

Learning Connection

News for all our partners
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Springing into Summer

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Jack Mayhew, CEO

Supporting Success This Summer Term

As we begin the summer term, there is a palpable sense of focus and purpose across our schools. This is always a significant time in the academic year, one that reflects both the culmination of months of hard work and the opportunity to demonstrate resilience, determination, and growth.

For many of our pupils, this term marks the start of the examination season. I want to take a moment to acknowledge the commitment they have shown to reach this point. Success in examinations is not built overnight; it is the result of sustained effort, the guidance of dedicated staff, and the support of families and carers. We are proud of every pupil for the journey they have undertaken so far.

To those preparing for exams, I encourage you to approach the coming weeks with confidence. Trust in your preparation, take care of your wellbeing, and remember that exams are just one part of your wider story. Character, curiosity, and perseverance matter just as much as outcomes, and these are qualities we see demonstrated across our trust every day.

I would also like to recognise the extraordinary work of our staff. Their expertise, care, and unwavering belief in our young people make a profound difference, not only in preparing students academically, but in ensuring they feel supported and valued during what can be a challenging time. The strength of our trust lies in this shared commitment to excellence and to each other.

For our younger pupils, the summer term continues to provide important opportunities for learning and progression. This includes consolidating key knowledge, engaging in enrichment activities, and preparing for transition to the next stage of education. These experiences play an important role in building confidence and readiness for what comes next.

As a trust, we remain focused on providing an environment where every child can succeed and thrive. The weeks ahead will undoubtedly be busy, but they are also filled with potential and promise. I look forward to celebrating the achievements, both big and small, that this term will bring.

I wish all our students the very best for the weeks ahead.

Jack Mayhew,
CEO of Learning Partners



Inclusion in Action at Guildford Grove

Embedding British Sign Language Across Our School

At Guildford Grove, inclusion is not simply an aspiration – it is a daily commitment reflected in our curriculum, our culture, and the way our pupils connect with one another.

With 15 profoundly deaf pupils and six deaf members of staff in our community, we recognised a valuable opportunity to ensure that every child feels fully included, understood, and able to participate confidently in school life.

In response, we made the innovative decision to introduce British Sign Language (BSL) to our school curriculum across all Key Stage 2 classes in 2022.

Our goal was clear: to empower hearing pupils with the skills and confidence to communicate effectively with their deaf peers,

strengthen friendships and create a genuinely inclusive environment. This bespoke curriculum was developed by our Leader of the Lighthouse provision working closely with a deaf member of staff, and was designed to mirror as closely as possible to the MFL curriculum.

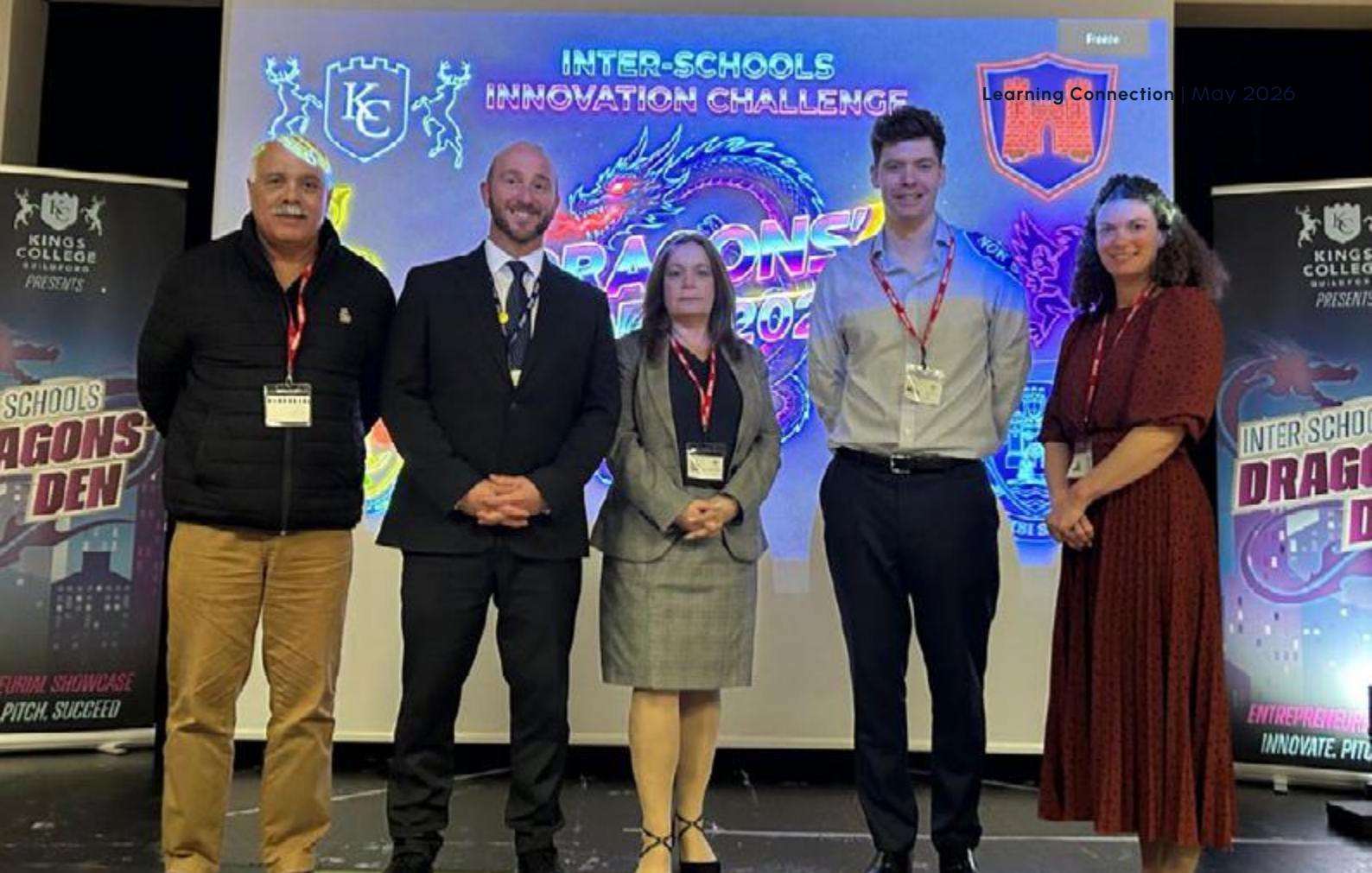
British Sign Language is now fully embedded across our school community. It has become an integral part of our curriculum, with pupils using BSL naturally in performances and assemblies – including singing events – and it is a common and uplifting sight to see children signing together on the playground. As a result, communication barriers have diminished, confidence has flourished, and our pupils have developed a deeper appreciation of inclusion, empathy, and respect for diversity.

