



CurnowSchool



Budehaven
Community School



Falmouth
primary academy



Newsletter
October 2026

Special Partnership Trust



A Message from our CEO, Guy Chappell

As we move further into another busy and rewarding academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our colleagues across the Special Partnership Trust for the exceptional commitment, care and professionalism that you demonstrate every day.

The national SEND reform agenda continues to develop, with a growing focus on inclusion, locality-based provision, partnership working and ensuring that children and young people receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time. Across SPT, we remain committed to playing a positive and constructive role in shaping that future. Through our schools, outreach services, specialist hubs and partnerships, we are working alongside local authorities, health colleagues, mainstream schools and multi-academy trusts to help develop sustainable solutions that improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Our work continues to contribute to wider system reform.

This work would not be possible without the dedication of our staff. Whether you work in one of our schools, an Area Resource Base, outreach services or central teams, you make a profound difference to the lives of children, young people and families every single day. Your resilience and expertise embody the values of our Trust and help create learning communities where pupils can thrive.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. If you have any comments, suggestions or feedback, please do not hesitate to share them. Equally, if you have news, achievements or information that you would like to be included in future editions, we would be delighted to hear from you.

This is our Trust, and this newsletter is an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable work taking place across our community.



OPENING OF MILL WATER SEATON SATELLITE

The opening of the Seaton Hub is a major achievement for all those involved in the project. Following extensive planning, development and site completion work, the facility is now ready to begin supporting children and young people and increasing specialist capacity within the local area.

The hub has been developed through close collaboration between education leaders, local authority colleagues, design and construction partners, and the wider community. It reflects a shared ambition to provide specialist support close to local communities, and create pathways that enable children to thrive within inclusive settings.

The new provision will help strengthen local SEND provision, increase opportunities for outreach and partnership working, and support the development of expertise that can benefit schools across the wider area.



**Sarah Pickering ,
Headteacher Mill Water
Seaton Satellite said:**



"The opening of the Mill Water Seaton Satellite represents an important milestone to further improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs. This project shows what can be achieved when organisations work together with a clear focus on children, families and communities.

We are grateful to all colleagues and partners who have contributed to the design, development and delivery of this provision. Most importantly, we look forward to seeing the positive difference it will make to the lives of the children and families it serves."

Governance Update

As we begin a new academic year, we say a fond farewell to **Lianne Jory**, who has moved on to a new role. We thank Lianne for her dedication and support to governance across the Trust and wish her every success for the future.

We are delighted to welcome **Michael, Lisa and Andrew** to the Local Governing Body at Doubletrees School and **Alex** to the Local Governing Body at Nancealverne School. Alongside governors across the Trust, they are settling into their roles and looking forward to supporting their school communities in the year ahead.

Governance plays a vital role in the Special Partnership Trust, providing support, challenge and strategic oversight to help ensure the very best outcomes for our children and young people.

Our volunteers generously give their time to attend meetings, training, school events and monitoring visits.

Many are regular visitors to our schools, so if you see a governor or trustee during a visit or at an event, please do say hello. Their commitment, expertise and independent perspective help strengthen our schools and ensure we continue to learn, improve and grow together.

Did you know?

Our governors, trustees and members volunteer their time to support and challenge our schools across Cornwall, Devon and Torbay.



Introducing George Squire

I'm delighted to have joined the Special Partnership Trust as Business Development Manager. Before joining SPT, I worked at the National Farmers' Union (NFU), leading governance, compliance, risk management, data protection and organisational improvement projects.

I have recently moved from Warwickshire back to Cornwall with my family. Outside of work, I'm kept busy with my three children, so family life is certainly never dull! In my role at SPT, I'll be working closely with the Central team and school leaders to strengthen our operational services and ensure our systems and processes continue to develop alongside the Trust.

I'm particularly interested in ensuring that Central services continue to provide practical, responsive support to our schools, enabling school leaders and staff to focus on what matters most, delivering high-quality education and support for our pupils.

I'm really pleased to have joined SPT and look forward to getting to know colleagues across our schools and central team.

If you would like to speak with me, please feel free to get in touch.



