



TRUST NEWSLETTER ISSUE 4 SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE COVER PHOTO: WPSFG GARDEN TAKEN BY L FITZGERALD



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Growing Together, Learning for Life



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Are you looking to join PolyMAT?

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.

()1 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 2025 edition of the PolyMAT Newsletter

As we share our final newsletter of the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredible year across all our schools at PolyMAT. The dedication, resilience, and creativity demonstrated by our students, staff, and communities have been nothing short of inspiring.

From Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys and Girls, we've seen exceptional academic achievements, powerful community engagement, and vibrant school cultures built on care and ambition. Our Sixth Form students continue to make us proud, with many pursuing exciting opportunities beyond their studies, and the younger years have flourished through innovative teaching and enriching experiences.

At Bannockburn Primary School, we have just received news that fills us with so much pride - an Outstanding Ofsted report in every category. The inspectors highlighted the school's nurturing environment, strong curriculum, and exceptional behaviour and personal development. This achievement speaks to the exceptional guidance of Rachel Ford and her dedicated team at Bannockburn - all brought to life by students whose positivity, curiosity, and respect shape the soul of the school.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering commitment of our staff across all schools - your passion continues to shape futures and inspire the next generation. To our parents and carers, thank you for the trust, support, and collaboration you've offered throughout the year.

While the summer break offers a well-earned pause for many, we're incredibly grateful to the dedicated staff who will continue working behind the scenes - planning, preparing, and improving our schools for the year ahead. Your commitment doesn't go unnoticed, and we thank you in advance for the energy and care you continue to pour into our community.

As the summer begins, I hope each of you finds some time to rest, recharge, and celebrate all that we've achieved together. With an eye on the opportunities ahead, we remain appreciative of all we've accomplished as a trust over the past academic year.

Tim Plumb CEO PolyMAT

BANNOCKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL SHINES: OUTSTANDING IN EVERY OFSTED CATEGORY



Bannockburn Primary School, a proud member of the PolyMAT Trust, has been officially recognised by Ofsted as Outstanding across all five inspection categories: Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management, and Early Years Provision. This powerful endorsement follows the school's inspection on 10 and 11 June 2025.

PolyMAT is immensely proud of Bannockburn Primary School's exceptional achievement, which reflects the dedication, heart, and high standards that define the trust's vision for education.

Tim Plumb, CEO of PolyMAT comments:

"This recognition affirms Bannockburn's unwavering dedication to fostering excellence, equity and empowerment. We're incredibly proud of every student, parent/carer, and member of staff who made this achievement possible."

Rachel Ford, Headteacher of Bannockburn Primary School added:

"This outcome reflects the shared passion and integrity that drives our entire school community. I am incredibly proud to be part of such a collaborative and supportive school community."



A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE AND WARMTH

Inspectors described Bannockburn as "an oasis of calm," where pupils manage their behaviour "exceptionally well" and demonstrate pride in their school through "kindness, positivity, and respect." Relationships across the school were praised as "warm and respectful," creating a "highly supportive and nurturing environment for learning."



AMBITIOUS LEARNING FOR ALL

The curriculum was commended as "broad and ambitious," thoughtfully sequenced to allow children to build on existing knowledge. A standout example came from the music provision, where pupils progress from learning basic patterns in Year 3 to exploring atmosphere through chord sequences in Year 6. Teachers were recognised for skilfully connecting pupils' learning to wider themes, helping them become "knowledgeable and articulate learners."

BANNOCKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL SHINES: OUTSTANDING IN EVERY OFSTED CATEGORY





EARLY YEARS AND SEND SUCCESS

The Early Years environment was hailed as "exciting and enabling," with children confidently engaging in a range of activities. Staff were celebrated for helping children develop "language and communication skills" that set them up for success in Year 1. Inspectors highlighted that pupils with SEND "do very well from their different starting points," due to timely support and adaptive teaching strategies.



