



Vanguard Learning Trust

Trust-wide student activities 2023-2024



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Introduction



This review of Trust-wide student activities throughout the academic year, 2023-2024, has been compiled to showcase the range of activities offered to students as part of promoting our Trust-wide community.

The booklet has been organised by each term with a description of the activities that were offered with accompanying photographs and quotations by students as well as staff.

The Trust's vision of outstanding, inclusive education, as well as its three values of aspiration, community and equity, are at the heart of the activities. For example, our commitment to inclusion has been at the core of the Trust-wide equalities and deaf awareness weeks.

The majority of activities focus on Years 5 to 8 students which reflects our commitment to cross-phase education with the Trust being able to offer these activities because of the close proximity of its schools.

In addition to these activities, schools regularly provide feedback on school-based activities to share experiences with the other schools in order to broaden students' horizons. Also, there are termly awards for students, on the Trust's values, and these have been summarised on the last page of the publication.

'This booklet summarises the wonderful activities that the Trust hosted throughout 2023-2024. I am fortunate to attend many of them and I am always delighted by students' engagement and enjoyment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff involved in organising them as well as those who prepare the students so they can engage fully in the activities. I am proud that this is the first year we have produced this booklet with the intention of compiling it annually and I am confident that it will continue to evolve and expand in future years, reflecting our Trust's journey.'

Dr Martina Lecky, Chief Executive Officer

Autumn term 2023



Maths challenge

The maths challenge has been held annually for the last three years, being organised and hosted by Ruislip High School. Each school in the Trust enters two teams of four Year 6 or Year 7 students for the challenge which involves five rounds of timed questions relating to the theme set for each round.

This academic year's maths challenge took place on Wednesday 18th October 2023 with five rounds that included questions on the popular 24 game, problem-solving, UKMT, a national competition, and financial maths. There was a new round for this year's challenge that was inspired by the TV show, 'The 1% club'.



Members of the winning team from Hermitage Primary School with their trophy

The winning team was Hermitage Primary School's group A; this was the first time a primary school had won the challenge. In second place was Ruislip High's group B and in third place was Field End Junior's group A.

'It was a pleasure to see the levels of engagement and excitement on students' faces as they tackled challenging maths problems. A huge congratulations to all the Trust schools' students who took part and a special commendation to Hermitage for being the first primary school to receive the coveted trophy! I am already looking forward to next year's challenge.'

Bhavik Joshi, second-in-charge of maths department, Ruislip High School



Ruislip High School's second place team



Field End Junior School's third place team

Autumn term 2023



Christmas carol concert

The Christmas carol concert is a Trust-wide musical event held in a local church for students across all age ranges. It has been an annual event for the last six years and is organised by Vyners School. Previous concerts have been held at All Saints North Hillingdon Church and St. Giles' Church, Ickenham, with this academic year's event being held at the Most Sacred Heart Church in Ruislip for the first time on Wednesday 13th December 2023.



Vyners' brass ensemble

Vyners' brass ensemble played the music for each carol; it was uplifting for everyone to sing together some of the well known ones, including *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*.

Each school had its own musical performance as well as one student giving a reading. The event was supported by community members, in particular parents of the performers. Dan Cullum, Director of Music at Vyners, has organised all of the Trust-wide concerts and commented afterwards: *'It was a pleasure to see what musical quality we have in our Trust schools and I am grateful to all the music leads from each school for the help and support in organising such a wonderful event.'*



Students singing at the carol concert

As a Trust-wide event hosted by Vyners, Gary Mullings, Headteacher, Vyners School, noted: *'This year's Christmas concert at the Church of Most Sacred Heart was a wonderful occasion that was clearly enjoyed by all present. There were so many highlights throughout the afternoon, but for me, seeing just how much enjoyment the youngest children, their parents and teachers gained from their participation in the event made it especially memorable.'*

Spring term 2024



Spelling bee

The spelling bee has been held annually for the last six years, being organised and hosted by Ruislip High School. Each school in the Trust is invited to enter four contestants from Years 6 or 7. The competition focuses on two themes over three rounds.

This academic year's spelling bee took place on Wednesday 24th January 2024. Students from all six schools, alongside Ruislip High's Year 7 cohort, filled the seats of the auditorium, all in support of their peers. Once the competition began, representatives from each school took turns spelling increasingly challenging words one by one, earning points for each correctly spelt word. As the difficulty of each word increased, so did the pressure; the students, however, rose to the challenge. Ruislip High and Field End were neck and neck, with Field End's team holding its nerve to take the first round.



