



# Vanguard Learning Trust Newsletter

**Edition 12: March 2023**

(short version due to special edition on environmental sustainability week)

## Spelling bee

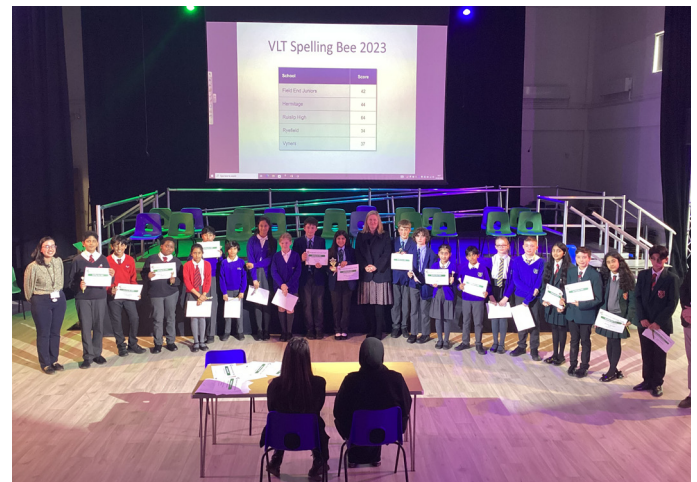
The annual Trust-wide spelling bee took place at Ruislip High School on Wednesday 22nd March 2023. The competition involved three rounds of challenging words to test our students' spelling ability.

In the first round, representatives from each school took turns spelling increasingly challenging words. As the difficulty increased, so did the pressure; the students, however, rose to the challenge, impressively spelling difficult words like 'questionnaire' and 'inconvenience'.

The second round was the speed challenge. Words in this round centred on the themes of sustainability and the environment. The Ruislip High dynamic duo of Theo and Ethan sped through a whopping 23 polysyllabic words accurately in 2 minutes! The pressure was on as the other Trust schools faced their formidable opponent. Ruislip High ended the round with an approximate 20-point lead!

The last round, though technically the individual challenge, was a final opportunity to earn a few additional points to change the overall team standings. However, with even more challenging words, the fight for the last speller standing was nail-biting! Mr Gould, who hosted the event, commented: 'It feels like the penalty shoot-out!'

Overall, it was a great opportunity to showcase the best of all five schools. Well done to all our top spellers, especially Patrick from Field End Junior school (FEJS) who was the winner of the individual challenge and Ruislip High School's stellar Year 7 team on its phenomenal teamwork.



The spelling bee teams

## Student awards

Each school in the Trust selected students, one from each key stage, except for Field End's who were all in KS2, to receive an award for demonstrating the Trust's value of 'Community - collective responsibility, collaborating within and beyond the Trust'.

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

The recipients were as follows:

**Field End:** Amelia, Amber and Freddie, KS2

**Hermitage:** Antonia, EYFS, Henry, KS1, Maisie, KS2

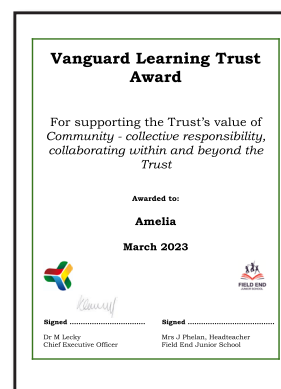
**Ruislip High:** Laylah, KS3, Anastasia, KS4, Rory, KS5

**Ryefield:** Katie, EYFS, Amina, KS1, Chelsea, KS2

**Vyners:** Emma, KS3, Robin, KS4, Delphine, KS5



Patrick (FEJS), winner of individual challenge, and the overall Year 7 RHS winning team



# School improvement work

## Let's Think hub

Martina Lecky, Chief Executive Officer, is a Let's Think tutor in science and she taught a demonstration lesson on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 to a Year 7 class at Ruislip High School following last term's lesson at Vyners. The lesson was on the reasoning pattern of proportionality; students were challenged through a number of different contexts to articulate consciously their reasoning as they attempted each challenge. The lesson was observed by Ruislip High and Vyners staff as well as some educators from overseas. Their feedback on the lesson was extremely positive and is shared below.

*'The lesson was very engaging and the students were challenged. The use of whiteboards ensured that all students were participating.'*

Laura Hide, Head of Science, Ruislip High School

*'We observed lesson 8, gears and ratios. There were so many outstanding features of the work, for example: the attention to a fundamental concept in science and mathematics - proportionality, the hands-on exploration of the relationship of the revolutions between large and small wheels, and the discursive nature of instruction. It was especially striking to me that there was little "sophisticated" technology used in the lesson. The students' own whiteboards were the tool for presenting their thinking. Students were required to work independently and with partners, make inferences, activate schema, discuss concepts, ask questions, and the whole group plenary and evaluation of initial thinking closed the lesson in an effective manner.'*

William Stroud, President of EDUPAM

*'Visiting Dr Lecky's lesson was a very enriching and interesting experience. We were able to observe the great work that teachers and students do together establishing routines, thinking processes, and stimulating curiosity with every single activity. The pace of the lesson was remarkable and the level of student participation, refreshing. We experienced an*



CASE lesson with Year 7 students

*environment that promotes thinking and has high expectations of students. Our conversations with teachers and leaders were vivid examples of a sense of community focused on learning.'*

Diana Guerra, Director of Programmes and Operations, EDUPAM

## Peer reviews

Two more of the Trust's reading peer reviews took place this term, at Field End Junior School and Ryefield Primary School.

Wayne Murray, Ryefield's Assistant Headteacher and Year 6 teacher, co-ordinated the peer review at Ryefield which took place on Wednesday 25th January 2023. There were a number of review highlights including the success of pupils' collaborative learning when discussing texts; pupils' interest and excitement in reading; and the diverse and important ways that the school supports reading for pleasure.

Mr Murray commented: *'The whole experience was very collaborative in nature. The review team celebrated good practice whilst offering pertinent advice and strategies to further our pupils' success in reading.'*

The peer review at Field End Junior School took place on Thursday 9th February 2023 and was co-ordinated by Catherine Tobin, English Lead and SLT member. During lessons the reviewers saw teachers reading through planned group talk, collaborative tasks, and problem-solving questions. The reviewers commented on the positive quality of pupils' learning behaviours during the review.

Ms Tobin commented: *'To be able to spend quality time observing the children's visible engagement and immersion in high-quality texts across the school was an absolute delight. As a school we are incredibly proud of our literacy journey to date and are looking forward to our next steps.'*



CASE lesson with Year 7 students