Safeguarding Children

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR STAFF

Safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility, staff should always:

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.

INSIDE THE

Meet Lucy Hamilton-Reeve HR Lead

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ROLE AND WHAT A TYPICAL DAY INVOLVED?

I support our schools with all aspects of people management. No two days are ever quite the same, but a typical day might involve advising leaders on employee relations matters, reviewing policies and processes, analysing workforce data, and working on projects to support our staff.



WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR ROLE

The thing I enjoy most is being able to make a difference to people's working lives. Whether that's helping someone through a challenging situation, introducing a more efficient way of working, or supporting initiatives that improve wellbeing, it's rewarding to know the work has a positive impact.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE LOOKING TO WORK IN YOUR FIELD?

Be curious, be approachable, and never stop learning. Strong people skills are just as important as technical HR knowledge. Taking the time to understand different perspectives, building trust, and looking for practical solutions will stand you in good stead.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST LEARNING CURVE IN YOUR ROLE SO FAR?

One of the biggest learning curves has been balancing the needs of different stakeholders across multiple schools while ensuring decisions remain fair, consistent, and aligned with the Trust's values. It requires a combination of strategic thinking, adaptability, and collaboration.

ETRUST

Meet Diane Jones Estate and Asset Project Administrator

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ROLE AND WHAT A TYPICAL DAY INVOLVES

I support with a wide range of operational and administrative functions across the Trust. No two days are ever quite the same. Every day brings new challenges and opportunities to learn.



WHAT'S SOMETHING PEOPLE MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR AREA OF WORK?

People are surprised by how much coordination happens behind the scenes. A lot of our work involves bringing together information, processes, and people from different areas of the Trust to ensure everything runs effectively. Good administration is often invisible when it's working well

WHAT'S BEEN THE BIGGEST LEARNING CURVE IN YOUR ROLE SO FAR?

Understanding the breadth and complexity of a Multi Academy Trust. There are many different functions, systems, and stakeholders involved, and learning how they all connect has helped me appreciate the incredible amount of teamwork that goes into supporting our schools..

JUST FOR FUN... WHAT'S A FACT ABOUT YOURSELF THAT YOUR COLLEAGUES MIGHT NOT KNOW?

Outside of work, I enjoy walking my cockapoo, paddle boarding (but only in the summer) and I can mostly be found on the side of a cricket or rugby pitch depending on the season with my sons.



LCS

SCHOOLS

Our newest school to join the Trust, **Lampard Community School**, has had plenty to celebrate recently, with three fantastic achievements showcasing its pupils, staff and wider school community.

Silver School Games Mark

Lampard has been awarded the Silver School Games Mark for 2025/26, recognising its commitment to physical activity, school sport and creating opportunities for pupils to develop confidence, teamwork, resilience and leadership skills.



Bees' Needs Champions 2026

The school has also been named a Defra Bees' Needs Champion for its wonderful new Butterfly House. Designed and built at the school, the project supports local pollinators while giving students hands-on opportunities to explore biodiversity and the natural world.



Mission: Unbreakable 2026

And the achievements don't stop there! A team of 20 Lampard staff, past and present, took on Mission: Unbreakable, raising an incredible £2,785 for North Devon Hospice. A brilliant demonstration of teamwork, determination and community spirit.



Lampard Staff Continue to Go the Extra Mile

The community spirit doesn't stop there. We are also incredibly proud of four colleagues from Lampard Community School who have recently taken on a series of running challenges in support of causes close to their hearts.

Three members of staff participated in Run Barnstaple, raising funds for Children's Hospice South West, while Lampard's Interim Headteacher completed the Cardiff Half Marathon in support of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) charities.

Together, their efforts have raised valuable funds and awareness for two important causes, demonstrating the dedication, resilience and generosity that are so evident across the Lampard community.



**A HUGE WELL DONE TO EVERYONE INVOLVED.
YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE OF
SCHOOL MAKE US INCREDIBLY PROUD!**

TEACHING APPRENTICESHIP

On a learning journey...

We're shining a spotlight on **Sarita Cortis** who has recently started a Teaching Apprenticeship at Nancealverne.

