

SUMMER 2026



SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE

TRUST NEWSLETTER ISSUE 7



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Growing Together, Learning for Life



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BACK COVER

OUR SHARED VISION



Our vision is “Success for Everyone”. We aspire for every member of our community, regardless of circumstances or background, to be the best version of themselves - confident, successful students, committed, successful staff, who are committed to growing and developing as practitioners, and engaged stakeholders who unite in celebration. We achieve our Vision through our two core values of CARE and UNITY.

01 CARE

The overriding feel within our Trust is that we care more than anyone else could expect. We care for all aspects of our practice and, in particular, we care for:

- Everyone's safety and happiness
- Everyone's personal development and growth
- Everyone's outcomes
- Everyone's standards
- Everyone's learning
- Everyone's well-being
- Everyone's relationships

This is reflected by the fact that we call ourselves the Poly Family and we are an organisation based on relationships above all else – we are individual people first and students, staff and parents second.

02 UNITY

The value that ensures that our impact is greater than it ever could be if we worked alone. This means that our schools, teams and individuals are always pulled together in ways which share the workload and create solutions from which everyone benefits. We are determined that nothing can divide us when we put the needs of our community before everything else.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Mr T Plumb



Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of the PolyMAT Newsletter

As we reach the end of another remarkable academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements, milestones and shared experiences that have brought our community together over the past term.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate all our students and staff on the successful completion of another exam season. Across the Trust, our young people have demonstrated resilience, determination and maturity, supported every step of the way by dedicated colleagues, families and wider school communities. We now look forward to celebrating their achievements when results are released later this summer.

This edition of our newsletter is themed around community, and nowhere is that more evident than in the incredible range of opportunities and experiences that have enriched life across our schools this term. While academic success remains at the heart of what we do, it is the wider experiences that help shape confident, well-rounded young people and create lifelong memories.

We have seen students shine through music, sport, art and culture. From the vibrant Summer Music Concert at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls, to the inspiring creativity on display during Arts Weeks at Bannockburn Primary School, our talented young people have once again showcased the breadth of talent that exists across our Trust. We were also proud to host the first-ever Woolwich Polytechnic Summer Exhibition at the Boys' School, celebrating the outstanding artistic achievements of students and providing another opportunity for our community to come together and appreciate their work.

Our annual Sports Days brought excitement, teamwork and healthy competition to school fields across the Trust, while events such as Culture Day at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls highlighted the diversity, inclusivity and rich cultural heritage that make our community so special. Alongside these events, our Prize Giving ceremonies provided an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the hard work, commitment and achievements of students across all phases of education.

This year also marks an especially significant moment as we say farewell to our Year 13 Class of 2026. This cohort holds a special place in our history as the first Year 13 group to include students who joined us from our neighbouring girls' school. They have helped shape our Sixth Form community, enriched it with their talents and leadership, and leave behind a legacy that will continue to influence future generations of students. We wish them every success as they begin the next chapter of their journeys.

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you will share my sense of pride in all that has been achieved this term. The stories, photographs and celebrations featured within these pages are a testament to the strength of our Trust community, the dedication of our staff, the support of our families, and the enthusiasm of our students.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I wish all our students, staff and families a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved summer break.

FREE SUPPORT SERVICES WHEN SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED



Here's a helpful roundup of free support services available to students and parents/carers across the UK during the summer holidays when schools are closed but needs still arise:

Food & Essentials Support

- Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme - Free holiday clubs with meals for children eligible for free school meals. Available across the summer (dates vary by borough).
- Royal Greenwich Holiday Food & Fun - Free meals and activities in Woolwich, Plumstead, Eltham and Thamesmead.
- Trussell Trust Food Banks - Emergency food parcels available nationwide.
- Family Action FOOD Clubs - Affordable food boxes and holiday support for families.

