

THE TRENT-BROOK TRIBUNE

September 2025

Heads Up!



A warm welcome back to everyone at the start of this school year.

It has been brilliant to catch up with pupils and hear about their Summer break. We have had a number of pupils leave us at the end of the academic year, and we wish them the very best as they move into further education or employment.

At the start of September, we had plenty of new starters and it has been fantastic to see how well they have settled and been supported by existing pupils.

This term, we are focused upon regulation to support education and ensuring that we have established the best possible foundations upon which to build learning. Alongside our Clinical Team, we are delivering training to all staff around emotion-coaching, behaviour and sensory strategies and regulation toolkits and embedding them into daily practice.

We're excited to see what this new school year brings!

All the best,

Luke

Reminders

We're currently seeing a rise in sickness bugs among both pupils and staff. To help prevent further spread, please remember that children should stay home for 48 hours after their last episode of sickness before returning to school.

We understand this can be inconvenient, but your support helps keep everyone healthy. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 2025

10

Mental Health Brunch

24

End of Term
Halloween Disco

Trent Trivia!

What is the oldest building on the school grounds?

Tell your Tutor this week, and the closest answer will win a special prize!

Our Community

Grateful Goodbyes

We bid a fond farewell to our terrific teachers Megan Geaney, Dani Whitaker and Andrea Stubbs as they take exciting next steps in their careers. We thank them all for their hard work and the positive impact they made at Options Trent Acres. We also send our very best wishes to Joy Sandbrook for a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.



Warm Welcomes

We're delighted to welcome Andy Parker (Science), Helen Choudhury (English), Katie Ryan (Food Tech), and Paul Petrov (Maths) to the Trent Acres team, along with several wonderful new Teaching Assistants. We're so pleased to have you all join our community and look forward to a fantastic year ahead together!

Getting Stuck In!

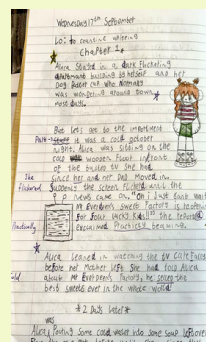
A big thank you to Tim Bird and Sam Cooke, parents of a Polar Express pupil, for creating a marvellous mud kitchen for our Primary Garden! The pupils absolutely love it and it's been brilliant for creativity, teamwork, and of course, plenty of muddy fun! We're incredibly grateful for your time and effort in supporting our outdoor learning. If any other parents would like to share their skills or talents with the school, we'd love to hear from you!



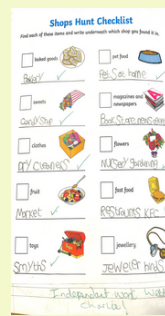
Subject Spotlight

Primary - English

Primary pupils have been adding their own fresh flavour to 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', cooking up wild new sweets and magical twists just as delicious as the original!



Secondary - Living Independently



Secondary students have been getting true taste of independence by creating shopping lists, designing delicious weekly menus learning how to prepare balanced meals without breaking the bank!

Willow's Word of the Week

'Serendipity' [noun]

Means something good happening by chance, a happy accident.

'I found a pound by pure serendipity!'



Head's Highlights

A group of pupils recently took part in two fantastic sessions with Andy Caunce from *Progressive Masculinity*. Andy was full of praise for their positive engagement, honesty and open-mindedness. A huge well done to everyone who participated!

Celebration Stories

Record-breaking Results!

Congratulations to our amazing pupils on their incredible 94 GCSE grades achieved – over four times the total from last year! We're so proud of their determination and hard work. Thank you to our dedicated staff for their consistent support and encouragement.

MP Visit to Trent Acres

Pupils welcomed local MP Dave Robertson to Trent Acres, engaging him with thoughtful questions about SEND strategy and, in true Trent Acres style, throwing a few fun curveballs to keep him on his toes!

Congratulations, Karate Kid!

Primary pupil Alice has earned her red belt in Karate, showing true determination, strength and skill – a real knock-out achievement!

A Cut Above the Rest!

Brookfield pupils have begun their second year of City & Guilds NVQ Level 1 Hair and Beauty with style and success, having already achieved several nail passes and even completed a first client haircut! Well done to our talented stylists.

Challenges for Charity

Over the summer, Teaching Assistant James Lewis took on some truly remarkable challenges – including a 24-hour blindfolded run and a run from Paris to Rugeley in just 13 days! He raised an amazing £8,000 for 'The David Lewis Foundation', his charity honouring his Dad and supporting St Giles Hospice – a true inspiration.

