

NOVEMBER 2024

Wandsworth schools and families

Headstart

Distributed through schools across the borough



New Roehampton
Family Hub

See page 6



Swim for FREE

ACCESS
FOR ALL

FREE intensive swimming lessons for children in Years 5-7. All Wandsworth children under 8 swim for **FREE** at our leisure centres.



Find out more
[wandsworth.gov.uk/
access-for-all](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/access-for-all)



What's inside for Wandsworth families

this month

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Help for families

There is a wide range of support and concessions available through our Access for all scheme to help local families enjoy everything Wandsworth has to offer.

You could be eligible for a range of benefits including

- Free school meals
- Free school uniforms
- Free activities at our Family hubs - turn the page to read more about our new Hub in Roehampton.



New Padel courts in King George's Park



To find out how to access all these offers, scan the QR code or visit [wandsworth.gov.uk/access-for-all](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/access-for-all)

Get ready to move!

Wandsworth Moves Together is the council's plan to get everyone moving more – including young people.

Research shows one in three children do not get the recommended levels of activity.

As part of **Access for All**, the new plan will make it easier to access local services and opportunities, including:

- Free swimming for all children on free school meals
- Free use of council gyms, swimming pools, tennis courts, padel courts and other sports facilities for eligible children and adults.
- A dedicated taskforce to focus on women and girls in sport
- £1m a year to be spent on upgrading play areas
- Launching junior and adult parkruns in Battersea Park



Boxing clever at the Wandsworth Moves Together launch last month



Welcome to Wandsworth's newest Family Hub

The Roehampton Family Hub is a brand-new service where every family, every parent and every young person can access vital free services under one roof.

Come along for services including childcare support, employment advice and mental health services. There's also a dedicated youth room and IT area, equipped with upgraded wi-fi, where residents can study, job search, or simply browse online.

It's one of the first major improvements promised as part of the Alton Renewal Plan which sets out how Wandsworth Council is investing in the Roehampton community and its future.

Residents on the other side of the borough can visit the Battersea Family Hub at the Yvonne Carr centre, Thessaly Road.

Now open at
166 Roehampton Lane
9am-5pm

Free services include

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Midwifery Services
- Educational Psychologists
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- English Language Lessons and Digital Skills Sessions
- Domestic Abuse Helpline
- Rackets Cubed Social Supermarket

Roehampton *family** *hub*



find out more
scan the QR code
or visit
[fis.wandsworth.
gov.uk](https://www.fis.wandsworth.gov.uk)

Summer of fun

Summer may seem a long time ago, but here's a reminder of all the fun that went on at this summer's Wandsworth Connected scheme.

Wandsworth Connected, Wandsworth's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme, is delivered by groups all over the borough and is for children on free school meals. As well as activities, children received lunch. The next scheme is at Christmas.

Families on free school meals can also get meal vouchers for the holidays, including Christmas.

Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/fis



Clockwise from top left Living Truth, Our Parks, Kimber Skate Park



Clockwise from top: Junior Adventure, Junction Elite, A2ndVoice, Rosslyn Park

New school building for local students

St George’s Primary School in Battersea is getting ready to expand into a new purpose built school from 2026.

The building will increase capacity for the borough’s SEND pupils, with a 16-place Social, Emotional and Mental Health specialist base. The building will have capacity for 420 children aged between 5 and 11 in mainstream education, as well as a stand-alone nursery for 52 children and facilities for the community.

A new flexible community space will also be part of the building, connecting communities and providing a new venue for local residents, children and groups to meet and take part in activities. The community hub will also house an

indoor sports hall and outdoor multi-use games area. The state-of-the-art school building will be one of the most sustainable in Wandsworth and one of the most energy efficient in the country. Council leader Simon Hogg said: “It’s a priority for us to ensure that the new school building will provide accessible and inclusive educational opportunities for local children so they can stay at school within their local community whatever their needs.”

Sarah Collymore, Headteacher at St George’s CE Primary School said: “2026 is the school’s 200th anniversary so a new building feels like a really great way to celebrate 200 years of serving the local community – as well as giving us so many more opportunities to serve more families.”



