



Vanguard Learning Trust Newsletter

Edition 21: December 2025

Student voice inclusion project

In line with our Trust's vision of outstanding, inclusive education and our core values of aspiration, community, and equity, students across all the Trust's schools were invited to contribute towards a project encouraging students to reflect on what inclusion means to them within their own school and to express this through originally created work.

Students were able to submit entries in two categories:

- Written pieces including poems, paragraphs, personal statements, or calls to action
- Images such as photographs, drawings, sketches, paintings, or class-created collaborative artwork

Capturing student voice is one of the most powerful calls to action within schools. It reveals what students feel in ways numerical data simply cannot. It tells the lived story of student experience. Throughout this project, it was encouraging to see the compassion, insight and maturity reflected in the students' work.

The response from our schools was exceptional. Over 450 entries were received across the Trust - individual pieces, group projects, models, poetry, artwork and prose - all demonstrating students' understanding of inclusion and belonging. Reviewing the submissions was both inspiring and challenging, as every contribution carried meaning and had clearly been created with thoughtful consideration. 43 entries were selected to contribute to a unique Trust-wide digital mural. Students' entries, as well

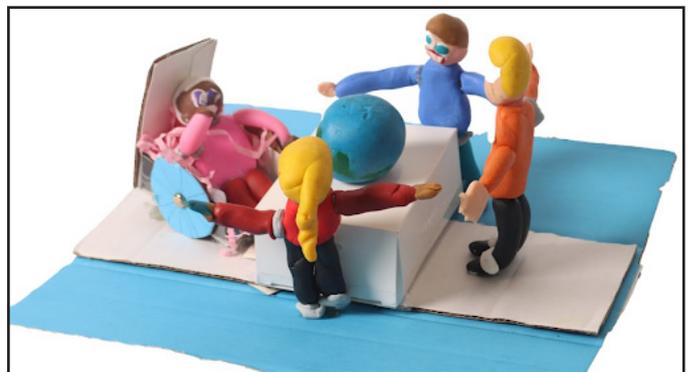
as those selected for inclusion in the final mural, received points towards the annual student league competition.

'We celebrate differences and I wanted to make a good model. The people in it have really cool faces, I made them with different-colored skin and there is a person in a wheelchair because everyone is different and everyone is important. I put all my effort into the model and feel really proud. I want to tell people that inclusion is awesome.'

Mason, Year 5, Oak Farm Primary School

'I created an inclusion poster and was proud when I found out it had been chosen. It made me feel more confident. Inclusion to me means including people who feel left out and bringing us all together to celebrate things.'

Mathura, Year 4, Field End Junior School



Model created by Mason, Year 5, Oak Farm Primary School



Image created using drone footage of students spelling out the letters of the word 'inclusion'



Students from Oak Farm and Vyners with their entries

Student activities

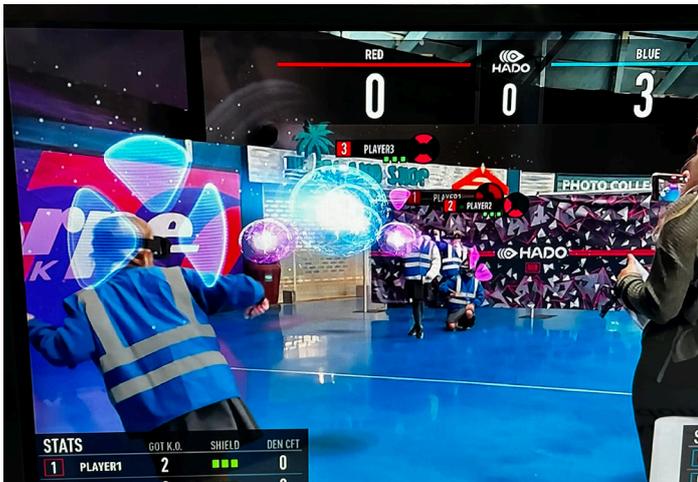
Thorpe Park STEAM event

On Tuesday 7th October 2025, students from Ryefield Primary School, Ruislip High School and Vyners School visited Thorpe Park for the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) 2025 event organised annually by ACS International Schools.