Mental Health & Emotional Support

- Childline - Free, confidential support for under-19s: 0800 1111.
- Shout - Text CONNECT to 85258 for free 24/7 mental health support.
- ThinkNinja App - NHS-approved mental health tools for ages 10-18.
- Samaritans - 24/7 emotional support: 116 123.
- Kooth - Free, anonymous online mental health support for young people.
- Papyrus HOPELINE247 - Suicide prevention for young people: 0800 068 4141.
- NHS Mental Health Crisis Helpline - Call 111, then choose Option 2 for urgent help.

Family & Parenting Support

- Family Hubs & Start for Life - Parenting advice, early years support and local guidance.
- FamilyLine (Family Action) - Emotional and practical support for parents.
- YoungMinds Parent Helpline - Mental health advice for parents/carers: 0808 802 5544.
- Parenting Smart (Place2Be) - Free guidance on children's wellbeing.
- Mind: Parent Support During School Holidays - Tips and support for families.
- Family Lives - Parenting advice including online support and WhatsApp messaging.
- Action for Children - Support for families facing difficulties, including young carers.
- Barnardo's - Support for vulnerable children, families and young people.

Financial & Practical Support

- Citizens Advice - Help with benefits, housing, debt and legal guidance.
- Turn2Us - Grants and financial support for families experiencing hardship.
- Local Welfare Assistance Schemes - Emergency help with essentials (varies by council).



FREE SUPPORT SERVICES WHEN SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED



Online Safety & Protection

- CEOP (Child Exploitation & Online Protection) - Report online grooming or exploitation.
- Thinkuknow - Online safety education for children, teens and parents.
- NSPCC Online Safety Hub - Guidance on apps, games, parental controls and staying safe online.

Local Borough Support (Greenwich & Bexley)

- Royal Greenwich Family Information Service (FIS) — Childcare, holiday clubs, SEND-friendly activities and family support.
- Bexley Local Offer - Support for children and young people with SEND.
- Greenwich Libraries - Free summer reading challenges, craft sessions, coding clubs and family events.
- GLL Leisure Centres (Greenwich) - Free or low-cost swimming and holiday sports activities for children.
- The HER Centre - A Greenwich-based women's charity providing free, confidential support for women affected by domestic abuse, sexual abuse or relationship trauma. 020 3260 7772 or via the Greenwich Domestic Violence Helpline on 020 8317 8273.
- Peabody Community Services - Customer Care Line is 0800 022 4040 or 020 7021 4444, open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm.

Save These Numbers

- Childline: 0800 1111
- Samaritans: 116 123
- HOPELINE247: 0800 068 4141
- NHS Mental Health Crisis: 111 → Option 2

Safeguarding Reminder

If you are concerned about a child's immediate safety, call 999. For non-emergency safeguarding concerns, contact your local authority's children's services.

Free Local Outdoor Spaces (Greenwich)

Great for low-cost family days out during the holidays.

- Greenwich Park
- Avery Hill Park
- Oxleas Woods
- Thamesmead Lakes
- Charlton & Thamesmead splash parks



FREE SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS



Here's a list of fun, free activities for all ages that can keep students engaged, active, and creative over the summer break:



Outdoor & Active

- Local park adventures - picnics, football, rounders, frisbee, nature spotting.
- Thames Path walks - Woolwich → Greenwich → Deptford routes.
- Cycling routes - use local cycle lanes and riverside paths.
- Community sports courts - free basketball courts in Woolwich, Plumstead & Thamesmead.
- Geocaching - free treasure-hunt style app using local landmarks.



Creative & Fun

- DIY photography challenges - colour hunt, symmetry shots, portrait practice.
- Drawing prompts - nature sketching, character design, street scenes.
- Make a summer scrapbook - photos, ticket stubs, doodles, memories.
- Free online creative workshops - Tate, National Gallery, BBC Bitesize Art.
- Create a short film - phone + free editing apps.



Learning & Exploration

- Visit local libraries - free study spaces, book clubs, teen events.
- Summer reading challenge - national programme for young people.
- Free museum days - National Maritime Museum, Tate Modern, Science Museum.
- Learn a new skill online - coding, languages, design, music.



