



Vanguard Learning Trust

Student activities information booklet

2025-2026



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Drone footage of the schools spelling out GO ZERO during environmental sustainability week

Introduction



This booklet outlines the student activities that are being organised across the Trust throughout this academic year, 2025-2026. 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 several activities are organised by the central education team and/or a Trust forum. The activities 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 are two new student activities: an inclusion competition in the autumn term, and a Trust-wide Languages week in the spring term.

Student termly awards will also 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.

It is worth noting that the dates stated in the booklet are provisional and may need to change due to specific circumstances that arise during the academic year.

In September 2024, the Trust introduced a student league in which schools can win points for each activity they participate in and, for competitive ones, points are awarded points for winners and runner ups. At the end of the year, a VLT cup is awarded to the school with the most points. The winning school for 2024-2025 was Ruislip High School. The question is whether the school will defend its position or whether there will be a different school engraved on the cup for 2025-2026.



Autumn term



Activity: Inclusion competition

Launch date: Wednesday 17th September 2025

Location: All schools (organised by central team)



Description: This is a new activity being introduced this year to mark the Trust's commitment to inclusive education.

Preparation required by schools: Schools will be provided with information during the first few weeks and students' entries will contribute to the Trust's biennial staff conference in November on the theme of inclusion.

Activity: Thorpe Park STEAM event

Date: Tuesday 7th October 2025

Location: All schools (organised by central education)



Description: This free STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) 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: Maths challenge

Date: Wednesday 15th October 2025

Location: Ruislip High School



Description: Each school within the Trust is permitted to enter up to two teams of four Year 6 or Year 7 students. There are approximately 5 rounds of timed questions relating to the theme set for each round. Examples of types of questions in the past have included the 24 Game, problem solving, UKMT (junior level), financial maths, as well as bonus questions for prizes.

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

Autumn term



Activity: Poetry project

Launch date: Monday 10th November 2025

Location: All schools (organised by central education)

Description: This will be the Trust's third year of running the poetry project. Selected classes from Years 5 to 8 will study one poem each week for four weeks before students write their own poem which they may submit in the Trust-wide competition. Students are encouraged after each lesson to share their thoughts and writing via a collaborative blog providing them with a real audience.



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

Activity: Sixth form university and careers fair

Date: Tuesday 25th November 2025

Location: Ruislip High School

Description: This is for sixth form students at Vyners and Ruislip High School. 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. Last year's event included over thirty prestigious organisations, including Russell Group universities, apprenticeship providers, and leading employers such as the NHS, BBC, Mace and Metropolitan Police.



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 10th December 2025

Location: Local church (organised by Vyners School)

Description: This is a Trust-wide musical event held in a local church for students across the different age ranges. Each school performs one musical performance and one student reading.



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

Spring term



Activity: Spelling bee

Date: Wednesday 21st January 2026

Location: Ruislip High School



Description: 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.

Activity: Languages week

Date: Monday 9th - Friday 13th February 2026

Location: All schools (organised by Ruislip High School)



Description: Following the success of the joint secondary week in February 2025, the languages week will be extended to all Trust schools with a number of activities that schools can offer as well as a Trust-wide competition.

Preparation required by schools: Schools will be sent information in the autumn term as part of the planning for the week.

Activity: Netball tournament

Date: Wednesday 4th March 2026

Location: Oak Farm Primary School



Description: This will be the Trust's third 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.

Spring/summer term



Activity: Science challenge

Date: Wednesday 18th March 2026

Location: Hermitage Primary School



Description: Each school within the Trust is asked to put forward four contestants from Year 5 to Year 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.

Activity: Equality week

Date: Monday 20th - Friday 25th April 2026

Location: All schools (organised by Trust-wide equality forum)



Description: This is a Trust-wide week with activities offered by schools and centrally.

Preparation required by schools: The equality forum leads the planning for each school in the Trust. A variety of activities will be planned for each year group. A theme is chosen annually which informs the different activities and is used for evaluation purposes.

Activity: Deaf awareness week

Date: Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th May 2026

Location: All schools (organised by central team)



Description: The Trust will formally mark deaf awareness week for a second year. There will be recorded information sessions and 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 prior preparation is required, although it would be helpful if staff were able to learn some basic British Sign Language in advance.

Summer term



Activity: Cooking competition
Date: Wednesday 20th May 2026
Location: Vyners School



Description: 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 pupils from either Year 6 or Year 7 to perform in a cook off. The students will also be required to bring ingredients and recipes.

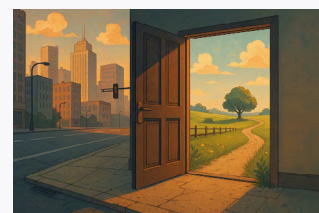
Activity: Table tennis tournament
Date: Wednesday 17th June 2026
Location: Field End Junior School



Description: 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: Primary writing challenge
Date: Wednesday 24th June 2026
Location: All primary schools (organised by central team)



Description: This is a Year 6 creative writing competition that encourages students to write a story that they and others would want to read.

Preparation required by schools: Schools plan a writing day that is held on the same day in each of the primary schools. Year 6 teachers will support students writing their drafts in the morning, and students will write independently in the afternoon.

Summer term/ student awards



Activity: A celebration of oracy
Date: Wednesday 1st July 2026
Location: Ryefield Primary School



Description: The event is offered for students in Years 5-7. Schools must bring two to three children who can present a two-minute persuasive speech on a topic of their choice. Ideally, students should not have to rely on notes (as this will affect their scoring) and no props or PowerPoint presentations are allowed.

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

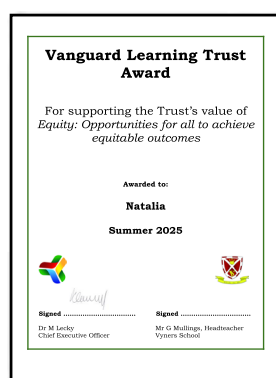
Activity: Student awards
Frequency: Once a term

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, as shown in the images below.

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	
Inclusion competition	Wednesday 17th September 2025
Thorpe Park STEAM event	Tuesday 7th October 2025
Maths challenge	Wednesday 15th October 2025
Poetry project	Monday 10th November 2025
Sixth form careers and universities fair	Tuesday 25th November 2025
Christmas concert	Wednesday 10th December 2025
Spring	
Spelling bee	Wednesday 21st January 2026
Languages week	Monday 9th - Friday 13th February 2026
Netball tournament	Wednesday 4th March 2026
Science challenge	Wednesday 18th March 2026
Summer	
Equality week	Monday 20th - Friday 25th April 2026
Deaf awareness week	Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th May 2026
Cooking competition	Wednesday 20th May 2026
Table tennis competition	Wednesday 17th June 2026
Primary writing challenge	Wednesday 24th June 2026
A celebration of oracy	Wednesday 1st July 2026