A LOVE OF READING AND LEADERSHIP

Reading is at the heart of Bannockburn's culture, with "engaging and animated" story sessions and an expertly delivered phonics programme. The school's approach to personal development stood out for its uniqueness and impact - every pupil from Year 2 upwards takes part in leadership groups like the 'media team' and 'premises personnel', contributing meaningfully to school life.



A COMMUNITY POWERHOUSE

Beyond academics, pupils are active citizens - cooking and selling healthy meals, raising funds for charity, and mentoring younger peers. Breaktimes offer a variety of enriching activities, from gardening to organised sports, reinforcing values like kindness, creativity, and service.



STAFF PRIDE AND STRONG LEADERSHIP

Staff reported feeling "happy and proud to work here," supported by tireless efforts from leaders and governors. The school's commitment to hearing student voices in decision-making was lauded, ensuring that all policies and changes serve pupils' best interests.

To learn more about Bannockburn Primary School or explore the full Ofsted report, visit www.bannockburnprimaryschool.com.

FREE SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS



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



LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

- Library Challenges Join your local library's summer reading scheme for free books and rewards.
- Home Science Experiments Try volcano-making with baking soda and vinegar or build a paper plane challenge.
- Creative Writing Prompts Use picture prompts to spark imagination.



MIND-STRETCHERS & SKILL BUILDERS

- Skill Swap Sessions Teach friends something you know (drawing, football tricks, coding) and learn something new in return.
- DIY Quizzes & Escape Rooms Create themed challenges at home using riddles, maps, or scavenger hunts.
- Journal & Scrapbook Projects Reflect on achievements and goals with creative prompts or vision boards.



ROUTINE & WELLBEING BOOSTERS

- Morning Stretch & Podcast Combo Pair gentle yoga or stretches with a motivational or funny podcast.
- Digital Declutter Day Sort apps, emails, and photos to start the new term fresh.
- Mindfulness Walks Quiet strolls with breathing exercises to encourage calm and reflection.
- Back-to-School Countdown Calendar Include one small daily task to ease the return (e.g., packing pencil case).



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

- Park Fitness Circuits Make obstacle courses using benches, trees, and playground equipment.
- Nature Scavenger Hunts Search for leaves, feathers, wildflowers, or bugs in green spaces.
- Free Geocaching Adventures Use free apps to hunt hidden treasures around your area.



AT-HOME CHALLENGES & BRAIN BOOSTERS

- Design a Board Game Use cardboard and pens to invent your own game with unique rules and characters.
- DIY Comic Series Create your own storyline or superhero saga across multiple strips.
- Memory Master Challenge siblings or friends to memorise poems, facts, or new words in fun competitions.

SUMMER OF FUN: FREE FAMILY EVENTS IN GREENWICH & LONDON





Here's a list of free family events happening across Greenwich and London this summer - perfect for keeping everyone entertained without spending a penny.

JULY	Event	Location	Description
12 July (Sat)	Kidbrooke Carnival & Nigerian Cultural	Pegler Sq & Cator Park	Parades, Afrobeat dance, workshops &
19–20 July	Ready Steady Sail!	National Maritime Museum	Boat-building and ocean-themed
Weekends	Summer in the Park	Maryon & Gallions Parks	Live music, arts & creative workshops

AUGUST	Event	Location	Description
1–31 August	Costa Del Croydon	Centrale, Croydon	Urban beach, splash zones, live music &
7–17 August	Kings Cross Summer Sounds	Coal Drops Yard	Concerts, aerial shows, and family
23-24 August	Greenwich Fair	Greenwich Park	Street theatre, games & circus acts
22 Aug-6 Sept	GDIF Festival Begins	Across Greenwich & Docklands	Outdoor theatre, dance & circus

SEPTEMBER	Event	Location	Description
13 Sept (Sat)	Woolwich Carnival	Woolwich Town Centre	Parade, music, food & vibrant performances
6th Sept	The Weight of Water (GDIF)	Thamesmead	Floating circus & dance on Birchmere
Until 14 Sept	Royal Greenwich Festival Continues	Borough-wide	Final week of music, dance & cultural

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

- **Holiday Food and Fun Programme** Free holiday clubs offering meals and activities for children aged 4–16 who receive benefit-related free school meals. Includes inclusive sessions for children with SEND. Locations across Woolwich, Plumstead, Eltham, Thamesmead and more.
- Free Holiday Meals available at libraries and leisure centres across Greenwich no booking required. Check days and locations via the council's website.
- Trussell Trust Food Banks Emergency food parcels and support across the UK. Find your nearest location using the Trussell Trust food bank finder.
- Family Action FOOD Clubs Affordable weekly food boxes and holiday support for families.