Community & Volunteering

- Litter-picking with friends - simple, positive and great for the area.
- Help at community gardens - Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park often welcomes volunteers.
- Support local events - festivals, markets, community days.



Wellbeing & Mindfulness

- Mindful walks - focus on sounds, colours, textures.
- Free yoga videos - YouTube beginner sessions.
- Journaling prompts - gratitude lists, goals, reflections.



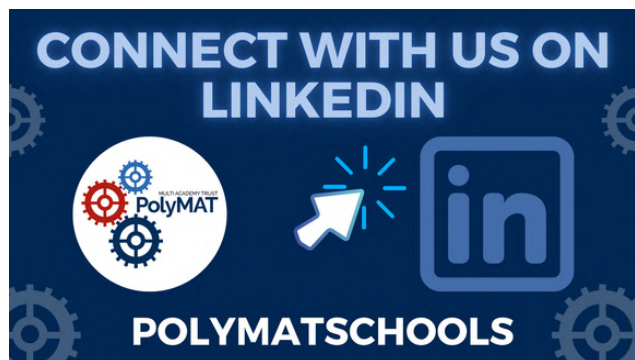
Social & Fun With Friends

- Host a games afternoon - cards, charades, drawing games.
- Picnic meet-ups - each person brings one item.
- Music swap sessions - share playlists and discover new artists.
- Create a summer challenge list - 10 fun goals to complete by September.

ACROSS OUR PLATFORMS

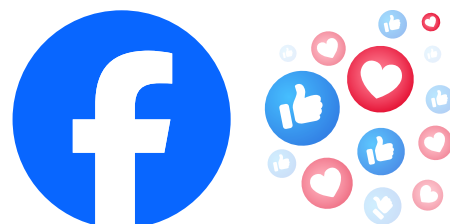


This academic year, we shared an incredible **645** posts on our Trust LinkedIn page, reaching a total of **92,636 impressions** and helping us showcase the achievements, opportunities and successes across our schools to a wider audience than ever before.



Discover the New Bannockburn Primary School Website!

We were delighted to launch the brand new website for Bannockburn Primary School, part of the PolyMAT family, in June. Working closely with Juniper Education, we created a fresh new online home for the school that better reflects its vibrant community and values. From a modern design to new student photography on the homepage, the website captures the energy, ambition and spirit of Bannockburn Primary School while providing an improved experience for pupils, parents and visitors.



726,764 views and counting!

This academic year, our two Facebook pages Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys and Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls achieved an incredible **731,903 views**, helping us share the achievements, opportunities and everyday successes taking place across the PolyMAT family. Thank you to everyone who follows, likes, comments and shares our content.