Japji, the winner of the Trust's best speller, with Mr Davies, Headteacher, Ruislip High School

The second round was the speed challenge. Words in this round centred on the theme of exploration. Students had a choice of difficulty: easy, medium, or hard words to spell. There were some clear tactics employed by the teams with a number of them choosing the 1-point easy ones to answer as quickly as possible. At this stage, it was still any team's competition to win. The last round, though technically the individual challenge, was a final opportunity to earn a few additional points to change the standings. However, with even more challenging words, the fight for the last speller standing was nail-biting.

Japji from Vyners ended up taking the crown of the Trust's best speller, but her fantastic effort in the final round wasn't quite enough to wrestle the overall lead from Field End, with the latter deservedly claiming the team award.



Field End Junior School's winning team

'I was excited to be chosen and I had a great time.'

Japji, winner of the Trust's best speller from Vyners

'I felt really nervous but started to feel more confident once it started. I would like to do it again as I felt extremely proud because we succeeded.'

Rosie, member of Field End's winning team

Spring term 2024



Equalities week

Equalities week is an annual Trust-wide event organised by the equality forum (which is a group with lead staff from all schools). This academic year, the fourth equalities week took place from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February 2024 with activities focused on celebrating the diverse cultures, backgrounds and identities of the school communities.

At Ruislip High School students took part in a variety of activities and presentations including a workshop on Indonesian Gamelan music (the traditional ensemble music of Indonesia), an experience with Kathak dancing (an Indian classical dance) and a session showcasing cultural cooking. On Wednesday 21st February 2024 all students were encouraged to wear traditional clothing that represented their culture as part of a featured cultural day.



Students at Ruislip High wearing traditional clothing

Vyners' community engaged with a number of activities in personal, social, health and economic lessons, tutorials and assemblies that celebrated their uniqueness. The school also joined Ruislip High's community for the keynote speaker presentation delivered by Jude Guaitamacchi, a leader in trans-rights campaigning who has made history by chairing the first all-trans panel briefing in UK Parliament with the organisation Trans+ Solidarity Alliance.

'We did an Irish dancing workshop during equalities week. It was really fun and exciting to learn some moves. It involves intricate, rapid footwork, which is quite hard and you have to keep your upper body still.'

Charlotte, Year 7, Vyners School

Three student equality ambassadors from Vyners, Khaled, Joud and Duncan in Year 11, visited Hermitage Primary School to deliver a presentation on equality.

'I liked that they gave us a chance to talk to the people next to us and how it was interactive, but also they taught us about equality and how everyone is unique. It was an extremely enjoyable experience. It was also nice that they answered our questions about high school.'

Niyati, Year 6, Hermitage Primary School

Ryefield Primary School's focus was on disability awareness. Students participated in debates and a 'would you rather' activity where students chose between two difficult scenarios and explained their reasoning.

Hermitage Primary School focused on diversity by students sharing their own life stories and celebrating each person's uniqueness, whilst Oak Farm's students explored the importance of living



Vyners' equality ambassadors leading a session at Hermitage

as a rights-respecting citizen. Through discussion, drama and the sharing of experiences students learned how to take actions that respect the rights of others whilst taking into consideration the importance of compassion. The students at Field End Junior School enjoyed exploring their names, backgrounds and family contexts.

Overall, equalities week provided students with an opportunity to work together as a community as well as to celebrate diversity and individual differences within our community. By developing this understanding, it helps to unite our school communities.

Spring term 2024



Netball tournament

The netball tournament took place for the first time this academic year, being organised and hosted by Oak Farm Primary School on Tuesday 27th February 2024. Both girls' and mixed teams comprising students from Years 5 to 7, with varying levels of experience, played in closely competed matches throughout the afternoon.



Netball teams competing in the tournament

In the girls' tournament, Ruislip High won the trophy and gold medals, and Hermitage and Oak Farm finished in second and third place respectively, with all students being awarded medals for their efforts. In the mixed tournament, Oak Farm won the trophy and gold medals and Hermitage and Ruislip High finished in second and third place respectively, again with students being awarded medals.

The students enjoyed the competition and it will now become an annual Trust-wide event.

'It was great fun to take part in the tournament because we were able to play against the other schools and work together with our team mates.'

Jess, Year 6, Oak Farm Primary School

'I really enjoyed taking part in the mixed netball tournament. I normally play basketball but I had fun playing a new sport. I scored a couple of goals and we came third in the mixed competition and got a medal.'