Thorpe Park was opened exclusively for up to 10,000 primary and secondary school students. In total there were 270 of the Trust's students at the event, taking part in educational STEAM workshops and activities led by over 60 of ACS International Schools' partners, such as the Royal Air Force, Microsoft and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Each activity earned the students coupons that they could then use on Thorpe Park's rides.

'I enjoyed that we were at Thorpe Park; some of the rides there were very thrilling.'

Kavinav, Year 8, Ruislip High School



Students participating in activities at Thorpe Park

Maths challenge

On Wednesday 15th October 2025, the annual maths challenge brought students together from across the Trust, with two teams of four students representing each school, for an exciting afternoon of problem-solving, teamwork, and mathematical brilliance. The atmosphere was electric as teams battled through challenging rounds, testing their logic, reasoning, and speed. In a truly impressive achievement, Hermitage Primary School's teams swept the top two positions, taking both first and second place, with Vyners School taking third place.



Students participating in the maths challenge

It was especially inspiring to see primary students performing at such a high level, with Hermitage's Year 6 team once again proving their excellence, having also taken first place two years ago. All participating schools demonstrated fantastic enthusiasm and skill, making it a thrilling and memorable event for everyone involved.

'The maths challenge was really fun and helped us practise what we had learnt.'

Saida, Year 6, Hermitage Primary School



Group photograph with all students in the maths challenge

Student activities

Poetry project and competition

The Trust-wide poetry project and competition took place this term, commencing on Monday 10th November 2025. Students studied one poem each week for four weeks, and were encouraged to consider how the texts relate to their worlds.

The selected poems, one per week, were as follows:

- *Caged bird* by Dr Maya Angelou
- *Majestic* by Kwame Alexander
- *United Way* by Amanda Gorman
- *I, too* by Langston Hughes

After studying the poems, students shared their thoughts and responses on a blog, with contributions being made every week to encourage participation as well as reflections on each poem.

At the end of the four weeks, students were invited to submit entries to the poetry competition. The competition deadline is Friday 19th December 2025

and the winners will be announced in the spring term. Each school will have a nominated poet of the year and one overall winner will be named VLT Poet Laureate 2025.

'The poems were very inspiring and representative of our learning dispositions as they express the nature of life and its sentiments.'

Aiza and Liana, Year 6, Ryefield Primary School

Christmas carol concert

The Trust-wide Christmas carol concert took place at St Lawrence Church, Pinner, on Wednesday 10th December 2025. Once again, all seats were taken as the six schools came together for a mixture of seasonal readings, carols and performances. The students' performances were wonderful and the event was enjoyed by all, capturing the spirit of togetherness at this special time of year. Mr Cullum, Director of Music at Vyners, is thanked for organising the concert and the Trust is grateful to Reverend Dr Seymour and his team at St Lawrence Church for providing the opportunity to stage this event at such an inspiring venue.

'It was a special moment to sing and read the story of Christmas. I really enjoyed all the performances and it was fabulous to listen to the songs from all the other schools.'

Sanam, Year 6, Field End Junior School

'My friend and I were chosen to do the reading at this year's carol concert. At first I was a little nervous, but I took a deep breath and was pleased with how it went.'

Lilly, Year 6, Ryefield Primary School



The flyer features the Vanguard Learning Trust logo at the top left. Below it, the title 'Trust-wide poetry course and competition, autumn term 2025' is centered in a green box. The main text describes the course launch on Monday 10th November 2025, open to Years 5 to 9. It lists the course details, including the poems 'Caged bird', 'Majestic', 'United Way', and 'I, too'. It also mentions a VLT blog for sharing thoughts and a poetry competition with individual and overall winners. Submission of entries is required by Wednesday 10th December 2025. At the bottom, there are four small images: a portrait of Maya Angelou, a cartoon of Kwame Alexander, a portrait of Langston Hughes, and a portrait of Amanda Gorman with a quote from her poem 'Hope is the thing with feathers'.

