



Vanguard Learning Trust Newsletter

Edition 20: July 2025

Governance day

The annual summer term governance day was held on Wednesday 25th June 2025. There was representation from the Trust's governors, members, trustees and central team at both the morning and afternoon sessions. The morning was based in schools, involving a number of activities, which allowed attendees to meet with students and staff; this included focus groups with staff to consider specific areas from the regular staff surveys and there were also discussions with students about writing, online safety and artificial intelligence.

The Trust-wide afternoon session was held at ACS International School Hillingdon. It began with feedback from the morning sessions and was followed by a review of the year by the Trust's chief executive officer, Dr Martina Lecky, including staff presentations on their involvement in specific Trust-wide school improvement projects. In addition, speeches were made in honour of colleagues who were leaving the Trust and for Mr Joseph, Head of Year 10 at Ruislip High School, for his achievement of being selected for an MBE in relation to his services to basketball. The afternoon ended with a reception to celebrate a successful year in the Trust.



Afternoon at ACS International School

Long service awards

Each year at governance day, there is also the presentation of long-service awards to staff with 25 or more years' service. This year, awards were presented to Mrs Jones and Mrs Kendall for their 25 years' service at Hermitage Primary School and Vyners School respectively. The recipients were presented with a certificate, flowers, gift vouchers and an engraved pen to thank them for their years of service.

'Thank you for inviting me to the governance day celebrating my 25 years at Hermitage, and for all the wonderful gifts. Also thank you Mr Hingley for his amazing speech.'

Mrs Jones, Hermitage Primary School

'Thank you very much for my long-service award and gifts, they were very much appreciated. 25 years sounds like a very long time but it really doesn't feel like it whilst you are doing it and enjoying it.'

Mrs Kendall, Vyners School



Mr Joseph speaking at the afternoon session



Morning at Ruislip High



Morning at Hermitage



Mrs Kendall and Mr Mullings,
Headteacher, Vyners



Mrs Jones and Mr Hingley,
Headteacher, Hermitage

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 'Equity: Opportunities for all to achieve equitable outcomes'.

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: Imogen, Khadijah, Robert, KS2

Hermitage: Elsie, EYFS, Mia, KS1, Emily, KS2

Oak Farm: Manar, EYFS, Amber, KS1, Meerab, KS2

Ruislip High: Alden, KS3, Lola, KS4, Trissha, KS5

Ryefield: Pixie, EYFS, Karlie, KS1, Scarlett, KS2

Vyners: Natalia, KS3, Andrew, KS4, Yara, KS5



Certificate, pin badge and postcard received by award recipients

Cooking competition

The Trust-wide cooking competition took place at Vyners School on the afternoon of Wednesday 7th May 2025. The students were full of energy and enthusiasm as they prepared, cooked and presented their chosen dishes. The brief was to cook a dish following the principles of the Eatwell Guide, a NHS publication outlining how to achieve a healthy, balanced diet, within a challenging time limit of only 90 minutes. With trophies and prizes at stake, the event was held in a competitive but friendly spirit. The standard of dishes prepared by participants was of a high standard, which made judging the top three very difficult. The dishes were judged on the range of skills demonstrated, the appropriateness of the sensory qualities and how well they complemented the guidelines of the Eatwell Guide. After much deliberation by the judges, the top three dishes were announced. The overall winner was Ben from

Vyners, who cooked teriyaki salmon, served with perfectly steamed broccoli and expertly cooked noodles. Second place went to Sama from Ryefield who prepared a very moreish lentil soup that was beautifully textured and full of flavour. In third place was Isona from Ruislip High School who created a stunning noodle soup, served with a perfectly poached egg and shredded chicken. Mr Welch, Assistant Subject Leader of Design and Technology, is thanked for his excellent organisation of the event.

'I really enjoyed the cooking competition. I was very grateful that I was chosen to represent the school and delighted that I was awarded first place.'

Ben, Year 7, Vyners School



Participants in the cooking competition

Deaf awareness week

Schools across the Trust marked deaf awareness week from Tuesday 6th to Friday 9th May 2025, using resources shared by Mr Walthaus, the Trust's safeguarding and central education lead. This is the second year the Trust has recognised this important national week, which aims to promote inclusion, understanding and support for people who



The British fingerspelling alphabet

Student activities

are deaf or hard of hearing. Activities included a discussion to challenge assumptions, an information session on assistive technology and the sharing of communication tips to help students and staff become more deaf aware. A highlight of the week was a video interview with a sixth-form student at Vyners School's special resource provision for students with a hearing impairment, who shared his experiences of using a cochlear implant. Schools were also invited to take part in a competition based on British Sign Language fingerspelling, designed to help to boost participation and engagement with the resources. Additional materials were circulated throughout the week, including links to informational videos, signed songs and a documentary on BSL learners. The week served as a valuable opportunity to raise awareness and reinforce the Trust's commitment to equity and inclusion.

'Deaf awareness week was received very positively by the students I teach. It led to insightful conversations between students about the importance of being more aware in how we communicate with each other and how to promote inclusive practices.'