Hamza, Year 7, Ruislip High School



Oak Farm's winning mixed netball team



Ruislip High's winning girl's team

Spring term 2024



Poetry project

A poetry project was launched for the first time in 2023-2024, with all schools in the Trust taking part. Students from Years 5 to 8 took part in two special workshops hosted at Field End Junior School on Wednesday 21st February 2024 and Tuesday 12th March 2024. Students studied poems by Coelho, Agard, Horne and Gorman; the aim of the sessions was to inspire the students to develop their own interpretation of poetry.



Students from Trust schools at the poetry workshop

Some of the students also entered their poems into a Trust-wide competition and the winners were as follows: Annushri, Year 5, Ryefield Primary School; Kiran, Year 5, Field End Junior School; and Rihana, Year 7, Ruislip High School.

Rihana also won the overall prize and was awarded the title of '2023-2024 Vanguard Learning Trust Poet Laureate' for the poem below. The winners each received a certificate and a gift voucher for Waterstones.

'I like the way we went into the meaning and the message behind the poem.'

Annushri, Year 5, Ryefield Primary School

Roots of Resilience

From seed to tree, a journey begins,
In earth's embrace, where life's song spins.
With roots that delve and branches reach high,
A tale of growth beneath the sky.

From tiny shoot to towering form,
Nature's dance, in sun and storm.
Each ring a story, etched in bark,
A journey marked, from light to dark.

In life's landscape, we too take root,
Seeking nourishment, bearing fruit.
Through seasons of change, we rise and fall,
Yet find resilience, amidst it all.

So let us learn from nature's plea,
In every seed, a legacy.
For in our growth, we find the key,
To bloom, to thrive, to truly be.

'The poetry competition gave me a chance to explore my ideas and learn how poets come up with their own. Anyone can be a poet.'

Danielle, Year 6, Hermitage Primary School



Students from Ruislip High School at the poetry workshop

Summer term 2024



Cookery competition

The cookery competition took place for the first time this academic year and was organised and hosted by Vyners School. Schools were invited to select two students from either Year 6 or Year 7 to perform in a cook off. They were required to cook a selected meal under timed conditions. Judges then graded the meals based on presentation and taste.

The competition took place on Thursday 9th May 2024 and all schools in the Trust took part. The winners of the competition were Ruislip High School with their homemade jerk chicken on a bed of rice. The event was a resounding success and staff and students are already looking forward to next year's competition.



An entry in the cookery competition

'I was surprised I won as all the other dishes were really good. I had a fun time and hope I get to do it again soon!'

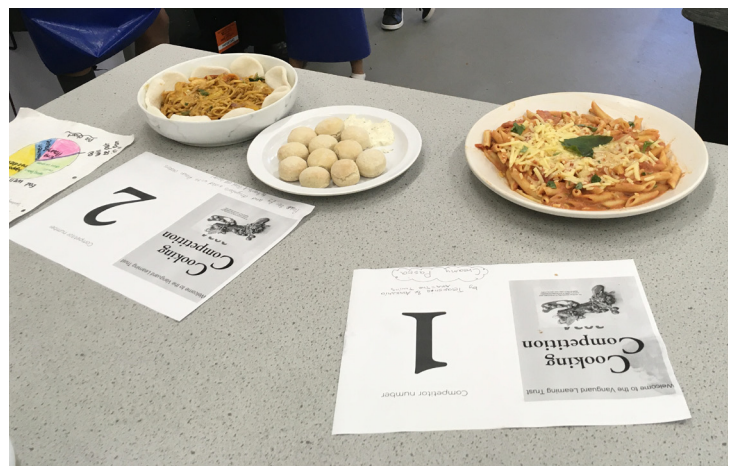
Megan, Year 7, Ruislip High School

'I thought it was really cool at Vyners because I loved seeing the other children cook their fantastic meals. I enjoyed seeing their yummy dishes being made. The food looked as if Gordon Ramsay had cooked it, it looked fabulous.'