M M R
MEASLES MUMPS RUBELLA

Measles is circulating, it is serious, very infectious and can cause complications.

Especially for those with a weakened immune system, babies under one year and pregnant women.

You need **two doses of MMR vaccine** to protect you, see your **GP practice** to make an appointment.

It is never too late to have your MMR.

i mmunisation
the safest way to protect your child





Milestone for Paddock School

The relocation and expansion of Paddock secondary and sixth form school has reached the 'topping out' stage, which means completion of the building structure's highest point

The new building is part of the council's investment in local SEND provision so that more specialist placements can be provided close to home.

Councillor Kate Stock, Wandsworth Lead Cabinet for Children said: "As a council, we are committed to ensuring that children with special educational needs have access to high quality local provision, keeping them close to their family and friends."

The new site is due to be finished next year, ready for students in September 2025.





Proper food for young learners

Battersea-based school Ark John Archer Primary Academy has partnered with UK charity FoodCycle to serve up free meals made from surplus fruit and vegetables.

Since May the pilot project has served more than 600 three-course meals and saved 1.3m tonnes of food from going to landfill.

Other projects are going on in schools across

the borough to increase access to healthy food. In June many Wandsworth Schools joined the British Nutrition Foundation campaign 'Healthy Eating Week'. During the week, schools tapped into many downloadable resources to raise awareness of healthy eating.

And since September twice as many primary schools are taking part in the council's free breakfast scheme, run with the charity Magic Breakfast.

Apple teaches core IT skills

Wandsworth schools and Apple have celebrated together to mark a successful first year of an innovative learning project



Thanks to a pioneering partnership with Apple, Wandsworth Council has helped hundreds of primary school children to learn new skills. Students have gained confidence and skills including how to code websites, use new tech tools such as Apple Pencil and develop their all-round digital skills.

The Battersea Project is now set to increase from 11 to 20 schools, supported by Apple's Community Education Initiative and Wandsworth charity Business and Education Succeeding Together.

Apple, which moved its UK headquarters to Battersea in 2022, shone the spotlight on its successful partnership with Wandsworth Council in its annual global report on the company's impact on education.



Council Leader Simon Hogg at an event at Battersea Arts Centre in July celebrating the partnership. Pupils from 11 schools attended

Burntwood dives into Olympic action

Teachers and pupils at Burntwood School got close to the action this summer as they got involved in the Paris Olympics.

Three teachers, Miss Potter, Miss Siemak and Miss Matthews, leant their scuba diving skills to a specialist team installing cameras and robotics for photo agencies including Getty and Reuters.

Meanwhile Year 11 student Maya shone as a Young Presenter on the Sky weekly news show. She captured the pre-Olympic excitement and met several young Team GB athletes.



She said: "I had the opportunity to interview the phenomenal swimmer Eva Okara, the brilliant archer Megan Havers, and the outstanding gymnasts Harry Hepburn and Abi Martin.

These athletes really taught me the lesson that truly anything is possible if you put your mind to it - even doing your GCSEs whilst being an Olympic athlete!"



Pupils meet top authors

Over 3,000 local children met some of their favourite authors and illustrators when the Barnes Children's Literature Festival's free Primary Schools Programme came to Wandsworth.

Pupils from 30 local primary schools attended events at the Battersea Arts Centre and Wandsworth Civic Suite. They met Waterstones Children's Book Prize winner, Dapo Adeola, Blue Peter Children's Book Prize winner Vashti Hardy, and the authors of the mega bestselling Dragon Realm series, Katie and Kevin Tsang, among others. The Primary Schools Programme will be returning to Wandsworth in June 2025

Email schools@barneskidslitfest.org.

