

Pickwick Papers – Edition 24 – Term 2 – Dec 2024

Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)

As another exciting and busy term comes to a close, I would like to say a huge thank you to all our staff teams and governors, and to you and your children for everything you do to make our schools such fantastic places to learn and work.



Have a wonderful Christmas holiday and well-deserved break!

Queens Crescent – Microsoft Showcase School

We are thrilled to announce that Queens Crescent has been awarded the prestigious status of Microsoft Showcase School!



This recognition is a testament to the school's commitment to embracing innovative teaching and learning practices, integrating technology seamlessly into classrooms, and preparing pupils for the future.

Being a Microsoft Showcase School means Queens Crescent is part of an elite group of schools, globally recognised for their vision and innovation in digital transformation.

This status provides the school with access to exclusive resources, professional development opportunities, and a global network of educators dedicated to enhancing pupil learning outcomes, through technology.

This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the amazing staff at the school.

A special thank you goes to Thomas Stocks, who led this initiative with real enthusiasm.

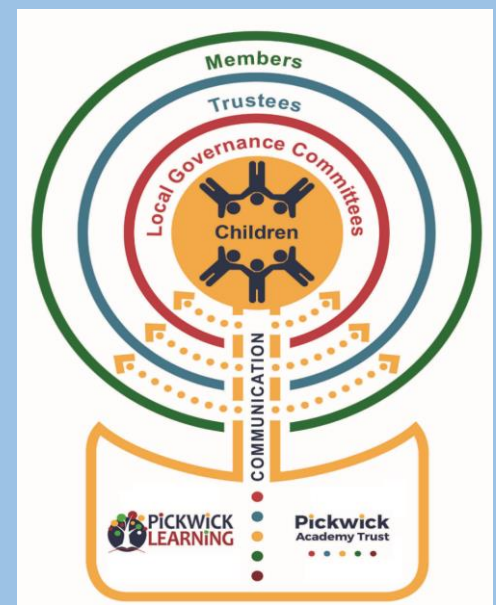
We are looking forward to sharing these ideas and resources with schools across the Trust.

Vacancy – can you help?

At Pickwick Academy Trust, we have three layers of Governance: Members, Trustees and Local Governance Committees.

Members and Trustees oversee the work of the whole Trust and executive team, and LGCs govern each school. Find out more [here](#).

We have Member and Trustee vacancies – please email us if you are interested or would like to find out more / explore roles.



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Successful SIAMS at Longford CE Primary

On 17 October 2024, Longford CE Primary School had a routine Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection. SIAMS inspections are carried out in all church schools, to provide an evaluation of the impact of the school's distinctively Christian vision and to explore to what extent the children at the school are flourishing.

The inspector was hugely impressed by the school, leaders, staff and children noting that Longford is a warm, welcoming haven for its community. She saw that the embedded vision is enhanced by that of the Trust, which has aspiration and inclusion at its core.

The report described how each pupil matters deeply to the staff, and that children are given every opportunity to succeed personally and academically. It also celebrated the new enquiry-led curriculum, reflecting the school's and Trust's relentless ambition for pupils. The inspector commented that leaders are committed to ensuring that all children who wish to learn an instrument can do so.

Leaders and staff recognise the 'intrinsic, non-negotiable nature of spiritual flourishing'. The inspector highlighted the strength of the school's collective worship and the children's love of singing. She went on to say that the Trust and school leaders 'prioritise wellbeing as essential to flourishing' and that the 'depth of care is palpable'. She reflected that Longford is 'an all-embracing school family, which is unwavering in its determination to build trust and bridges with the wider community. Well done to all the staff, governors and children! Read more in the Salisbury Journal [here](#).

Staffing news

We say a heartfelt thank you and farewell to Mrs Louise Knipe, the proud Headteacher of Longford CE Primary School this term. After 20 years serving communities in several Wiltshire schools, Mrs Knipe is retiring to enjoy new adventures and time with her family and friends.

We are delighted to say that we have recruited an exceptional new Head of School for Longford - Amanda Hodgson, who is currently the Deputy HT at St Andrews, Laverstock.

We also welcomed our new Pickwick Head of Governance and Compliance, Sian Reed, last week. Sian has been involved with governance for over 20 years, as a governor herself and as a clerk to several schools. To contact us for governance info: governance@pickwickacademytrust.co.uk

Parent Webinars

[Resilience for Learning and Well-being](#)

[Helping your child with anxiety](#)

[Digital Parenting](#)

North Wiltshire Hub



South Wiltshire Hub



North Dorset Hub



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