MENTAL HEALTH & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

- **Childline (Ages 18 and under)** Free, confidential support via phone (0800 1111), chat, or email. Explore resources at Childline's summer support page.
- **Shout Text Service** (Ages 10+) Text CONNECT to 85258 for free 24/7 mental health support. More info at Give Us A Shout.
- **ThinkNinja App** (Ages 10–18) Free mental health app with tools for managing anxiety, stress, and low mood. Available on app stores via ThinkNinja.

FAMILY & PARENTING SUPPORT

- Young Greenwich Parenting Support (METRO Charity) Free advice and support for parents of children aged 10–19 (or up to 25 with SEND). Available to all families living in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.
- **Families Information Service (Royal Greenwich)** Help with childcare, SEND support, and local services for families with children up to age 19 (or 25 with SEND).
- **Greenwich Community Directory** A searchable hub of local services, events, and support groups.
- **FamilyLine by Family Action** Free emotional support for parents via phone, text, email, or web chat.
- **Parenting Smart by Place2Be** Practical advice and tips for managing children's wellbeing. Explore resources at Parenting Smart.
- **YoungMinds Parent Helpline** Free advice for parents worried about their child's mental health. Call 0808 802 5544 or visit YoungMinds.





OUR FAMILY OF SCHOOLS





Growing Together, Learning for Life



BANNOCKBURN Primary School















BANNOCKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher Mrs R Ford



This term has been filled with creativity, curiosity, and community spirit here at Bannockburn - a true reflection of the values that make our school so special.

We kicked off June with a burst of energy during our Arts Week, where every corner of the school came alive with colour, music, and imagination. From expressive painting to collaborative sculpture-making, our pupils embraced the chance to explore new mediums and celebrate their creativity. The enthusiasm was infectious, and the final displays were nothing short of inspiring.

Our Spanish cooking sessions brought a delicious twist to learning, as children discovered new flavours and cultural traditions while preparing simple dishes. It was wonderful to see students working together, trying new ingredients, and proudly sharing their creations.

In Year 2, students explored linkages and levers in a hands-on design and technology project, applying their knowledge to build moving models. Their problem-solving and teamwork were impressive, and the sense of achievement was clear in every smile.

We also welcomed families to our Sports Days, which took place across year groups throughout the month. From Reception to Year 6, the events were filled with laughter, encouragement, and healthy competition. The support from our community was heartwarming, and the children's determination and sportsmanship made us all proud.

As always, our staff have gone above and beyond to create meaningful learning experiences, and our students have responded with joy, curiosity, and kindness.

As we reflect on the academic year as a whole, it is clear that Bannockburn has continued to thrive - from creative adventures and outdoor achievements to rich learning and joyful community events. Our Outstanding Ofsted grading has affirmed the incredible work being done across the school every day, and we could not be prouder of the students, staff, and families who make Bannockburn such a special place to grow and learn. Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this success next year with fresh opportunities, bold ideas, and the same unwavering commitment to our school values.



SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainability is becoming more important across education and as a primary school we are in a great position to help children build good habits that care for the environment. At Bannockburn, we have worked hard to try and make sustainability part of everyday life - from how we learn in the classroom to how we look after our school grounds.

A big part of this work is supported by our enthusiastic Pupil Leadership Groups. With representatives from each class, these pupils help raise awareness and lead practical initiatives across the school such as promoting energy saving, reducing waste and supporting national awareness days like Earth Day. They help to shape our whole-school approach and ensure that change is both meaningful and led by them.

