



# Vanguard Learning Trust Newsletter

Edition 16: July 2024

## Governance day

Our summer term governance day was held on Wednesday 26th June 2024. 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 and involved a number of activities including meetings with early careers teachers and new staff discussing with them their experiences throughout the year. In addition, activities with students focused on how the school is supporting their personal development and interest in reading.

The afternoon session was Trust-wide and was held at Ruislip High School. 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 that have been carried out this year. At the end of the day there was an afternoon reception to celebrate a successful year for the Trust.

*'It was very powerful hearing the experiences of new staff and their appreciation of the support given to them by the headteacher, the senior leadership team, and their colleagues. The pupils were amazing, so mature, friendly, thoughtful and proud of their school. It was a pleasure to talk with them.'*

Pauline Nixon, Safeguarding-lead Trustee  
(who attended Field End Junior School in the morning)

*'It was interesting to hear the feedback from the other schools and compare their experience with mine. The presentations provided a good insight into all the hard work that is being done to ensure that schools and the Trust continue to develop and move forward in a positive way.'*

Andy Lunnon, Governor, Ruislip High School



Afternoon reception

### Long-service awards

The Trust introduced long-service awards in 2022 for staff in the Trust who have 15 or more years' service. Any members of staff who have 25 or more years' service are invited to attend governance day where they are presented with their award, including a certificate and an engraved pen.

This year, awards were presented to Helen Abbott for 30 years' service at Field End Junior School and Bharvi Sanghani for 25 years' service at Vyners School.

*'I was honoured to be recognised for my work at Field End over the last 30 years'.*

Helen Abbott, Field End Junior School

*'Huge thank you to Vanguard Learning Trust for the wonderful awards ceremony and the very generous gifts.'*

Bharvi Sanghani, Vyners School



Governor giving feedback on morning session and a staff presentation on a school improvement project



Helen Abbott receiving her long-service award



Bharvi Sanghani receiving her long-service award

# 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:** Ben, Kiran, Nancy, KS2

**Hermitage:** Jaxon, EYFS, Vaya, KS1, Aisha, KS2

**Oak Farm:** Haris, EYFS, Spencer, KS1, Arjun, KS2

**Ruislip High:** Saranshi, KS3, Paige, KS4, Vince, KS5

**Ryefield:** Tiah, EYFS, Chase, KS1, Humza, KS2

**Vyners:** Haridev, KS3, Caitlin, KS4, Jaspreet, KS5



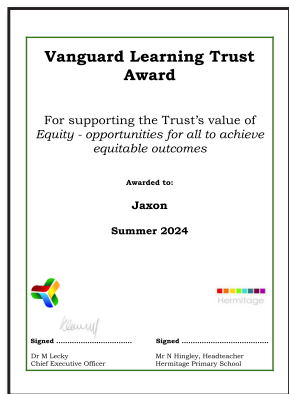
Students at Ryefield using BSL

A significant focus of the week was to recognise and celebrate British Sign Language (BSL), which is the preferred language of over 87,000 d/Deaf people across the UK. Students were given an insight into the rich, visual-gestural nature of BSL and its role in fostering a sense of empowerment and belonging amongst the Deaf community. This acknowledgment is crucial for advocating the rights of hard of hearing/deaf individuals and lays the groundwork for future initiatives, including the upcoming introduction of the GCSE in BSL.

Marking Deaf Awareness Week serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of inclusivity, understanding and celebration of diversity within society. The Trust hopes that the impact of the week will continue to resonate, inspiring ongoing efforts to create a more inclusive and accessible world for everyone.

