected, informed, and inspired.

Thank you for everything you continue to do, your resilience, your passion, and your commitment make a profound difference.

Wishing you a positive start to the term, and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

If you have a story, achievement, or special moment from this term that you'd like to see in the next edition, we'd love to feature it. Sharing these updates helps us stay connected, highlight the amazing work happening across the Trust, and celebrate the people who make our community so special.



Want to be featured in the next edition?

Email your stories or highlights to jhowie@specialpartnership.org.