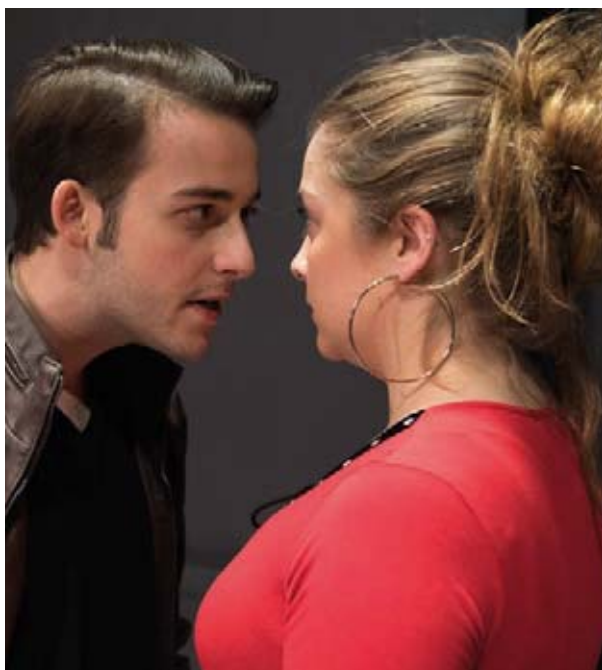


Using drama to keep children safe



Loudmouth Theatre in Education has been touring Wandsworth schools helping young people explore difficult issues.

Children in Years 4-6 looked at issues of child exploitation, abuse and online safety. Secondary school children explored child exploitation, county lines, grooming, modern slavery and trafficking. Older children also looked at issues around harmful sexual behaviours.



What students said:

“They teach what can be true and false and what to do in serious times.”

Primary school student

“They bring light on how easy it is to be groomed and how to spot the signs.”

Year 9 student

“Really helped me understand the signs of exploitation. I learnt what is and isn't a healthy relationship.

Secondary school student)



Making STEM fun

Young people have been getting hands-on learning in STEM subjects.

The council's keen to make sure young people get the skills they need to explore careers based on the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering, art and maths.

Pyrotechnician Matthew Tosh of Titanium Fireworks, the company that provided the fireworks for the Battersea Park display, visited St. Mary's RC Primary School, Sacred Heart RC Primary School, and St. George's CoE Primary School with the "Real STEM or Just Bangs?" workshop.

He took students behind the scenes of the famous Battersea display, revealing how STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) forms the backbone of every professional firework show.





Musical inspiration

This summer children at St George's, Sacred Heart, St Mary's RC, Christ Church, and Falconbrook Primary Schools were visited by members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Around 600 young people took part in workshops to learn about classical music and instruments and create their own pieces of music. Workshops were also held at Wandsworth's Big Play Out summer holiday programme.

Wandsworth Council and Enable worked with RPO Resound, the orchestra's community and education branch, as part of the Battersea Park in Concert performances this summer.