One of our biggest successes has been developing our sensory garden, which is cared for by our Gardening Pupil Leadership Group. Children grow fruit, vegetables, and flowers and learn about the seasons, healthy eating, and how plants support local wildlife. Sometimes, we use what we have grown in food technology lessons or share it with the school kitchen to be used in school lunch.

We are also working on reducing our energy use across the school. Everyone in the school plays a part - such as checking that lights, screens and equipment are turned off when they are not needed. These small actions are helping us to become more aware of how we use our resources and ways in which we can keep making a difference. For example, children's taps now have automatic turn off.

We provide children hands-on lessons, engaging experiences, and real-life opportunities to explore sustainability in an enjoyable and meaningful way. Children use whiteboards and online tools where possible to cut down on paper. In art and design, we make the most of recycled materials and natural items, which also encourages children to be creative and problem solve.

Getting to school in a sustainable way is something that we promote. We encourage walking, cycling and scooting to help reduce traffic, improve air quality around the school and improve fitness. We have installed bike and scooter racks on both sites which are well used. Many of our staff also car share to get to and from work and have access to an electric point to top up their electric cars if needed.

We also link sustainability to lots of learning across subjects. In geography, science and PSHE, children explore issues like climate change, pollution and how to protect the planet. These lessons are often tied to real-life topics or local news, so they feel relevant and interesting. We also build it into other subjects - for example, persuasive writing on environmental issues or data handling using real school energy use.

Assemblies are used to highlight key messages. Working with organisations outside school helps us bring in new ideas and keep things fresh. As part of our wider aims, we are also embedding the Department for Education's sustainability goals and are proud to be part of the 'Let's Go Zero' campaign. This supports our journey towards reducing carbon emissions and helps us make long-term, meaningful changes. There is still work to do - like cutting down on paper even more - but we are proud of the steps we have taken so far!

WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



As the academic year draws to a close, I am incredibly proud of everything we've accomplished together at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls. The summer term has been bursting with creativity, recognition, and school spirit - each moment a reflection of the passion and pride that define our community. From national accolades to unforgettable concerts, our students have led the way with talent, kindness, and determination.

Our Gardening Club flourished - literally! Students nurtured tomatoes, strawberries, and courgettes from seed to harvest, learning about sustainability, teamwork, and the joy of growing something from scratch.

We were thrilled to see our 9Y class achieve national recognition by winning the Sky Up The Edit Fiction Competition, rising above thousands of entries with their powerful storytelling and creative flair. Their submission stood out for its originality showcasing not only their imagination but also their ability to collaborate with focus and heart.

We also celebrated our Year 11 leavers with the cherished tradition of shirt signing. It was a joyful, emotional afternoon filled with laughter, hugs, and artistic tributes to friendships and shared journeys. Their legacy will live on in every corridor and classroom.

In early July, Year 10 student Precious made us proud on a national stage, placing Runner-Up in the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge Grand Final. Her powerful speech on sickle cell awareness moved an audience of nearly 1,000 and showcased her courage, eloquence, and leadership.

We ended the term on a high note with our Summer Concert, where over 60 students performed in choirs, bands, and solo acts. From stunning vocals to a show-stopping Samba finale, the evening was a celebration of talent, dedication, and joy. Thanks to Ms Stamp and Miss Wright for bringing this event to life.

We were honoured to receive the School Games Gold Mark Award, recognising our commitment to inclusive sport, leadership, and physical activity. From netball and cricket to dance and umpire training, our students have shown outstanding teamwork and passion across every field and court. A huge thank you to the PE department for organising such a fantastic Sports Day on Wednesday 16th July - the students had an amazing time and thoroughly enjoyed every moment

As the term ends, we want to thank our incredible staff for their tireless dedication, creativity, and care. You've made this a year to remember. With your support, our students continue to thrive and we look forward to building on that success in the new academic year. Here's to even greater things ahead.

WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS



Mr T Lawrence

As we close the academic year, I'm delighted to reflect on the vibrant and inspiring final weeks of term here at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys. From heartfelt farewells to creative collaborations, this summer has truly showcased the strength, spirit, and unity of our school community.

We began June by celebrating our Year 11 students, who marked the end of their journey with shirt signing, personal messages, and warm goodbyes. Their maturity and optimism as they approached their final exams was a credit to them all, and we now look forward to GCSE results day with pride.

We were also thrilled to be named GCSE Citizenship Studies School of the Year at the Association for Citizenship Teaching National Teaching Awards - a prestigious honour presented at the House of Commons. This award recognises our commitment to making Citizenship Studies a respected and engaging subject, empowering students to explore democracy, justice, and active participation in society. Huge congratulations to Ms Briggs, Head of Humanities, and to every student whose passion and insight helped us earn this national recognition.

Later in the month, our Year 13 Graduation was a standout moment - a beautifully planned evening filled with laughter, tributes, and celebration. The CLS and Activities Hall were transformed with elegant touches, and speeches from our Head Boys and Head Girls captured the heart of our Sixth Form journey. It was a night of joy, gratitude, and hope for the future. With A Level Results Day just around the corner, we're excited to celebrate the achievements of our Sixth Form students and support them as they take the next steps toward further education, training, or careers.

In a wonderful show of trust-wide collaboration, our Year 9 Art Ambassadors visited Bannockburn Primary School to support their Art Week. Their leadership and kindness were exemplary, and the younger pupils responded with enthusiasm and creativity. It was a proud moment of mentorship and unity across PolyMAT.

On 10th July, we hosted our KS3 Prizegiving Ceremony, celebrating the achievements of our Year 7, 8, and 9 students. With special guests including Thamesmead Councillors and alumni, the evening was filled with warmth, recognition, and inspiration. Our students truly embodied what it means to be Poly and Proud.

From creative projects to community engagement, this term has been a testament to the strength and spirit of Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys. I want to thank every student, parent/carer, and member of staff for making this such a memorable chapter. We look forward to the next with excitement and gratitude.



OUR SCHOOL, THEIR CHOICE





We're proud to announce that five full episodes of our powerful new video series, Our School, Their Choice, are now live on our PolyMAT YouTube channel - with dedicated playlists for Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys and Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls.

This series offers a rare and moving glimpse into the lives of our families, as parents and carers share why they chose our schools and why they continue to entrust us with their children's education. Through open, unscripted conversations, they reflect on their experiences with honesty and emotion, highlighting everything from academic progress and pastoral care to the sense of belonging that defines our school communities.

Each episode explores a different theme - from first impressions and expectations to personal growth and trust. Viewers hear directly from families about the impact our schools have had on their children's confidence, wellbeing, and future aspirations. These aren't scripted testimonials; they're authentic stories that shine a light on the compassion, structure, and care that underpin our ethos of Success for Everyone.

Creating this project has been an incredibly insightful and rewarding experience, deepening our connections with families and allowing us to hear first-hand about their children's educational journeys. We sincerely appreciate all the parents and carers who participated in our recent filming. Your involvement and support have been invaluable in bringing this initiative to life, and your shared perspectives will leave a lasting impact. Your openness and warmth have helped create something truly meaningful - a series that celebrates not just our schools, but the relationships at the heart of everything we do.

The series has already received heartfelt feedback from staff, students, and viewers across the trust. It's also become a valuable resource for prospective families, offering a genuine look into the culture and values of our schools.

Watch all five episodes now on PolyMAT's YouTube channel and hear directly from the voices that shape our community: www.youtube.com/@polymatschools









WPSFB STUDENTS SUPPORT &





WPSFB WINS GCSE CITIZENSHIP STUDIES SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS



FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE COUNCIL: WPSFB STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE













SUMMER CONCERT THURSDAY 10TH JULY 2025











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 <u>MyNewTerm</u> and we will review your application.

Tim Plumb **CEO of PolyMAT**





