



Vanguard Learning Trust Newsletter

Edition 18: December 2024

STEAM event at Thorpe Park

On Tuesday 15th October 2024, students from all schools in the Trust attended the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) 2024 event, organised by ACS International Schools at Thorpe Park for approximately 10,000 school-aged participants. The day was offered to schools for no entry cost to the park. In total there were circa 500 of the Trust's students at this event, which equates to 13% of the Trust's student population.

The day was filled with engaging science, technology, engineering, arts and maths workshops from industry experts for students to engage in, including

pre- and post-learning activities. The park was 'gamified' with students' learning and engagement earning them access to the rollercoasters. The day was a resounding success and enjoyed by all participants. A video about the day can be accessed ([click here](#)), which also has information about the 2025 event.

'The whole Thorpe Park experience was amazing! I learned all about electricity. I was inspired by the DJ and mixed some music and I challenged myself to go on all of the rides, even the big scary ones.'

Hayat, Year 6, Field End Junior School



Student activities

Student awards

Our student awards involve each school in the Trust selecting students, one from each key stage, except for Field End's who are all in KS2, to receive an award for demonstrating one of the Trust's values. This term's value was 'Aspiration: Endless possibilities, without limits'.

The recipients received a certificate and a Trust pin badge, and a postcard was sent home to their parents/carers.

The recipients were as follows:

Field End: Arman, Milena, Emily, KS2

Hermitage: Lara, EYFS, Ayaan, KS1, Yasmina, KS2

Oak Farm: Yasmine, EYFS, Rayyan, KS1, Ezr, KS2

Ruislip High: Isabella, KS3, Dathusan, KS4, Hayley, KS5

Ryefield: Lavanya, EYFS, Ryan, KS1, Emily, KS2

Vyners: Sam, KS3, Leah, KS4, Chloe, KS5



Maths challenge

On Wednesday 9th October 2024, Ruislip High School hosted the annual Trust-wide maths challenge. The event brought together students from both primary and secondary schools across the Trust, showcasing not only their mathematical abilities but also their dedication and teamwork.

The atmosphere was electric, with students brimming with enthusiasm and determination. Each team demonstrated remarkable commitment, pushing themselves to tackle challenging problems and collaborate effectively with their teammates.

The competition was fierce, but Ruislip High School's A team (teams were randomly assigned A or B) emerged victorious, securing first place with a brilliant display of skill and teamwork. Hot on their heels was Hermitage A, delivering an impressive performance

to take second place. Meanwhile, Oak Farm B team rounded out the top three, earning a well-deserved third place with their strategic problem-solving and perseverance.

A particularly special moment was welcoming Dr Lecky, chief executive officer, who delivered inspiring closing remarks. Dr Lecky's words highlighted the importance of collaboration, critical thinking, and resilience; these are qualities that were exemplified by all the students during the challenge.

The event was successful because of the hard work and dedication of all the students who participated. Their passion for maths shone through as they tackled each round, supporting one another and embodying the spirit of teamwork across all schools.

The Trust maths challenge continues to be a celebration of collaboration, perseverance, and the joy of learning. It is a testament to the vibrant community that makes the Trust so special. All the staff involved, particularly Khaleel Ladhani, director of maths and economics, and Bhavik Joshi, second in maths/Year 12 mathematics co-ordinator, are thanked for making it such a successful annual event.

'The maths challenge was an amazing event that I really enjoyed. It contained fun challenges that you had to complete with a time limit.'

Zunaira, Hermitage Primary School

'It was really fun and actually it was more fun than I expected. I had a lovely time. It was one of the greatest things I have done at Oak Farm and I was really honoured to be there. Thank you!'

Aarin, Oak Farm Primary School

'It was hard at the beginning to settle in, but easier once we got going. It was a great feeling to win!'

Isabella, Ruislip High School



Students who participated in the maths challenge

Student activities

Sixth-form careers fair

On Wednesday 20th November 2024, Ruislip High School sixth form hosted its first-ever careers and higher education fair as part of its comprehensive post-18 support programme. The event attracted over thirty prestigious organisations, including Russell Group universities, apprenticeship providers, and leading employers such as the NHS, BBC, Mace, and Metropolitan Police.

The fair offered students a wealth of information and inspiration regarding their future academic and professional opportunities. The event also featured two alumni from Ruislip High School's Class of 2024: Bradley Barker, now an apprentice project manager at TFL, and Zain Louay, a legal apprentice at Botrills Solicitors. Their presence showcased the tangible success that can be achieved by studying at Ruislip High School, offering current students a clear and motivating vision of their own potential futures.

Ruislip High School was also pleased to welcome twenty students from Vyners School, reflecting the collaborative spirit of the Trust.

Guests praised the students for their engagement and attitude, describing them as 'very interested and respectful' throughout the day; their enthusiasm and curiosity stood out as highlights of the event. This inaugural event marked a significant step in preparing sixth form students for life beyond school, equipping them with the knowledge and inspiration to pursue their aspirations with confidence.