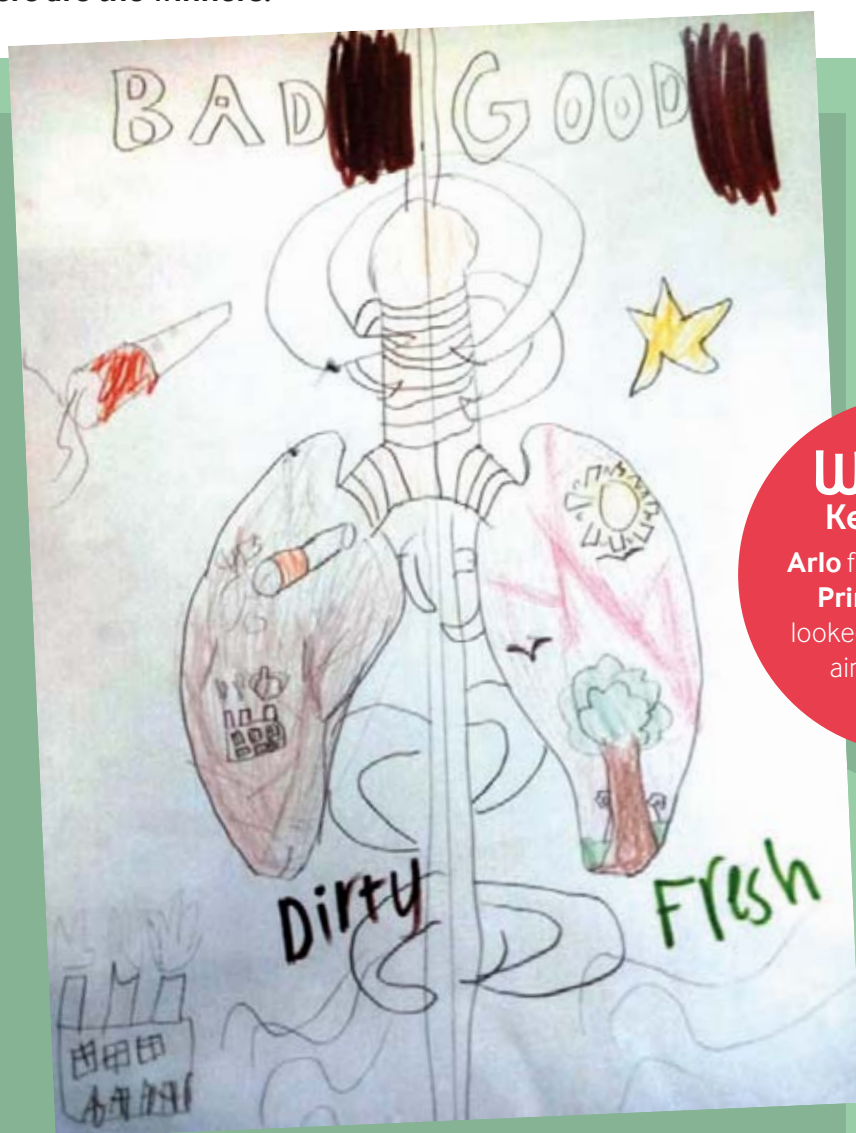


Students spread the clean air message

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Wandsworth Schools Drawing Breath Competition – all the entries were brilliant.

The competition asked young people to design posters to raise awareness about air pollution.

Here are the winners.



WINNER

Key Stage 1

**Arlo from Riversdale
Primary School**

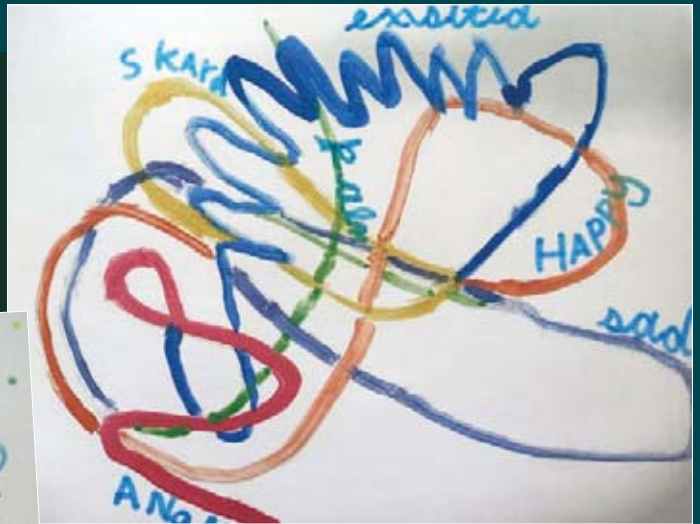
looked at the effect of
air pollution on
our lungs.



WINNER
Key Stage 2
 Congratulations to **Floss**
 from **Brandlehow**
Primary School who
 showed people walking
 and cycling on
 Clean Air Day.

Special Recognition Awards

Nikita (Key Stage 1) and **Arwen (Key Stage 2)** from **Brandlehow**, and **Harry and Adam (Key Stage 2)** from **Hurlingham** impressed the judges with their eye-catching, informative posters.





School streets target reached



The target of School Streets outside more than half of all Wandsworth schools has been reached.

Recent installations mean the council has succeeded in installing school streets in more than 50 per cent of primary schools.

Road markings outside 54 schools are also being repainted to make them clearer for drivers and safer for children.

The School Streets scheme temporarily closes roads near school entrances to motor traffic during drop-off and pick-up times, helping to reduce congestion, cut pollution, and create safer, more welcoming environments for children and families.

Lisa Platts, Headteacher at St Boniface RC Primary School in Tooting said: "For a number of years we've had concerns about the health and safety of the children in our street. Children have really benefited from having a much quieter environment to start and finish their school day."