Khali, Year 6, Oak Farm Primary School



Students from Oak Farm with their entry



The winning entries in the cookery competition

Summer term 2024



Deaf awareness week

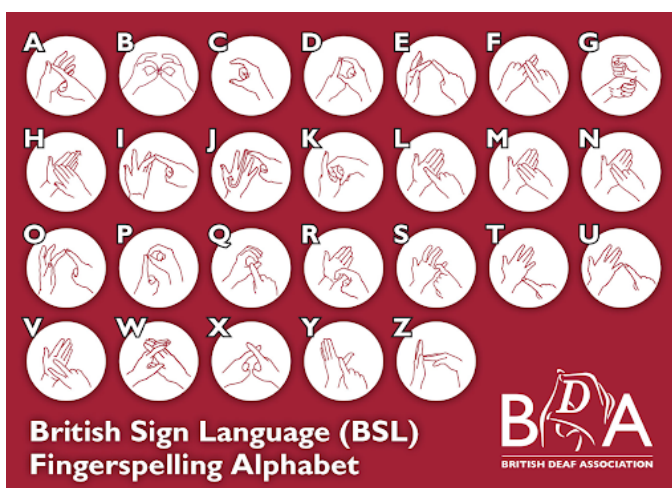
Approximately 10 million people in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus. Deaf awareness week was marked by the Trust for the first time this academic year from Tuesday 7th to Friday 10th May 2024. Activities were organised by the Trust's central education team for all schools to take part in and included recorded information sessions and BSL lessons being created and supplied for students, staff, parents, and carers.



Students at Ryefield using BSL

Marking this week provided an opportunity to share Trust-wide information about people's experiences, particularly deaf students and the unique challenges that they may face. Throughout the week, resources were shared with students, parents/carers and staff from a variety of organisations, such as the British Deaf Association and the National Deaf Children's Society. Parents/carers and staff were invited to watch a recorded presentation given by teachers of the deaf at Vyners School, who discussed their role and experiences of working with students and their families as well as the work that they do to tackle misconceptions and enable young people to thrive. Students across the Trust were given practical advice and guidance about how best to communicate with people who may be hard of hearing/deaf, as well as information about different forms of assistive technology.

A significant focus of the week was to recognise and celebrate British Sign Language (BSL), which is the preferred language of over 87,000 d/Deaf people across the UK. Students were given an insight into the rich, visual-gestural nature of BSL and its role in fostering a sense of empowerment and belonging amongst the Deaf community.



BSL finger spelling alphabet

'If someone is deaf and you wanted to be their friend, you could use sign language to ask them to be your friend.'

Bella, Year 1, Hermitage Primary School

'Deaf Awareness Week provided our children with a chance to explore BSL and to consider the deaf community. We learned how to use the BSL alphabet to learn to sign our names and watched BBC Newsround and some other programmes with a BSL interpreter. We had lots of fun and the week developed our children's awareness.'

Rachel Langford, SENDCo, Hermitage Primary School

Summer term 2024



Table tennis tournament

The table tennis tournament has taken place annually for the last three years, being organised and hosted by Field End Junior School. Schools are invited to enter teams of four students from Years 5 to 8 to a league of doubles matches with points awarded for a win and draw.

This academic year's tournament took place on Wednesday 19th June 2024. The afternoon was filled with excitement and camaraderie and the competition showcased the impressive skills of students from Field End, Hermitage, Ruislip High, Ryefield, and Vyners.



Table tennis teams competing in the tournament

The teams participated in a series of thrilling doubles matches. The competition saw closely contested games, with Hermitage emerging victorious after losing only one match. The students were congratulated on their outstanding performances and sportsmanship.

It was a delightful event that emphasised the joy of friendly competition and the spirit of the school and wider Trust community.



Table tennis teams competing in the tournament

'I was very excited when I heard about the table tennis tournament. I enjoyed meeting other children and representing Hermitage Primary School.'

Martin, Year 5, Hermitage Primary School

'I enjoyed playing against children from other schools, it was fun.'

Darcy, Year 5, Field End Junior School

Summer term 2024



'Slam dunk' basketball event

On Wednesday 3rd July 2024, students from schools across the Trust participated in a 'Slam Dunk' basketball event at Ruislip High School. Schools taking part included Field End Junior School, Hermitage Primary School and Ryefield Primary School. The event featured experienced basketball players, including the current GB 3x3 professional basketball player, Dwayne Lautier, who kindly agreed to attend and talk to students.



Students at the 'Slam Dunk' event at Ruislip High School

Students from Years 6 and 7 with various levels of skill were given structured coaching on the objectives of 3x3 basketball; this included awareness, skill enhancement and fostering a positive team environment which provided a well-rounded learning experience for all participants.

'It was exciting to meet a professional GB basketball player and I learned a lot about 3x3 basketball and enjoyed playing against other schools.'

Jaylan, Year 7, Ruislip High School

'The basketball event was a lot of fun. Whether you were experienced or not, it was helpful and we learned a lot. I gained a lot of knowledge about playing basketball.'