Beyond communication, the initiative has enriched our wider curriculum, providing pupils with new linguistic skills and cultural awareness. It has also fostered a strong sense of pride and belonging among our deaf pupils, who see their language and identity celebrated and shared by their peers.

We are passionate about championing British Sign Language and believe it has the power to transform inclusion in schools everywhere. By equipping all pupils with the tools to communicate, we can ensure that deaf children are fully included in learning, friendships and the wider school experience.

At Guildford Grove, inclusion is something we live every day – and our journey with British Sign Language is a powerful example of what can be achieved when schools put belonging and communication at the heart of everything they do.





Innovation and Ambition on display at the 2026 InterSchools Dragons' Den

Kings College Guildford was proud to host the 2026 InterSchools Dragons' Den Innovation Challenge, an inspiring showcase of enterprise, creativity and confidence. The event brought together some of the brightest young minds from across the Trust and beyond, with student entrepreneurs pitching original business ventures to an audience of more than 500 Kings College, Guildford students.

Throughout the day, teams impressed with their innovation, commercial insight and polished presentation skills. Each group faced a distinguished panel of industry experts and local leaders who rigorously questioned their ideas, finances and scalability, while also offering invaluable professional feedback and encouragement.

The school extends its sincere thanks to the formidable panel of Dragons for their generosity, expertise and mentorship:

- **Shahid Azeem** – Former High Sheriff of Surrey, former Kings' student and entrepreneur
- **Mark Carter** – Managing Director, Norma Group UK
- **Suzanne Dulieu** – HR Director, Norma Group UK
- **Emilie Lopes** – HR Manager, Trescal UK
- **Alastair McKenzie** – Principal, Kings College Guildford

Mark Carter, Managing Director of the Norma Group, who travelled...

from Newbury to attend the event, praised the students' confidence and professionalism, commenting:

"I loved seeing so many passionate young adults with excellent ideas. To be able to stand up in front of the school, present so clearly and answer questions so well takes a lot of courage and practice."

praised the students' confidence and professionalism, commenting:

The competition featured two teams from each of the participating schools:

- **Guildford County**
- **Glebelands**
- **Kings College Guildford**
- **Salesian College Farnborough**
- **Southborough High**

After a day of intense pitching, financial scrutiny and creative presentations, the Dragons announced the winners. With the standard exceptionally high across all teams, the final results were as follows:

1st Place: Guildford County - Team A (£100)

2nd Place: Southborough High - Team A (£75)

3rd Place: Salesian College Farnborough - Team B (£50)

Congratulations to all students who took part and demonstrated such remarkable courage, ambition and excellence. The 2026 InterSchools Dragons' Den was a powerful celebration of young enterprise and an inspiring reminder of the talent and potential of the next generation of entrepreneurs.





Pioneers to Pathfinders

Surrey Maths School's First Cohort Leaves Its Legacy

Surrey Maths School is marking a significant milestone as our very first cohort begins their A Level examinations. For a school that only recently existed as an ambitious idea on paper, this moment feels especially meaningful. These students were the pioneers who took a chance on a brand-new specialist maths school, helping to shape the culture, traditions, and spirit that define our community today.

As they prepare to leave, the student council has officially handed over responsibility to a new council formed from our current Year 12 students. Uniquely, the first cohort had the opportunity to form two different councils, one for each of its years with us. This passing of the torch to the next cohort represents more than continuity; it reflects the lasting influence our first students have had on the school and the example they have set for those following behind them.

During the leavers' assembly, our Senior Administrator and first appointed member of staff, Ashley, shared moving words about reading the students' original application forms at a time when Surrey Maths School itself was still only a dream. Those applications captured the optimism, curiosity, and courage of young people willing to be part of something entirely new, tied together by their common interest in maths.

Their innovative and pioneering spirit has prompted us to reflect deeply on the idea of legacy. A school's legacy is not built through buildings or timetables, but through the people who shape it. Our first cohort has left an indelible mark on Surrey Maths School, and their influence will continue to inspire future generations of students.

We wish our Y13s, and all exam students across the trust, the best of luck during this examination period.

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01483 977230
www.learningpartners.org