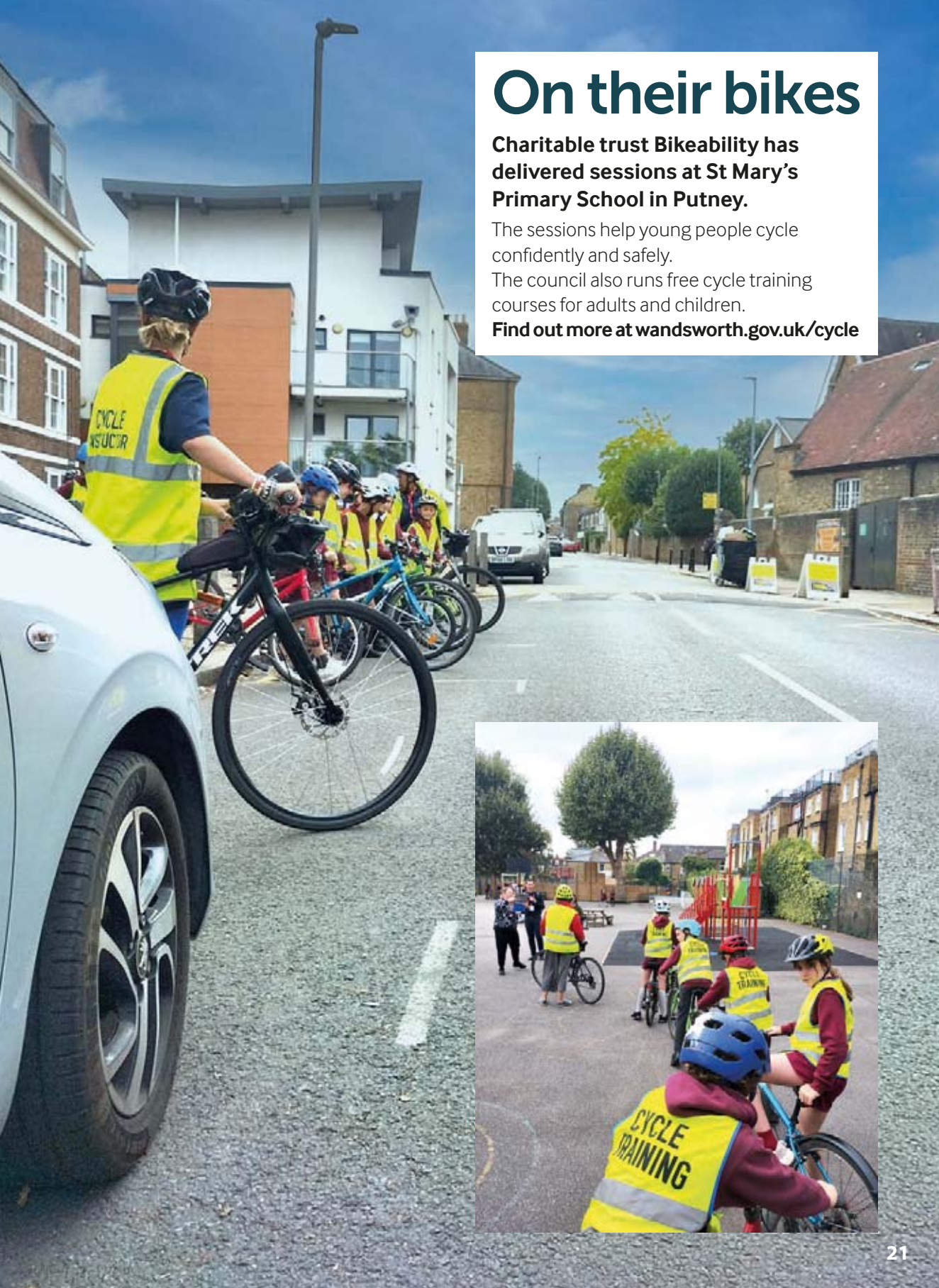
On their bikes

Charitable trust Bikeability has delivered sessions at St Mary's Primary School in Putney.

The sessions help young people cycle confidently and safely.