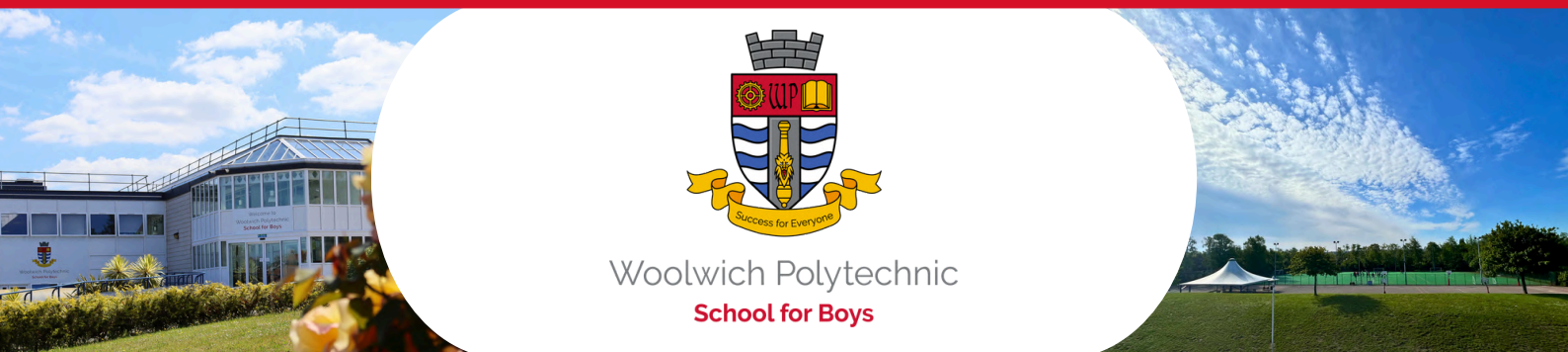
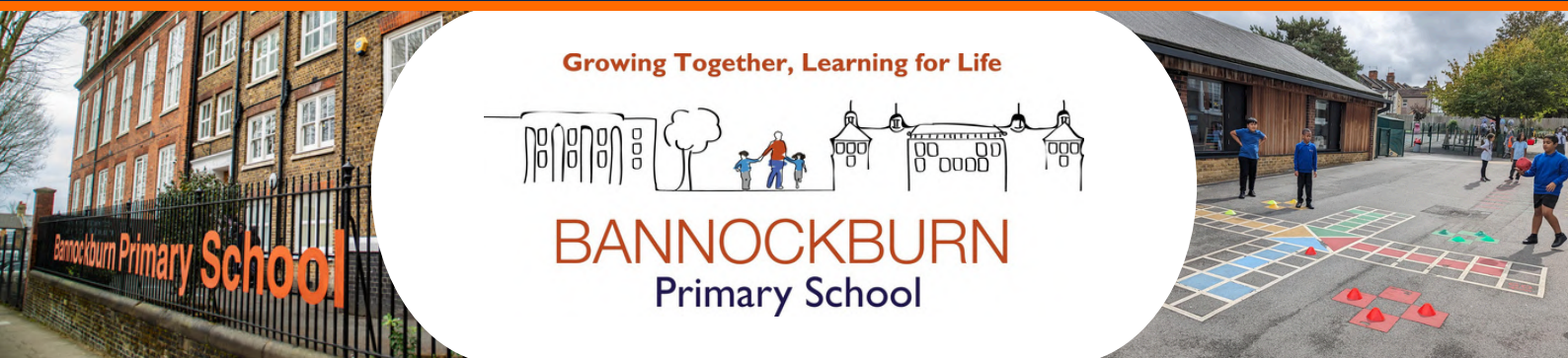


A year of growth on YouTube!

This academic year, we created, filmed, edited and published **63** videos (and counting!), reaching **61,427 views**, gaining **245** new subscribers and achieving an incredible **536.9** hours of watch time. From student success stories to school events and Trust-wide celebrations, our videos have helped bring the PolyMAT story to life.



OUR FAMILY OF SCHOOLS





COMMUNITY: THE HEART OF OUR SCHOOLS

Community is at the heart of everything we do across PolyMAT. It is the foundation on which our students learn, grow and succeed, and the thread that connects our schools, families, staff and wider partners.

Throughout this edition, our Headteachers reflect on what community means in their unique school settings. From fostering a strong sense of belonging and inclusion, to building meaningful partnerships with families, developing student leadership and bringing people together through shared experiences, these stories showcase the many ways our communities thrive.

Together, they highlight the strength, diversity and spirit that make our schools such special places to learn and work. We hope you enjoy reading about the people, partnerships and events that continue to shape and strengthen our PolyMAT community.

COMMUNITY AT THE HEART OF BANNOCKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Growing Together, Learning for Life



BANNOCKBURN
Primary School

At Bannockburn Primary School, we believe that children flourish when they feel part of a strong community. Knowing our community well is one of our greatest strengths and enables us to provide the support and opportunities that help every child succeed. We take time to listen to the views of pupils, parents, and staff, using their feedback to shape the way we work and continually improve what we offer. By responding to the needs of our families and putting effective systems in place to support everyone, we have created a school where children feel safe, valued and ready to learn. Our shared values underpin everything we do, helping to build a culture of trust, respect and belonging that is reflected in everyday school life.