Michal, Year 6, Ryefield Primary School



Students at the 'Slam Dunk' event at Ruislip High School



Summer term 2024



Oracy celebration

The oracy celebration event was organised by Ryefield Primary School for the first time. Previously the school had hosted a debating competition, deciding this academic year to focus on oracy presentations. Schools were invited to enter two to three students from Years 5 to 7 who presented a two-minute persuasive speech on a topic of their choice.



Students taking part in the oracy celebration

The event took place on Tuesday 9th July 2024 and brought together students from schools in the Trust to give persuasive speeches on topics they were passionate about. The event featured a range of subjects, from the viability of space exploration to environmental sustainability, reflecting the diverse interests of the young participants. Students were judged on the content, language choices, delivery, non-verbal communication and structure of their speeches.

The event provided an opportunity for young speakers to develop their public speaking skills and share their perspectives on important topics. Their ability to articulate their ideas clearly and persuasively was a testament to their preparation and the supportive environment created by their teachers. The oratory celebration underscored the value of giving young people a platform to express their views and contribute to discussions on significant global issues.



Students who took part in the oracy celebration

'I practised a lot at home! It was fun and I enjoyed having this opportunity. I am really proud of myself.'

Aashni, Year 6, Field End Junior School

Student awards



Once a term, all schools in the Trust select a student from each key stage (KS), except for Field End who are all in KS2, to receive an award for demonstrating one of the Trust's three values which are as follows:

- **Aspiration:** Endless possibilities, without limits
- **Community:** Collective responsibility, collaborating within and beyond the Trust
- **Equity:** Opportunities for all to achieve equitable outcomes

The recipients receive a certificate and a Trust pin badge, and a postcard is also sent home to their parents/carers.



Autumn 2023

The autumn term awards were presented for demonstrating the Trust's value of '*Aspiration: Endless possibilities, without limits*'; the recipients were as follows:

Field End: Chloe, Beau, Farrin, KS2

Hermitage: Rai, EYFS, Darcie, KS1, Zayd, KS2

Oak Farm: Parthivi, EYFS, Dhiyan, KS1, Lian, KS2

Ruislip High: Lorcan, KS3, Zoey, KS4, Alisha, KS5

Ryefield: Amelie-Shola, EYFS, Arjun, KS1, Poppy, KS2

Vyners: Zach, KS3, Naiomi, KS4, Lenai, KS5

Student awards



Spring 2024

The spring term awards were presented for demonstrating the Trust's value of '*Community: Collective responsibility, collaborating within and beyond the Trust*'; the recipients were as follows:

Field End: Zain, Sara and Filip, KS2

Hermitage: Maya, EYFS, Amelie, KS1, Zane, KS2

Oak Farm: Albert, EYFS, Lexi, KS1, Jesse, KS2

Ruislip High: Shaunav, KS3, Jeffrey, KS4, Alexia, KS5

Ryefield: Kyan, EYFS, Mia, KS1, Henry, KS2

Vyners: Chloe, KS3, Mya, KS4, Neha, KS5

Summer 2024

The summer term awards were presented for demonstrating the Trust's value of '*Equity: Opportunities for all to achieve equitable outcomes*'; the recipients were as follows:

Field End: Ben, Kiran, Nancy, KS2

Hermitage: Jaxon, EYFS, Vaya, KS1, Aisha, KS2

Oak Farm: Haris, EYFS, Spencer, KS1, Arjun, KS2

Ruislip High: Saranshi, KS3, Paige, KS4, Vince, KS5

Ryefield: Tiah, EYFS, Chase, KS1, Humza, KS2

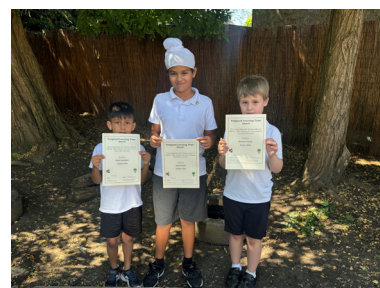
Vyners: Haridev, KS3, Caitlin, KS4, Jaspreet, KS5

'I was excited, and happy that I won as only a few people get this award. I am really proud of myself.'

Kiran, Year 5, Field End Junior School

'I am happy to receive this award because it shows I am doing well in school. I love all the clubs in school, my favourites are minecraft club and the learning resource centre because they are fun and they help me do my homework.'

Paige, Year 10, Ruislip High School



Recipients at Ruislip High School, Field End Junior School and Oak Farm Primary School with their awards