The council also runs free cycle training courses for adults and children.

Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/cycle



Be part of our year as London Borough of Culture



From April 2025 – March 2026, Wandsworth is The Mayor of London's London Borough of Culture. From Roehampton to Battersea, Tooting to Putney, we are preparing to stage a spectacular year where every corner of the borough comes alive in an explosion of creativity.

Check out our brand-new Welcome To Wandsworth website for a one-stop shop of resources for Wandsworth's next generation of creatives. Get stuck in with opportunities to be part of Wandsworth's London Borough of Culture year, explore helpful online resources from creative organisations and discover different paths into a creative career through the Wandsworth Creative videos profiling local creatives.

Get involved in London Borough of Culture Young Reporters, Young Reviewers and Young Producers

These three projects are a chance for budding producers, journalists, radio presenters or culture critics to gain work experience with creative

professionals, get a feel for what it's like working in the arts, and see festival gigs, comedy, theatre and more – all for free!

These projects are for those aged 14 – 19, who live or study in the borough of Wandsworth. Sessions will be every now and then, outside of school hours and organised around your schedule.

welcometowandsworth.com/young-and-creative



Why not sign up to one of our London Borough of Culture e-newsletters?

♥ **Young & Creative** is our monthly round-up of the hottest Wandsworth events, workshops, training, work experience and more for Wandsworth's next generation of creatives and culture fans aged 13 - 25.

♥ **What's on in Wandsworth** is your monthly update of cultural event and opportunities to get creative in Wandsworth. Ideal for adults and families.

bit.ly/signup_ibocnewsletters



Joseph Coelho inspires Wandsworth pupils

Award-winning author, poet and former children's laureate, Joseph Coelho has inspired more than 1,000 young people with a series of poetry performances.

He returned to his home borough last month to share his writing journey and inspirations and while here he reflected on Black History Month.

"Seeing greater representation within the writing world is hugely important to me," explains Joseph, who spent his early childhood living in the Alton West.

"I feel very passionate now about including all sorts of people and families and backgrounds within my own work, within my own poems and stories, so that every child gets the opportunity to see themselves reflected."

Now living in Scotland, Joseph's deep connection to his childhood home remains and he was a key supporter of Wandsworth's successful bid to become London Borough of Culture 2025.

"As a child growing up in Roehampton, it was hugely important that I had access to books and writing," he adds.



Working out with Joe

'The Body Coach' Joe Wicks has inspired students at Sacred Heart RC Primary School with a fitness workout.

The session included fun exercises such as star jumps, running on the spot, and burpees, encouraging children to get active and enjoy movement.

Following the workout, Joe hosted a Q&A session, where students were free to ask him questions about fitness, health, and his own journey.

Thomas Roca, aged 9, remembers staying active with Joe during lockdown:

"I watched Joe Wicks in lockdown, and I did the workouts every day, so I loved seeing him in our playground. I liked doing the jumping jacks and the silly dances. It was a great experience and I loved it."



Book an NHS

GET
CHECKED
FEEL GREAT

HEALTH CHECK at a local pharmacy

Aged 40-74? A quick and free NHS Health Check can help reduce your risk of common, serious illnesses like stroke, dementia and diabetes.



NHS Health Checks are now available at MORE pharmacies across the borough, in addition to GP surgeries. Find out if you're eligible and where you can get an NHS Health Check in your area.



Helping you prevent
diabetes
heart disease
kidney disease
stroke & dementia



Meet our local heroes

Two young people were chosen to receive the Youth Mayor's Award in the 2024 Wandsworth Civic Awards.

They were presented with their trophies earlier this month by the borough's first-ever Youth Mayor.

The youth awards are for people under 25 who have made a positive contribution to Wandsworth.

Chapman Shum, aged 13, has shown an unwavering dedication to helping others in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities community.

Born blind and facing multiple challenges including autism, learning disability and moderate hearing loss, Chapman is a highly accomplished pianist and uses his platform to support meaningful causes, events and community projects.



Mariam Mohisin is a volunteer in the RAF Air Cadets. She works to make all the activities delivered by the Air Cadets as inclusive as possible and is keen to encourage people to get outdoors and runs trekking, paddle sports, indoor bouldering and rock climbing activities, as well as regular Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions.