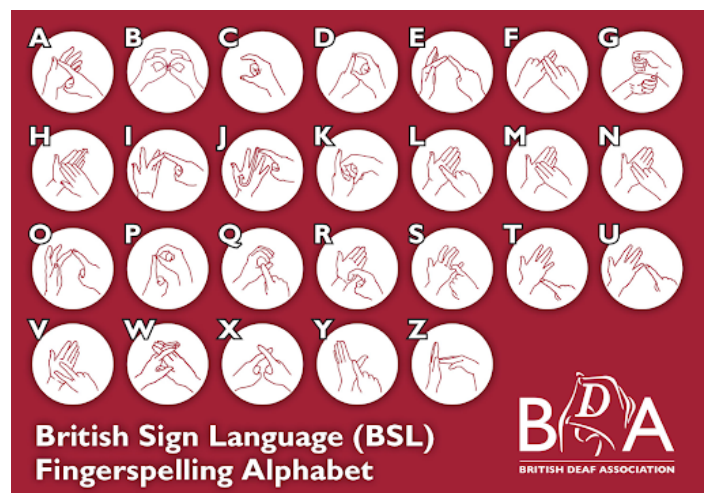
*'If someone is deaf and you wanted to be their friend, you could use sign language to ask them to be your friend.'*

Bella, Year 1, Hermitage Primary School



## Deaf awareness week

The Trust marked Deaf Awareness Week between Tuesday 7th and Friday 10th May 2024. Approximately 10 million people in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus. Marking this week provided an opportunity to share Trust-wide information about people's experiences, particularly deaf students and the unique challenges that they may face. Throughout the week, resources were shared with students, parents/carers and staff from a variety of organisations, such as the British Deaf Association and the National Deaf Children's Society. Parents/carers and staff were invited to watch a recorded presentation given by teachers of the deaf at Vyners School, who discussed their role and experiences of working with students and their families as well as the work that they do to tackle misconceptions and enable young people to thrive. Students across the Trust were given practical advice and guidance about how best to communicate with people who may be hard of hearing/deaf, as well as information about different forms of assistive technology.



BSL finger spelling alphabet

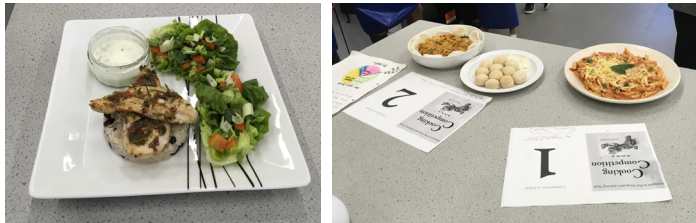
# Student activities

## Cookery competition

The first Trust-wide cookery competition was held at Vyners School on Thursday 9th May 2024. The event was organised by John Welch, assistant subject leader for design & technology at Vyners, and teams from all Trust schools took part. The winners of the competition were Ruislip High School with their homemade jerk chicken on a bed of rice. The event was a resounding success and staff and students are already looking forward to next year's competition.

*'I found it fun to make astounding (and tasty) food. I also enjoyed seeing the other students compete and making people jealous with their food.'*

Sahib, Year 6 student, Oak Farm Primary School



Entries in the cookery competition

## Table tennis tournament

On Wednesday 19th June 2024, Field End Junior School hosted the annual Trust-wide table tennis competition, creating an afternoon filled with excitement and camaraderie. The event showcased the impressive skills of students from Field End, Hermitage, Ruislip High, Ryefield, and Vyners. The teams participated in a series of thrilling doubles matches. The competition, held in a league format, saw closely contested games, with Hermitage emerging victorious after losing only one match. The students were congratulated on their outstanding performances and sportsmanship. It was a delightful experience that emphasised the joy of friendly competition and the spirit of the school and wider Trust community.