Miss Panesar, Phase Lead, Field End Junior School

Table tennis tournament

The Trust-wide table tennis competition took place at Field End Junior School on Wednesday 18th June 2025. There were teams from all schools in the Trust taking part and it was a wonderful opportunity for students to come together and compete in a fun, supportive and inclusive environment.

Throughout the afternoon, every team represented their school superbly, showing great sportsmanship, skill and determination. The matches were competitive and exciting, with each school securing victories against different opponents which was a testament to the high standard of play across

all teams. There were some fantastic rallies and impressive table tennis shots on display. It was clear that there are some future table tennis stars in the Trust!

After a thrilling round of matches, the competition ended in a dramatic tie with two teams finishing on 24 points each, leading to a 'sudden death' decider. In a tense and closely fought final game, Ruislip High won, leading to them being awarded first place, with Hermitage in second and Vyners in third place overall.

'I really loved the sportsmanship after every match despite whether we lost or won, and even if they won the match they would still play with us until the time was over.'

Laura, Year 6, Hermitage Primary School

Oracy celebration

As part of our celebration of oracy across the Trust, students from all schools came together on Wednesday 9th July 2025 to present short, powerful speeches on topics they felt passionate about. The event showcased not only the depth of their knowledge but also their ability to express ideas, persuade an audience and speak from the heart. Teachers and leaders were impressed by the poise and courage on display, with many students speaking in front of a large audience for the first time. The celebration highlighted that oracy is a vital life skill that is essential for learning, confidence and future success. It also reinforced our shared commitment to giving every child a voice and the tools to use it well. This uplifting event left all who attended inspired by the passion and potential of our young speakers.

'I felt proud to share something that matters to me; it showed me that my voice can make a difference.'

Poppy, Year 6, Ryefield Primary School



Teams competing in the table tennis competition



Participants in the oracy celebration

Student activities

Year 6 writing competition

This year, a writing competition was introduced across the Trust's primary schools, developed by the Trust's reading group. Whilst it was based on the BBC's annual '500 Words' writing competition, a unique Trust approach was added. A writers' day was developed, specially chosen to follow shortly after the Year 6 local authority transition day. The format of the day was planned to include a taught session in the morning in each school and independent writing in the afternoon. Visual resources were chosen by the reading group to encourage an imaginative and creative response from the Year 6 students. One of the key criteria for the competition was: *'write a story that you would want to read yourself.'*

The competition was judged by the Trust's central team with additional support from Ms Bhudia, Head of English at Ruislip High School. A recording is being made of each of the winners reading their story out loud. The winners are as follows:

Overall Trust winner:

- Zane, Hermitage Primary School

School winners:

- Angelo, Field End Junior School
- Erichsen, Hermitage Primary School
- Alexandra, Ryefield Primary School

'It has been such a pleasure to develop this challenge with the Trust's literacy leads and local authority accredited writing moderators. They wanted to develop a writing day for Year 6 pupils, and the success of this type of creative writing for students is evident in the quality of the entries that we have received.'

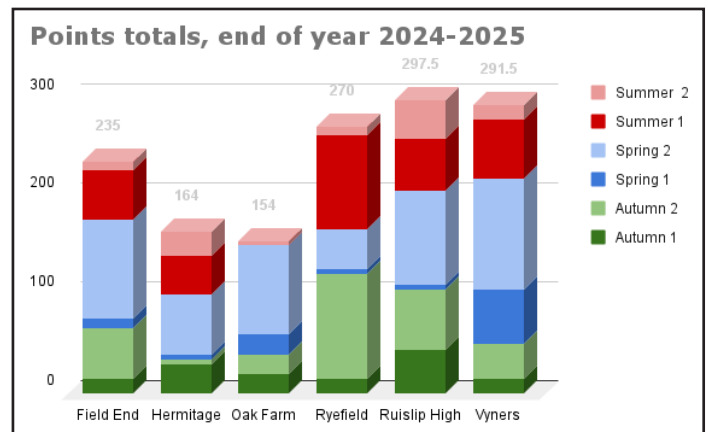
Teresa Kiely, School Improvement Advisor, Primary



One of the most popular images chosen by Year 6 students

VLT cup

The remaining Trust-wide student activities took place this term and points were awarded to schools for both participation and for being placed first, second or third in the competitions. With the final scores in, the student league was complete and the first annual VLT cup winners were announced. The final league standings are shown in the figure below outlining the schools awarded each half term.



The top three schools in the league are as follows:

- **First place: Ruislip High School**
- Second place: Vyners School
- Third place: Ryefield Primary School

Congratulations to Ruislip High School and to all the schools in the Trust for making the first student league such a success.

'Our students were delighted to receive the VLT trophy, awarded for being overall winners in the culmination of this year's Trust-wide events. It was a proud moment for our school community!'

Mrs Coltman, Deputy Headteacher, Ruislip High School

More information about the cup, including the presentation to Ruislip High School, is shared in the 2024-2025 review of student activity publication.



Ms Coltman and students at Ruislip High with the VLT cup