Having built valuable experience as a HLTA, she is now working towards becoming a qualified teacher. We asked her a few questions about her career journey, her aspirations, and what she's most looking forward to as she begins her training.



What inspired you to take this next step in your career?

The children and colleagues I have worked with inspired me to keep developing. Teaching felt like the right next step to become a better practitioner and give pupils the best opportunities to succeed.

Can you tell us a little about your journey from HLTA to Teacher Apprentice?

I have worked in education for around 14 years, moving from mainstream into specialist provision to deepen my SEND knowledge. Additional responsibilities, training and my degree in Education and Training prepared me for the apprenticeship, while Nancealverne has helped me develop further through SEND and communication training.

What are you most excited about as you begin your teacher training?

I am excited to learn from my mentor and colleagues across the school. Observing their practice, asking questions and drawing on their specialist knowledge will help me develop my own teaching.





Why did you choose the apprenticeship route into teaching?

So I can train at a school I love while earning and applying my learning every day. I can develop alongside familiar pupils and colleagues, deepen my understanding of specialist provision and progress within the Special Partnership Trust.

Where do you hope this journey will take you in the future, and what are your career aspirations?

I want to become a confident, inclusive teacher who adapts learning so every child belongs and can participate meaningfully.

In one sentence, how would you describe how you're feeling about starting your teaching apprenticeship?

Beyond grateful - excited by the opportunity and ready to grow through its challenges.



Check with your school what opportunities are available to you/register your interest!



PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS



Fay Pollitt
SEN Teacher
Doubletrees School



"In July, I took part in the Race to the Stones, hiking an incredible 100km along the ancient Ridgeway after eight months of training on local coastal paths and challenging clay trails. Over two demanding days, I successfully completed this ultra-marathon challenge in support of Bran's Library Charity, a wonderful baby loss charity that provides curated bedtime story boxes for families to read to their babies in neonatal intensive care units (NICU).

It was an unforgettable experience, with soaring temperatures adding to the challenge, but the cause kept me motivated every step of the way. Despite finishing with achy hips and a small blister on my toe, crossing the finish line made every mile worthwhile. I am proud to have completed the challenge while raising awareness and support for such a special charity"

Please use Fay's link if you would like to make a donation:
<https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/100km-forbran>

Bran's Library



OUTREACH

Bringing Outreach Partners Together

We were delighted to bring together a group of special schools from across Devon, for our SPT Outreach Event, kindly hosted by Magdalen Court. It was an exciting opportunity to connect, share ideas and learn from one another. Outreach practitioners from Lampard and Mill Water offered valuable insights into the peer-to-peer, walk-alongside outreach model and why this collaborative approach has proved so effective and successful.



Becca Reed, the Trust Outreach Manager, shared some of the positive impact already being made through our current Outreach Projects. Together, we explored the possibility of creating a network of Delivery Partners to offer specialist outreach to mainstream schools across Devon. This is an exciting new venture that we will continue to shape over the coming academic year, and we look forward to building strong partnerships and extending our support to even more schools and communities.



Becoming the Specialist 'Expert at Hand' for Local Authorities

As part of the SEN reforms, local authorities are developing their Experts at Hand offers to provide SEND support in mainstream settings. The Special Partnership Trust is pleased to be working alongside Devon and Torbay as these initiatives take shape. As an Expert at Hand, SPT will be ready to offer specialist advice and practical guidance to schools, pupils and families supporting more complex needs.



Helping Mainstream Settings Become More Inclusive

We see every day the difference that Outreach support can make to the lives of children and young people. We are incredibly grateful to colleagues from Lampard, Mill Water, Castlebridge and Pencalenick for their commitment, professionalism and willingness to share their expertise, through direct school visits. Their contribution continues to enhance inclusion across our communities and ensure that specialist knowledge reaches the children and schools that need it most.



In the summer term, colleagues from across the Trust, including Lampard, Bosvena and Orchard Manor have generously shared their approaches to support pupils through focused, online sessions. These offered practical ideas and valuable insights into specialist practice, helping schools to build confidence and to create the conditions in which young people can thrive.