Table tennis teams competing in the tournament

One of the students who took part commented:

*'I enjoyed playing against children from other schools, it was fun.'*

Darcy, Year 5, Field End Junior School



Table tennis teams competing in the tournament

## 'Slam Dunk' basketball event

On Wednesday 3rd July 2024, students from schools across the Trust participated in the first 'Slam Dunk' basketball event at Ruislip High School. Schools taking part included Field End Junior School, Hermitage Primary School and Ryefield Primary School. The event featured experienced basketball players, including the current GB 3x3 professional basketball player, Dwayne Lautier, who kindly agreed to attend and talk to students. Students from Years 6 and 7 with various levels of skill were given structured coaching on the objectives of 3x3 basketball; this included awareness, skill enhancement and fostering a positive team environment which provided a well-rounded learning experience for all participants. Student feedback was extremely positive:

*'It was exciting to meet a professional GB basketball player and I learned a lot about 3x3 basketball and enjoyed playing against other schools.'*

Jaylan, Year 7, Ruislip High School

*'The basketball event was a lot of fun. Whether you were experienced or not, it was helpful and we learned a lot. I gained a lot of knowledge about playing basketball.'*

Michal, Year 6, Ryefield Primary School



Students at the 'Slam Dunk' event at Ruislip High School

# Student activities and school improvement work

## Oratory celebration

The recent Trust-wide oratory celebration brought together children from Years 5 to 7 to share persuasive speeches on topics they were passionate about. The event featured a range of subjects, from the viability of space exploration to environmental sustainability, reflecting the diverse interests of the young participants. Students were judged on the content, language choices, delivery, non-verbal communication and structure of their speeches.



Students taking part in the oracy competition

The event provided an opportunity for young speakers to develop their public speaking skills and share their perspectives on important topics. Their ability to articulate their ideas clearly and persuasively was a testament to their preparation and the supportive environment created by their teachers. The oratory celebration underscored the value of giving young people a platform to express their views and contribute to discussions on significant global issues.

Congratulations to Finley (Vyners), Aashni (Field End Juniors) and Hadia (Ryefield) who were judged to be the overall winners of their age categories.

*'I practised a lot at home! It was fun and I enjoyed having this opportunity. I am really proud of myself.'*  
Aashni, Year 6, Field End Junior School

*'The children had a great time; they were buzzing when they came back!'*  
Jacquie Phelan, Headteacher, Field End Junior School



Students who took part in the oracy competition

## Peer reviews

The final two curriculum peer reviews took place this term. Hermitage Primary School's review was carried out on Monday 20th May 2024 and had a particular focus on the mathematics curriculum and foundation subjects' preparation of students to be global citizens.

The review aimed to build on the school's strengths whilst identifying areas to enhance the curriculum. The peer reviewers brought diverse perspectives and expertise, providing targeted feedback and strategies to bolster the school's educational offerings. By concentrating on mathematics and integrating a global outlook within the foundation subjects, the review sought to ensure that students at Hermitage receive a well-rounded education that equips them with essential skills and knowledge for their future.

*'Our recent peer review was rigorous and transparent. The team were professional and supportive and enabled open dialogue throughout the whole process. The final report was honest and reflected the findings well. This has given me and the leadership team a clear route forward in our efforts to continue to improve the curriculum offer of Hermitage Primary School.'*

Nicholas Hingley, Headteacher, Hermitage Primary School

Ruislip High School's peer review took place on Monday 24th June 2024 with a focus on modern foreign languages (MFL) at key stage 3 and the subject's transition to Year 10. Activities carried out for the review included discussions with students about the work in their books and the teaching they receive, discussions with the class teachers and the MFL subject leader, and visits to the students' lessons.

Overall, the peer review found that the school has robust systems for quality assuring the curriculum and that the MFL department is reflective of the school's ambitious curriculum offer.

*'It was great to welcome Lesley Leak, our school improvement advisor, and the peer review team into the school to look at MFL. The focus on curriculum improvement that these reviews bring is invaluable especially the relationships between curriculum leaders that are fostered as a result of working together.'*

Gareth Davies, Headteacher, Ruislip High School

The peer review initiative reflects the Trust's commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in teaching and learning. The process will continue into next academic year with schools identifying new areas for the review teams to focus on.