Perhaps the best reflection of this comes from our pupils themselves. They describe Bannockburn as "a kind and supportive school", "a safe place where everyone is welcome", "the best school ever" and even "the world's best school." These comments remind us that when children feel happy, listened to and included, they are able to thrive both personally and academically.

Pupil leadership continues to be one of the school's greatest strengths. Throughout the year, our leadership groups have led projects that have made a genuine difference to both the school and the wider community. Our Move It Makers encouraged participation in our successful Fun Run, while the Music Makers transformed recycled xylophone keys into an outdoor musical feature for our Forest School. Global Ambassadors celebrated Earth Day by encouraging pupils to make personal pledges to care for the environment, Playground Leaders completed training to lead active and inclusive games during breaktimes, and our Junior Leadership Team helped organise the school's second-hand bike sale, promoting sustainable travel while supporting families.

Our commitment to our local community and environment continues to be recognised beyond the school gates. We were delighted to receive another award for our Community Garden, and we were also proud to achieve Gold Travel Ambassadors status, recognising our ongoing commitment to promoting safe, healthy and sustainable travel choices across our school community.

Parent Forums, coffee mornings and workshops have provided opportunities to discuss important topics such as online safety, healthy screen use, sleep, nutrition and children's emotional wellbeing. These conversations help us to share ideas, respond to emerging issues and strengthen the partnership between home and school so that children receive consistent support both in and out of the classroom.

Children continue to benefit from a rich programme of enrichment, including cultural celebrations, music partnerships, community performances, enterprise projects and First Aid training. These experiences develop confidence, responsibility and important life skills while broadening pupils' understanding of the world around them and the positive contribution they can make within it.

As we look ahead, community will remain at the heart of our vision. One of our key priorities for the coming year is strengthening every child's sense of belonging through positive transitions, strong pastoral support and meaningful partnerships with families. By continuing to listen, respond and work together, we will ensure that every child feels connected, valued and ready to succeed, both in school and beyond.

Headteacher
Mrs R Ford



BANNOCKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher
Mrs R Ford



Follow all the latest school news and events on [Bannockburn's Blog here](#)



A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY STUDENT BELONGS



Woolwich Polytechnic
School for Girls

At Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls, community is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that students thrive when they feel safe, valued, included and connected to the people around them. Through shared experiences, celebration of diversity, service to others and opportunities for leadership, we work hard to create a strong sense of belonging for students, staff and families.

From the very first day, students experience the warmth of our community. One of our most treasured traditions is staff applaud Year 7 students as they leave after their first day at the Poly. This simple act sends a powerful message that they are welcomed, valued and part of something special. Throughout their journey with us, students continue to build connections through events such as Culture Day, where we celebrate the rich diversity of our school and learn from one another's backgrounds, traditions and experiences.

Our community is strengthened through creativity and shared achievements. The recent production of SIX brought together performers, staff, families and support teams, creating a collective sense of pride and accomplishment. Similarly, our wellbeing day before half term saw students work together to design and create dresses from newspapers, encouraging teamwork, creativity and fun. End-of-year traditions such as shirt signing provide opportunities for students to celebrate friendships and memories that will last long beyond their time at school.

Student voice is a key part of our culture. A particularly powerful example was our most vulnerable students designing a mural to raise awareness of their daily struggles, helping others better understand their experiences and promoting empathy and inclusion across the school.

Strong partnerships with families further enrich our community. Parent coffee mornings provide valuable opportunities for conversation, collaboration and mutual support, ensuring that families feel connected to school life and able to contribute to their child's success.

Beyond our school gates, we are committed to making a positive difference. Students and staff regularly fundraise for charities, including a staff bake-off competition supporting Macmillan Cancer Support. We celebrate International Women's Day, inspiring students to recognise their potential and the achievements of women worldwide. Students also participate in litter-picking activities around the local area, with residents often thanking them for showing pride and care for the community.

