



Vanguard Learning Trust

Environmental sustainability week

School-based activities

Monday 11th to Friday 15th November 2024

The previous environmental sustainability update provided information about Trust-led activities that will be taking place throughout the week. This update provides initial information about some of the activities being organised by our Trust schools. It is worth noting that schools will be offering some of these activities and the calendar, that will be shared next week, will outline the specific ones for each school.

Book swap

The student book swap is being organised by schools to promote the objective of the importance of reusing items as part of reducing individuals' and organisations' carbon footprints. Students will be encouraged to bring in books that they are happy to exchange for another book. Schools involved in this activity will inform students and parents how to bring in the books and the arrangements for allowing students to select one of the reused books.

Class pledges

At Hermitage, each class will make a pledge about how they will strive to be more sustainable. They will choose five actions to be displayed on the classroom door for the week. Each class will nominate two representatives to be sustainability monitors who will encourage students to maintain these pledges throughout the year.

Community litter pick

All of the schools will be arranging a community litter pick. For example, at Field End there will be a community litter pick where families are invited to pick litter to recycle around the school grounds. At Hermitage, one student will be chosen per class to join a community litter pick of the local area. The students will also use photographs from the litter pick to educate their classmates about what they find. At Oak Farm, students will do an after-lunch litter pick-up and record the litter through photos and a tally-chart. They will monitor it and present their findings at the end of the week. At Ruislip High, the sixth form leadership team will be using their litter pick to fund raise for Mankwe Wildlife Reserve whilst students from Years 7 and 8 will be litter picking in the local community. At Ryefield, selected students from Key Stage 2 will be going on a litter-picking trip to Pole Hill Park, helping to clean up our local environment while learning about the impact of litter on wildlife and the planet. At Vyners, Year 11 sustainability prefects will be conducting a community litter pick. Ten students, accompanied by staff, will be helping to clean up the environment along Warren Road and in Swakeleys Park.

Competitions

Schools will be offering a range of competitions throughout the week, complementing the ones being led by the Trust. For example, Field End is running a House junk modelling competition. The House Captains will pick an endangered animal and their House will build a model using discarded materials from around the school. All students from Years 3 to 6 will take part in the afternoon of creative learning. The models will be judged and the winning House will receive House points. At Oak Farm, after learning about songs that have made a huge impact and inspired action, there will be a competition with students creating their own songs on a sustainability issue. There





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will be a semi-final and final with prize-giving at the end. Ryefield's students will be encouraged to participate in a poster competition where they can create a poster about sustainability and environmental care. These will be displayed around the school to raise awareness and promote the importance of sustainable living. At Vyners, Year 8 students will enter a 'reduce, reuse & recycle' poster competition during their geography lessons, with the winning poster being printed in the 2025-2026 student and staff planner.



Emission Control game

The Emission Control game was devised by Ryefield Primary School as part of Vanguard Learning Trust's environmental sustainability competition launched in 2021 to promote specific projects in all Trust schools; it is a board game for 2-6 players designed by children, for children aged between 7 and 11. Players start with the average annual carbon emission of a UK resident of 10,000 kilograms and the objective of the game is to reduce total emissions. Each primary school has a copy of the game which they can use if they are offering this activity.

Planting seeds/bulbs

Some schools will be planting seeds and bulbs. For example, at Field End, the Eco Warriors will be planting wild seeds in some redundant beds to encourage the flowering of grasses and flowers that will provide food for a wide range of insects, including bees and butterflies. In Ruislip High's EcoHub, students and the science department will be planting wildflower bulbs such as bluebells so that the EcoHub garden will have the appearance of a natural woodland in the springtime. It is hoped that this will encourage indigenous wildlife to use the area. Ryefield's students in Key Stage 1 and Early Years Foundation Stage will participate in a seed-planting activity during the school day to help them understand the importance of nature and growing their own plants.

Pond dipping

At Oak Farm, students will explore the renovated pond, noting which creatures they can find and examining them under microscopes.

Uniform/costume sales

Some schools will be hosting uniform and/or costume sales. For example, at Field End, parents will be offered the opportunity to purchase or swap good quality school uniforms or costumes at reasonable prices. At Vyners, staff will be bringing in to school unwanted items of clothing throughout the week. They will be given the opportunity to swap their unwanted clothing with other staff. This has been an ongoing initiative at Vyners and will continue throughout environmental sustainability week.

Whole-school assemblies

As well as promoting all of the activities taking place during the week, schools will be hosting assemblies before and during the week. For example at Ruislip High, assemblies will be devised and delivered by the sixth form leadership team. They will be telling the story of their trip to Mankwe Wildlife Reserve last summer and promoting their charity work to help the Reserve fund the training of a new generation of dogs for the Rhino Protection Unit. As part of the fund raising, the students have organised a host of activities including: name the rhino; pin the horn on the rhino; a raffle; and a staff 'reuse auction'. Field End's Eco Warriors will deliver assemblies pre-, during and post-environmental sustainability week. The Eco Warriors will communicate to students information about the activities and the reasons why they should reduce, recycle and reuse.