TRUST BENEFITS



Simplyhealth

Flu Jabs – Claim the Cost Back

Protect yourself this flu season and make the most of your Simplyhealth benefits.

If you pay for a flu vaccination, you can claim the cost back through Simplyhealth as part of your annual £75 GP Services allowance.

Simply book and pay for your flu jab, keep your receipt, and submit your claim through the SimplyPlan app or Simplyhealth website.

Some employees may also be eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination, including those who meet certain health or eligibility criteria - it's worth checking before you book.

Your benefits pot is full again! 💰

Your Simplyhealth allowances reset in September, so you now have your full annual allowances available again. Log in, see what's available and make the most of your benefits!

Simply click each logo to find out more!

Update: Survey Action Plan



Following the Trust-wide Wellbeing & Engagement survey carried out in Summer term, we're working with schools on two development areas: **workload** and **communication**.



What does this look like?

The Central HR team are supporting schools with absence management and recruitment challenges to strengthen staffing.

Concerns around late communication, unclear decision-making and limited feedback loops to be tackled by SLT at each school.

A steering group for the people strategy and survey actions with Headteachers is being set up to review and set actions.

Staff forums, pulse surveys or equivalent mechanisms will be put in place to test whether actions are visible and meaningful... your Trust, your voice.

Only 32% were confident that action would be taken as a result of the survey... let's turn this result around with tangible action!

Reduce workload pressure and strengthen staffing resilience
Strengthen communication, visibility and staff voice





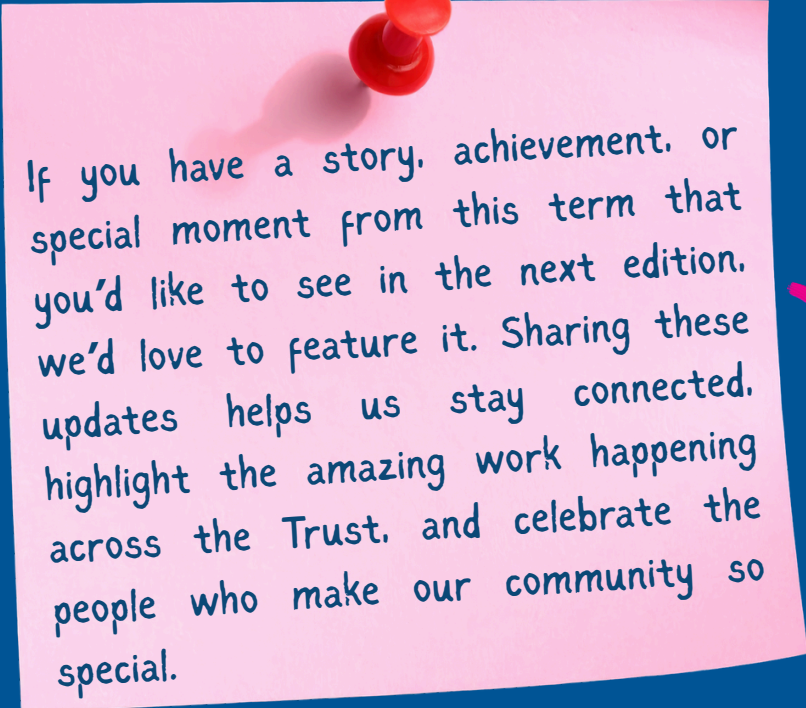
LOOKING AHEAD TO ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR

As we begin a new academic year, it's wonderful to welcome everyone back and see our schools once again filled with energy, enthusiasm and activity.

Following such a significant year of growth and change for our Trust, we have so much to look forward to in the year ahead. The start of a new academic year brings new pupils, new colleagues, fresh opportunities and, of course, new challenges. Through it all, the commitment, care and teamwork shown across our schools continues to be at the heart of everything we do.

Already, there is so much happening across our Trust, and this first newsletter of the year gives us an opportunity to celebrate just some of the fantastic work taking place across our schools.

We're excited to see what the year ahead will bring and look forward to another year of learning, growing and achieving together.



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 HR@specialpartnership.org