Our partnerships extend to local primary schools through football tournaments, science exploration activities led by our technicians and regular visits that help younger pupils feel connected to the wider PolyMAT family. Educational visits and trips broaden horizons, allowing students to explore the world beyond the classroom, while staff wellbeing activities, including inflatable challenges and the Otford hike, strengthen relationships among colleagues.

Together, these experiences create a culture where everyone feels they belong. They foster inclusion, strengthen relationships and ensure that our school is not simply a place of learning, but a vibrant, supportive community where students, staff and families can flourish together.

Headteacher
Ms L Williams

WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



Headteacher
Ms L Williams



Follow all the latest school news and events at WPSfG via our facebook account [here](#)



STRONGER TOGETHER: THE POWER OF COMMUNITY AT POLY



Woolwich Polytechnic
School for Boys

At Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys, community is at the heart of everything we do. More than just a place of learning, our school is a vibrant and supportive environment where students, staff, families, and local partners work together to help every young person thrive. We believe that when a strong community is built on respect, inclusion, and shared purpose, students are empowered to achieve their very best both inside and outside the classroom. We represent Thamesmead and surrounding areas with pride and genuinely feel that we are an uplifting presence for our community.

Our school prides itself on fostering a culture where every student feels valued and supported. From the moment students join the Woolwich Polytechnic family, they are encouraged to develop a sense of belonging and responsibility. Through our values of respect, resilience, aspiration, and integrity, we aim to nurture confident young men who contribute positively to society and take pride in their role within the wider community.

The strength of our community is reflected in the relationships built across the school. Staff work tirelessly to provide outstanding opportunities for students, while parents and carers play a vital role in supporting learning and personal development. Regular communication between home and school ensures that students receive consistent encouragement and guidance, helping them to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Student leadership is another important aspect of community life at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys. Through roles such as prefects, ambassadors, and members of the student council, young people are given opportunities to have their voices heard and make meaningful contributions to school improvement. These experiences help students develop leadership skills, confidence, and a deeper understanding of service to others.

We are also proud of our strong links with the local community. Partnerships with businesses, organisations, charities, and educational institutions provide valuable learning experiences that enrich the curriculum and broaden students' horizons. Whether through work experience, mentoring programmes, fundraising initiatives, or community projects, our students are encouraged to engage actively with the world around them and make a positive difference.

Throughout the year, the school community comes together to celebrate achievements, support charitable causes, and participate in a wide range of events. From sports fixtures and cultural celebrations to performances and reward evenings, these occasions strengthen connections and create lasting memories. They also provide opportunities for students to showcase their talents and represent the school with pride.

Diversity is one of the greatest strengths of our community. We celebrate the rich range of cultures, backgrounds, and experiences represented within our school, particularly in our inaugural Cultural Extravaganza this term. By promoting understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect, we prepare students to become responsible citizens in an increasingly diverse society. Our commitment to inclusion ensures that every student has the opportunity to succeed and feel a valued member of the school community.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to building an even stronger community where everyone can flourish: when our wider community in Thamesmead succeeds, so do we.

Headteacher
Mr T Lawrence

WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS



Headteacher
Mr T Lawrence



Follow all the latest school news and
events at WPSfB via our facebook
[account here](#)





Are you looking



to join

PolyMAT?

BECOMING A POLYMAT SCHOOL:

If our vision and values strike a chord, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you and see if you would like to become part of our trust. We are open to collaborations with schools in the South East, if your school is interested in becoming part of PolyMAT, please reach out to: contactus@polymat.co.uk

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?

At PolyMAT, we place great emphasis on creating a workplace that is happy and fulfilling and puts people on a journey of development, both professionally and personally. We feel truly blessed with the amazing staff that we work with and their never-ending drive to do special things to help our students. We are ambitious and dedicated and will always place the quality of education before any other desires. If you are interested in working with us, please contact one of our schools directly, and we will be very happy to discuss opportunities with you.

If we do not have any vacancies matching your interests, please join our Talent Pool at [MyNewTerm](#) and we will review your application.

Tim Plumb
CEO of PolyMAT





Bannockburn Primary School