Ms Bonny, Post-16 Careers Lead at Ruislip High School, organised this inaugural event and is thanked for her leadership of this highly successful Trust-wide event.

'The Trust sixth-form careers fair was a wonderful event to attend, with a huge range of universities and employers for students to speak to. There

was something there for every student, and I am incredibly grateful to Ms Bonny, who spent countless hours organising such a wonderful event.'

Mr Peacock, Head of Sixth Form, Ruislip High School

Christmas carol concert

The annual Trust-wide Christmas carol concert took place on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at St. Lawrence's Church in Pinner. It was the first time the event was held at this local church, which had standing room only by 1:30pm when the concert started. The church was filled with our students, staff and families supporting the event. The concert included student performances and readings - one from each school - as well as everyone singing collectively uplifting Christmas carols. All four primary schools' choirs delighted the audience with their cheerful and animated singing which included Ryefield's choir using British Sign Language to enhance their performance. Ruislip High had a solo performance with Nicole, Year 10, enchanting the audience with her powerful rendition of 'White Christmas'. Vyners's chamber ensemble also performed a number of well-known Christmas songs as well as playing the music for all the carols. It was a wonderful event enjoyed by all, and Dan Cullum, Vyners's Director of Music, is thanked for organising again this VLT event as well as all the staff who prepared the students for their performances.

'Bringing together our wider school communities, the Trust-wide carol service was a celebration of unity, joy, and togetherness. A moment to cherish, reminding us of the strength found in community and kindness.'

Colin Tucker, Executive Headteacher, Primary

'I really enjoyed singing in front of other children and parents. The carols really made me feel the Christmas spirit!'

Angel, Year 4, Oak Farm Primary School



Students at the sixth form careers fair



Performance at the Christmas concert

School improvement work and governance day

Let's Think

The partnership, referred to as the VLT-LT hub, between Vanguard Learning Trust and the Let's Think Forum (LTF) has continued this term with the following activities relating to science:

Let's Think primary science

A session was held on Wednesday 6th November 2024 led by Dr Lecky, LT science tutor, with the science primary leads, Mrs Sheldrake, Year 4 teacher and science lead, Field End Junior School, Mrs Gill, Year 2 teacher, Hermitage Primary School, and Miss Stagg, Year 6 teacher, Ryefield Primary School. The session focused on the underlying theory of cognitive development and LT's classroom methodology. Dr Lecky also presented the first Let's Think science lesson that the teachers will do before the next online session in January. Feedback from the session included participants finding it useful to have information on the thinking behind the programme and also the reasoning for why LT is so beneficial for the students.

Mrs Sheldrake commented: *'I am looking forward to teaching the session with Year 6 and seeing the outcomes from it in terms of their ideas and thinking.'*

CASE session at Ruislip High School

Dr Lecky led a session on Monday 11th November 2024 with all members of the science department on CASE (Cognitive Acceleration through Science Education) lessons. The majority of the session focused on neuroscience with a discussion on how the brain's internal representations are challenged in LT lessons; these representations can lead to misconceptions and LT lessons allow students to adapt them based on new evidence of the real world. She ended the session by focusing on two lessons including a 'live' demonstration which the members of the department enthusiastically engaged in. Feedback from department members included how useful it was to see demonstrations of the practical lessons and also how to question the students during CASE lessons.



CASE session at Ruislip High School

One of the attendees, Miss Alcock, science teacher, commented: *'I loved learning about the neuroscience/psychology background of CASE.'*

Governance day

The school-based governance day took place on Wednesday 27th November 2024, with schools planning their own themes and activities, including the Trust's primary schools hosting a joint session at Field End Junior School. All the sessions were well represented and feedback from governors has been extremely positive. Governors enjoyed being able to see the schools in action and were grateful for the valuable opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction of the schools.

'I thought it was a really thoughtful and engaging session which enabled open and productive conversations about ways to align our vision for the Primary Hub for the next three years. It was great to see how aligned we all were and feel we will have captured some really useful action points for all schools in the Primary Hub to make progress in the key areas we identified. Thank you for creating such a great environment for these discussions to flourish and please pass on my thanks to all colleagues involved in the morning.'

Tom Murrell, Parent Governor, Primary Hub

'The day was an excellent opportunity to view the school in action and to gauge the opinions of some of the students. In addition, the presentations enabled us to see how data is being used effectively to track both student progress and attendance.'

Andy Lunnon, Vice-chair of Governors, Ruislip High School

'The staff presentation was outstanding and the knowledge of Vyners' attendance and PSHE curriculum was exceptional. Every child seen in a lesson was engaged and the teachers we interacted with looked to be enjoying their time in the classroom.'

Veronica Diaz, Community Governor, Vyners School



Primary schools' joint governance day