Promotional flyer for the poetry project and competition



Field End students performing at the Christmas concert

Student activities and league

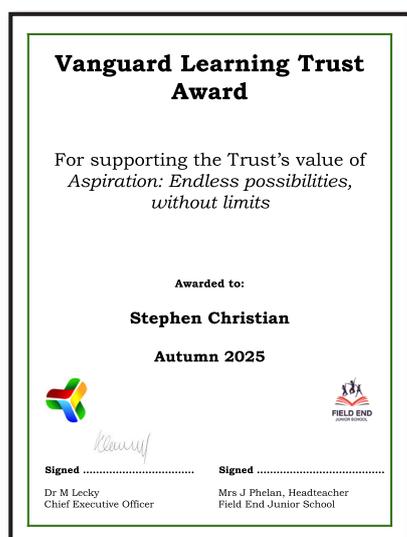
Student awards

The Trust's 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:** Anaya, Emilia, Stephen, KS2
- Hermitage:** Lexi, EYFS, Kaius, KS1, Sumayah, KS2
- Oak Farm:** Eden, EYFS, Aarav, KS1, Malhar, KS2
- Ruislip High:** William, KS3, Max, KS4, Anna, KS5
- Ryefield:** James, EYFS, Tara, KS1, Luke, KS2
- Vyners:** Maeya, KS3, Otto, KS4, Ashmeet, KS5



Certificate, pin badge and postcard received by award recipients

Student league

Following the success of last year's student league, with Ruislip High being crowned the first winners, the 2025-2026 student league has begun this term with a number of student activities.

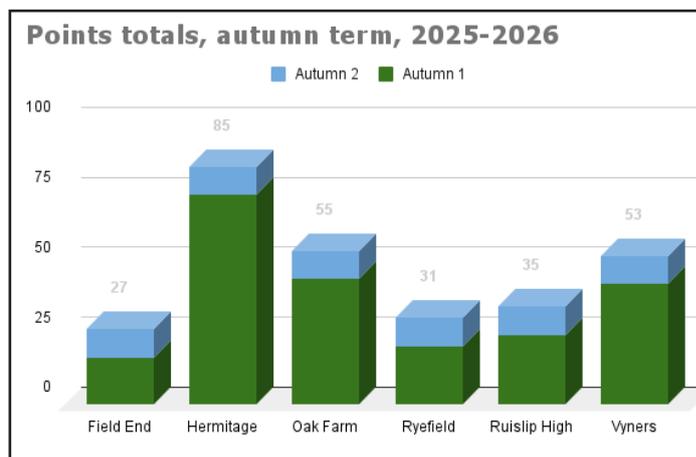
After the first half term, schools had been awarded points for their students' involvement in three Trust-wide activities; these were the student voice inclusion project, the Thorpe Park STEAM event, and the maths challenge. By the end of the first half of the autumn term, Hermitage Primary School had taken the lead, with Oak Farm Primary School in second place and Vyners School close behind in third place.



In the second half of the autumn term, two more activities took place; these were the poetry project and competition and the Christmas concert. Schools were awarded points for participation in both events and, after adding these scores, the leaderboard remained unchanged, with Hermitage Primary School keeping the top spot. Points will also be awarded to the winners of the poetry competition when they have been announced, and the points will be added to the spring term scores.

'As a school, we have engaged fully with the opportunities that the Trust has provided. The activities are varied and appeal across the primary sector. The points are merely a bonus, but being top of the leaderboard is satisfying, and the other headteachers will be reminded of it at our next meeting!'

Mr Hingley, Headteacher, Hermitage Primary School



Student league scores at the end of the autumn term