Junior parkrun

Every Sunday in Battersea Park and Tooting Common for young people aged 4-14. Parents can join their children on the 2k run if they wish.

parkrun.org.uk

Winter listings

This is just a taste of what's going on. For more activities visit wandsworth.gov.uk/fis

How to be listed Send details to: press@wandsworth.gov.uk

We cannot guarantee that your entry will be inserted. This is a free service. The information in this guide has been provided by the advertisers themselves. Wandsworth Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information or for any event not organised by the council.



Community spaces

This winter keep warm, enjoy fun activities and have a free hot drink and, at some places, a meal. Locations include libraries, children's centres and community spaces. Check our directory for your nearest.

[wandsworth.gov.uk/
community-spaces](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/community-spaces)



Lego Busy Builders

Tuesdays 3.35-4.15pm
Explore a world of imaginative construction for four to 10 year olds. Just turn up – no booking necessary

Battersea Park Library.

Board Games Club

Wednesdays 4pm-5pm
Friendly tabletop gaming meetups for all ages. No booking required

Wandsworth Town Library

Community Christmas Party

December 3, 5pm-7.3-pm
Festive refreshments, Santa's grotto and a pantomime for the whole community.

ROSE Community Clubroom, Nine Elms

A Christmas Carol

December 4-13
A festive production of Dickens' classic tale from the New Stagers.

St Anne's Church, Wandsworth
[newstagers.co.uk/
a-christmas-carol](http://newstagers.co.uk/a-christmas-carol)



The Little Mermaid

December 14-15 and 19-22

Affordable panto at the Wandsworth Civic Suite from Wandsworth Council. Discounts available to eligible families as part of the Access for All scheme.

wandsworthpanto.com



Judo offer for Headstart readers

Touchpoint Judo Academy has opened a new club in Tooting.

Headstart readers can attend lessons for free for two weeks at the new club at Ernest Bevin Academy, or the existing club in Battersea. All ages are welcome.

Contact the club via their website, and mention Headstart for the offer.

touchpointjudoacademy.com

Jack and the Beanstalk

December 7-January 6

See Jack battle the giant at New Wimbledon Theatre, with Alexandra Burke and Joe Pasquale.

atgtickets.com/shows/jack-and-the-beanstalk/new-wimbledon-theatre



The Holly King and the Oak King

November 29-December 24

Take a magical journey across the seasons in this brand-new festive show

Battersea Arts Centre
bac.org.uk



#lovetofoster

Our Wandsworth children need you



Now
recruiting all
types of carers
**could this be
you?**

Are you ready to start your fostering journey?

There are many ways for you to foster.
Talk to us today and find out more about the
different fostering options in Wandsworth.



email: fosteringrecruitment@wandsworth.gov.uk
visit: wandsworth.gov.uk/fostering
call: 0808 175 3327



How do I find out about...

Schools

General information: [wandsworth.gov.uk/schools](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schools)

Admissions: [wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions)

Term dates: [wandsworth.gov.uk/termdates](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/termdates)

Find a school: [wandsworth.gov.uk/schoolsAtoZ](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schoolsAtoZ)



Recycling

General information: [wandsworth.gov.uk/recycling](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/recycling)

What can I recycle?:

[wandsworth.gov.uk/recyclefromhome](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/recyclefromhome)



Arts, leisure and culture

Arts: [wandsworth.gov.uk/arts](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/arts)

Events: [wandsworth.gov.uk/events](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/events)

Libraries: [wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries)

Leisure centres and sport: [wandsworth.gov.uk/sport](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/sport)

Adult Education: [wandsworthlifelonglearning.co.uk](https://www.wandsworthlifelonglearning.co.uk)



Parks

General information: [wandsworth.gov.uk/parks](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/parks)

Playgrounds and trim trails A-Z:

[wandsworth.gov.uk/playgroundsAtoZ](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/playgroundsAtoZ)



Parenting support, education, childcare, family activities, health, SEND local offer

[wandsworth.gov.uk/fis](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fis)



flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu