



Vanguard Learning Trust

Student activities information booklet

2024-2025



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Introduction



This booklet outlines the student activities that are being organised across the Trust throughout this academic year, 2024-2025. The booklet can be read in conjunction with the review of last year's activities ([click here](#)).

All Trust schools offer at least one activity and these are spread out across the year and the booklet orders them chronologically by date and term. Each term's activities are showcased in the termly Trust newsletters ([click here](#)) which include photographs of students' engagement as well as quotations from them about their experiences.

This academic year, there will be three Trust-wide weeks for the first time with environmental sustainability week in the autumn, equalities week in the spring and deaf awareness week in the summer.

A new event this autumn will be the sixth form university and careers fair being offered to sixth form students at Vyners and Ruislip High; this shows the partnership between the two secondary schools which will benefit our post-16 learners as they consider their future options.

Following the success of the pilot work carried out last year with poetry workshops, the Trust-wide poetry event will be launched this year involving students learning the same poems as part of their curriculum, primarily involving Years 5 to 8. Students will be encouraged to enter a poem for the Trust-wide competition.

All Trust schools are involved this year for the first time with ACS International Schools' Thorpe Park event on Tuesday 15th October 2024. It is expected that circa 500 students from across the Trust will participate and it should be a unique experience as they consider scientific principles being applied to theme park rides and activities.

Student termly awards will continue with recipients receiving a Trust pin, certificate and a postcard being sent home outlining the reasons for the award in relation to one of the Trust's values of aspiration, community or equity.

'I am delighted that our Trust-wide activities continue to evolve and that the provision is expanding to include provision across all key stages. Whilst our schools offer a range of activities throughout the year in order to broaden students' horizons and support their learning across the curriculum, the Trust-wide activities are promoting our Trust's values and vision as well as our core purpose of broadening our range of student activities, through our collective endeavour, especially cross-phase ones.'

Dr Martina Lecky, Chief Executive Officer

Autumn term



Activity: Maths challenge

Date: Wednesday 9th October 2024

Location: Ruislip High School



Description: This is the fourth year the Maths challenge has taken place. Each school within the Trust is permitted to enter up to two teams of four Year 6 or Year 7 students. There are approximately five rounds of timed questions relating to the theme set for each round.

Preparation required by schools: Schools are sent information in advance about the day; this will include the theme for each round.

Activity: Thorpe Park STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) event

Date: Tuesday 15th October 2024

Location: Thorpe Park



Description: This free event at Thorpe Park, offered to the Trust through its partnership with ACS International School Hillingdon, is aimed at students aged between 8-18 years old and will include a number of exciting science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics activities provided by well-known names.

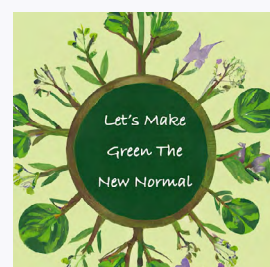
Preparation required by schools: Each school in the Trust is working with the students who will be attending to prepare them for the day.

Activity: Environmental sustainability week

Date: Monday 11th-Friday 15th November 2024

Location: All schools

Description: This is the second environmental sustainability week; the first was in February 2023 ([click here](#) for special edition newsletter). It is a Trust-wide event with activities offered by schools and centrally.



Preparation required by schools: Schools will be able to lead on any activity from the recommended list as well as their own ones.

Autumn/spring term



Activity: Sixth form university and careers fair
Date: Wednesday 20th November 2024
Location: Ruislip High School and Vyners School



Description: This is for sixth form students at Ruislip High and Vyners. Students will have the opportunity to visit a range of careers and university stalls to find out more about the opportunities available to them and how to apply.

Preparation required by schools: Students should think about the questions they want to ask in order to get the most out of the day.

Activity: Christmas carol concert
Date: Wednesday 11th December 2024
Lead organiser: Vyners School



Description: This will be the Trust's sixth year of hosting the Christmas carol concert; it is a Trust-wide musical event held in a local church for students across the different age ranges.

Preparation required by schools: Schools are asked to prepare one musical performance. This can be a choir or other seasonally-related musical act.

Activity: Spelling bee
Date: Wednesday 22nd January 2025
Location: Ruislip High School



Description: This will be the Trust's sixth year of hosting the spelling bee. Each school within the Trust is asked to put forward four contestants from Year 6 or 7. The competition focuses on two themes over three rounds.

Preparation required by schools: Schools are sent information in advance which will include themes and what the rounds will consist of.

Spring term



Activity: Equalities week

Date: Monday 3rd-Friday 7th March 2025

Location: All schools



Description: This will be the Trust's fifth year of hosting the equalities week; it is a Trust-wide event with activities offered by schools and centrally.

Preparation required by schools: The Equality group leads the planning for each school in the Trust. A variety of activities are planned for each year group.

Activity: Netball tournament

Date: Wednesday 5th March 2025

Location: Oak Farm Primary School



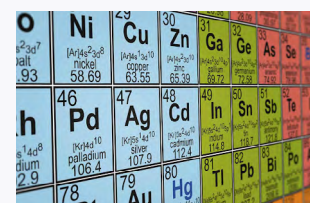
Description: This will be the Trust's second year of hosting the netball tournament. Schools are invited to enter one girls team and one mixed team to compete in two tournaments.

Preparation required by schools: Schools will be asked to organise two squads of six children.

Activity: Science challenge

Date: Wednesday 26th March 2025

Location: Hermitage Primary School



Description: This is the first time the science challenge event is taking place. Each school within the Trust is asked to put forward four contestants from Year 5 to 7. The competition will focus on one theme and consists of three rounds. There will be one winning school and one runner-up.

Preparation required by schools: Schools are sent information in advance which will include themes and what the rounds will consist of.

Spring/summer term



Activity: Poetry project

Date: Spring term

Location: All schools



Description: This will be the Trust's second year of running the poetry project. Selected classes from Years 5 to 8 will study one poem each week for four weeks before students work on their own poem which they may submit in the Trust-wide competition.

Preparation required by schools: Schools are asked to select classes and prepare for the lessons with the students.

Activity: Cookery competition

Date: Wednesday 7th May 2025

Location: Vyners School



Description: This will be the Trust's second year of hosting the cookery competition. Students are required to cook a selected meal under timed conditions. Judges will grade the meals based on presentation and taste.

Preparation required by schools: Each school is required to select two students from either Year 6 or Year 7 to perform in a cook off. The children will also be required to bring ingredients and recipes.

Activity: Deaf awareness week

Date: Tuesday 6th-Friday 9th May 2025

Location: All schools



Description: The Trust will formally mark Deaf Awareness Week for a second year. There will be recorded information sessions and British Sign Language (BSL) lessons supplied for students, staff, parents, and carers. The week will end with a Trust-wide 'follow the story' competition.

Preparation required by schools: No preparation is required, although it would be helpful if staff were able to learn some basic BSL in advance.

Summer term



Activity: Table tennis tournament

Date: Wednesday 18th June 2025

Location: Field End Junior School



Description: This is the third year the table tennis tournament has taken place. Schools are asked to put forward teams of four students from Years 5-8. There is a league format of doubles matches with points awarded for a win and draw.

Preparation required by schools: Schools will be sent information prior to the event and are asked to select their teams.

Activity: Oracy celebration

Date: Wednesday 9th July 2025

Location: Ryefield Primary School



Description: This will be the Trust's second year of hosting the oracy celebration, which is suitable for students in Years 5-7. Schools are invited to bring 2-3 students who can present a two-minute persuasive speech on a topic of their choice.

Preparation required by schools: Schools will need to select students and support them in preparing them for their speech. Schools will be provided with the assessment criteria in advance of the competition.



Student awards



Activity: Student awards

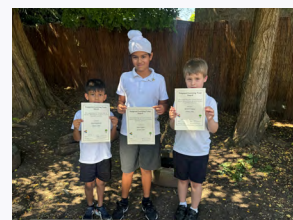
Frequency: Once a term

Description: Once a term, all schools in the Trust select a student from each key stage, except for Field End who are all in KS2, to receive an award for demonstrating one of the Trust's three values; these 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.

Preparation required by schools: Schools are asked to nominate one student from each key stage (Field End will be asked to select three students from KS2).



Summary of dates

Activity	Date
Autumn	
Maths Challenge	Wednesday 9th October 2024
Thorpe Park STEAM event	Tuesday 15th October 2024
Environmental sustainability week	Monday 11th - Friday 15th November 2024
Sixth form careers and universities fair	Wednesday 20th November 2024
Christmas carol concert	Wednesday 11th December 2024
Spring	
Spelling bee	Wednesday 22nd January 2025
Equalities week	Monday 3rd - Friday 7th March 2025
Netball tournament	Wednesday 5th March 2025
Science challenge	Wednesday 26th March 2025
Poetry project	Spring term
Summer	
Cookery competition	Wednesday 7th May 2025
Deaf awareness week	Tuesday 6th - Friday 9th May 2025
Table tennis competition	Wednesday 18th June 2025
A celebration of oracy	Wednesday 9th July 2025