



# Liberty Academy Trust News

Spring Term 1 2025

## Trust News

- ★ The first cohort of 2025 continued on our **Improving Teaching Programme**, learning more about topics such as child development theory, cognitive load, growth mindset and how to implement autism-friendly approaches, including a focus on effective pedagogy and developing independence.
- ★ Colleagues attended sessions 5 & 6 of our **Post Grad Certificate** in Professional Education (Autism Leadership)

## Exec Board Activities

- ★ CEO was invited to be part of the **CST Policy Advisory Group** regarding the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill and joined an ASCL roundtable discussion at **BETT** about what leaders are looking for from EduTech and PedTech.
- ★ CEO delivered one day of inclusion training for ECTs at **Dukes Education** in London.
- ★ Head of Digital, Data & Technology attended a meeting of the **STAR Chamber Scrutiny Board**.
- ★ Director of Safeguarding continued working on the new **DSL Standards** Project and also met with safeguarding leads at DfE to discuss the potential, as well as planning for the **NAASA DSL Conference**





# Liberty Academy Trust News

Church Lawton



## Advanced Autism Accreditation



Church Lawton is pleased to announce that it has secured the Advanced Autism Accreditation for the second time in a row, further confirming its commitment to providing the highest quality education and support for its autistic students. Read more about the good news here -

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/post/ugcPosts/67ab547d9d7a26001aa2dc92>

## Special Events

All staff **anti-racism twilight workshops** with award winning speaker, Elisha Soanes

4th March - 3.30pm-5.30pm: **Open Evening**

20th March: **Options Evening** for Year 9 Parents

1st & 2nd April: **Parents Evening**

4th/5th/18th/19th March: **Catalyst Museum** science trip

Visit from **professional poet**, Ian Bland

Raised funds for **Children's Mental Health Week**

KS3 pupils visited **Kilnworx Climbing Centre**

**Adventure Learning** - All lower school pupils enjoyed swimming at the leisure centre





# Liberty Academy Trust News

Church Lawton

## 'Your Futures' SEND Careers Fair

Church Lawton has been a key partner in shaping the Your Futures SEND Careers Fair at Congleton Leisure Centre on 26 February 2025. The event provided valuable information and career pathways for over 350 young people with SEND and there was a dedicated session for parents and families. The Cheshire and Warrington Careers Hub shared the following update:-

*"Catering Support Delivered by Church Lawton School Students  
One of the highlights of the event was the excellent catering service provided by students from Church Lawton School. The project provided students Ben Campion, William Hawksworth, and Charlie Eden with the chance to apply their vocational skills in a real-life setting, gaining valuable on-the-job experience".*





# Liberty Academy Trust News

Church Lawton

## Hospitality Work Experience at De Vere Cranage Hall

Six students took part in a unique work experience opportunity as part of the Annual Cheshire & Warrington Careers Leadership Conference. Read more here -

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/post/ugcPosts/67aa25339a82d8001a3da9a3>

### Some of the work covered this term...



- English: Reading traditional stories with alternative endings. Pupils wrote their own stories and read them out in assembly.
- Quality of Life: Developed skills to help around the home.
- Science: Made musical instruments to explore how sound travels.
- Humanities: Making a class Anglo Saxon village.



- English: Studying Edgar Allen Poe's 'The Raven' with Canva storyboards, diary entries from the perspective of the raven and descriptive writing inspired by music by Sia.
- Life Skills: Cooking various dishes, working out travel timetables and budgets, interviews for sixth form,
- Maths: Working on fractions, decimals, time and timetables.
- Science: Looking at acids/non-acids and testing different gases.
- Creative: Learning to weave, photography skills, constructing and designing theatre sets



- Implementation of a new form timetable involving insightful non-curriculum learning topics, allowing students to spend time on their personal wellbeing and activities encouraging integration with others, to bring the group closer together.
- Lots of GCSE preparation!





# Liberty Academy Trust News

Spring Term 1 2025

## Vanguard

### Special Events

6th January - Autism Reality Experience – INSET DAY

15th January – Team Teach Training

6th February – Social Enterprise Schools Workshops - Yr 10

### Horse Riding

Every Wednesday a group of Vanguard students go horse-riding in Brixton. One Year 8 student wanted to learn more so he interviewed the teacher who organises the trips, asking questions such as 'why did you decide to start horse-riding enrichment?' and 'what are some of the benefits of horse riding?'.





# Liberty Academy Trust News

Spring Term 1 2025

## Vanguard

### Review of the film 'Wicked' by a Vanguard student

Last year, the hit musical Wicked was adapted for the big screen. The musical has been around since 2003, and is an adaptation from the Wizard of Oz, but Wicked focuses on the origin story of Elphaba the Witch. The 2024 film stars Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande. At first, I wasn't convinced, but after listening to the musical number, I grew to like the film more.

I especially liked how they develop the story and the characters. They capture Elphaba's feelings very well, especially her loneliness and longing to have friends.

My favourite song in the film was 'What Is This Feeling', I like this song because all the dancers are so in sync and they look so alive. I also really admired the vocals from the main characters.

Cynthia Arivo, Ariana Grande and all the other characters sung live whilst on set, which was very impressive.

Personally, I would give Wicked 4.5 stars. It would have been 5 stars but sometimes the colour could have been done better. None the less, it was a really good movie!





# Liberty Academy Trust News

Spring Term 1 2025

## Thames Valley

### Advanced Autism Accreditation

Thames Valley achieved their Advanced Autism Accreditation which recognises their commitment to supporting their pupils in their communication, social interaction and overall wellbeing. The report particularly commended the school and staff for their holistic, pupil-centred approach. See some of the pupil feedback below -



#### PUPIL FEEDBACK

"My teachers really listen to me, and that makes school feel easier."

"I learned how to cook my own meal, and now I help make dinner at home!"



"I go and use the sensory room quite often, and it helps me when I am sad."

"I like the games club because I got to teach my friends a game from home!"

### Celebration of Chinese New Year

Thames Valley celebrated the Year of the Snake with a day of cultural activity to help promote inclusivity and understanding. Read more in the Reading Chronicle here - <https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/24912975.thames-valley-school-celebrates-chinese-new-year-style/>



### Investments

- Replacement cladding and flooring
- An additional 20 high spec laptops for pupils





# Liberty Academy Trust News

Spring Term 1 2025

## Thames Valley

### Some of the work covered this term...

#### ★ Tilehurst

- Art: Constructing clocks from plywood
- Lifeskills: Developing independent living skills by descaling kettles
- Learning about choking hazards and allergic reactions
- Risk management when travelling
- Foods from around the world and cooking ancient Greek pancakes
- History: The political history of Elizabethan England with a gamified lesson on the Spanish Armada.
- Using the Brain Waves curriculum as part of personal development lessons



#### ★ Hill Brow

- Humanities: Creating crusades shields and re-enacting crusades battles
- English: Retelling of focus book with different characters and settings and performing poems
- DT: Explored work of Claes Oldenburg and designed large scale food sculptures
- PE: Throwing and catching
- Learning about growth and change over time by sharing baby
- Science: Forces topic exploring air resistance with homemade wind turbines