Library Look



'Paper Chase'

by Julia Donaldson

This joyful adventure mixes friendship and fun with the incredible story of how paper is made. (Primary reading)

'This Feast Of A Life'

by Cynthia So

A heart-warming tale of love and self-discovery, where a shared passion for food leads to laughter, growth and recipes for happiness. (Secondary reading)



You can find both of these books in our School's Library!

Lunchtime Clubs

- M** D&D (Trent), Music (Brookfield), Sports (Brookfield)
- T** Colouring (Trent), Films (Brookfield), History (Brookfield), Warhammer (Trent)
- W** Crochet (Trent), Drama (Trent), Maths (Trent), Pampering (Brookfield)
- T** Art (Brookfield), Reading (Brookfield), Spanish (Trent)
- F** KSI (Trent), Games (Brookfield), Music (Brookfield), Sport (Brookfield)

Suggestions Spot

What activities would you like to see in your Enrichment sessions?

Please pass on your suggestions to your Tutor or email lydia.carter@optionsautism.co.uk

Challenge Champions!

Reading Journals

Our reading competition is back! After last term's amazing success, and two brilliant trips to Drayton Manor, we're excited to see even more pupils getting involved. Every 10 home reading entries equals a draw entry for our next trip – the more you read, the more chances you have to win! Remember, all reading counts: books, comics, stories, subtitles, even menus! Let's keep celebrating the joy of reading and we can't wait to see where our next trip takes us!



Write On!

We're thrilled to launch our new school-wide creative challenge – Write On! Each month, a new picture prompt will appear in school and on Class Dojo. Pupils can respond in any creative way they like – from poems to travel guides, to their own unique creations! Every four completed tasks earns a raffle ticket for the chance to join an exciting school trip! A fun way to spark imagination and creativity – let's write on!



¡Duolingo Challenge!

Bienvenidos to our new Spanish Competition on *Duolingo*, a fun, free app that turns language learning into a game! The competition runs until Christmas, with special prizes for the top three scorers. Please support your child by installing the app, encouraging regular practice and supporting their linguistic efforts!



Animal Friends

Fluffy New Faces!

Our Animal Care team are thrilled to welcome some adorable new members to our furry family! Meet rabbits Timon and Pumbaa, guinea pigs Loki and Thor, and our tiny ball of fluff, Gertrude the hamster! Pop by for a cuddle – they love friendly visitors!



Towel Time

Got any old towels lying around? They'll be perfect for paws in need! We use towels to keep our furry friends cosy and comfy when they're feeling under the weather or need a little bit of extra care. All soft donations will be *paws-ively* appreciated!

Coming Up ...

Upcoming Trips ... We have exciting and enriching trips planned for our pupils throughout the next term, so keep an eye out for more details soon!

Festive Fun ... Our Christmas events and celebrations are on the way! We'll be sharing dates and plans shortly, and can't wait to spread Christmas cheer!

Clinical Corner



Welcome back to Trent Acres everyone!

The Clinical Team is excited to start the new school year and is looking forward to a fantastic year ahead, full of new opportunities, support and exciting events to come!

Handwriting Programme

We're excited to announce that OFG have launched a brand-new *Best Practice Handwriting Programme*! This fun, evidence-based approach helps every pupil, at every level, build confidence and skill in their writing. Our wonderful Occupational Therapy team will be visiting classes this term to roll it out, starting with those who have EHCP provision before sharing it across the school.

Clinical Coffee Morning

Come and join our friendly Clinical Team for a warm chat and a cuppa! It's a great chance to ask questions, share ideas, find out more about the support we offer, or just say hello! Our next coffee morning will be on *Wednesday 6th November* at 9 am — we'd love to see you there!

Thank you for your efforts to support the needs of our pupils and encourage their learning.

The Clinical Team



Safeguarding

To help our young people develop critical-thinking skills and make positive life choices, staff recently took part in training with *Progressive Masculinity*, while groups of pupils joined inspiring workshops exploring healthy, values-driven models of masculinity. Our students were truly outstanding and a real credit to both their families and the school.

Parent feedback summed up the experience:



"[These sessions] have given us the opportunity for open conversations at home that we perhaps wouldn't have had. He has learnt so much and also a lot about himself too. We have discussed how other family members cope with different things and the strategies that are used. Thank you for giving [our child] the opportunity, and please thank the company for the amazing way that they delivered."

Please take the time to learn more about Progressive Masculinity at progressivemascularity.co.uk. We're also exploring future sessions for parents and carers, please let us know if you'd be interested!

Contact Info

For information about this newsletter, or to submit content, please email: lydia.carter@optionsautism.co.uk

