



Vanguard Learning Trust

Student activities information booklet

2026-2027



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*Six schools, united as one community, aspiring higher,
striving together, with relentless endeavour.*

Introduction



This booklet outlines the student activities that are being organised across the Trust throughout this academic year, 2026-2027. 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. In addition, several activities are organised by the Trust's central education team and/or a professional learning community. 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.

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 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 2025-2026 was Hermitage Primary School.



Autumn term



Activity: Maths challenge

Date: Wednesday 14th October 2026

Location: Ruislip High School

Description: This is a competition for Year 6 and 7 students. Each school is invited to enter up to two teams of four students. There are approximately five rounds of timed questions relating to a theme set for each one.



Preparation required by schools: Schools are sent information in advance about the day and this includes the themes for the five rounds.

Activity: Poetry project

Launch date: Monday 19th October 2026

Location: All schools (organised by central team)

Description: This is a project for students in Years 5 to 8. Classes are selected to 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 also encouraged 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: Environmental sustainability week

Date: Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th November 2026

Location: All schools (organised by the central team)

Description: This is a Trust-wide week with a focus on single-use plastics and microplastics and their environmental impact. There will be a number of Trust-wide and school-based activities, challenges and quizzes for schools to participate in.



Preparation required by schools: Schools are provided with resources for Trust-wide activities and are asked to prepare school-based activities for students to take part in during the week.

Autumn/spring term



Activity: Christmas carol concert

Date: Wednesday 9th December 2026

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.

Activity: Spelling bee

Date: Wednesday 20th January 2027

Location: Ruislip High School



Description: This is a competition for students in Years 6 and 7. Each school is invited to enter four contestants. The competition focuses on two themes over three rounds.

Preparation required by schools: Schools are sent information in advance which includes themes and what the rounds will consist of.

Activity: Languages week

Date: Monday 25th to Friday 29th January 2027

Location: All schools (organised by Ruislip High School)



Description: This is a Trust-wide week when students from all year groups take part in a host of activities, such as a languages quiz, bake off and salsa lessons. There is also a Trust-wide competition.

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

Spring/summer term



Activity: Netball tournament

Date: Wednesday 3rd March 2027

Location: Oak Farm Primary School

Description: This is a competition for Years 5 to 7. Each school is invited to enter one girls' team and one mixed team to compete in two tournaments.



Preparation required by schools: Schools are asked to organise two teams of six students.

Activity: Science challenge

Date: Wednesday 17th March 2027

Location: Hermitage Primary School

Description: This is a competition for students in Years 5 to 7. Each schools is invited to enter four contestants. The competition focuses on one theme and consists of three rounds. At the end, there is one winning school and one runner-up.



Preparation required by schools: Schools are sent information in advance which includes the themes and what the rounds consist of.

Activity: Equality week

Date: Monday 19th to Friday 23rd April 2027

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

Description: This is a Trust-wide week which includes a variety of activities arranged for each year group in the schools. A different theme is chosen each year which informs the different activities that take place.



Preparation required by schools: The Trust's equality group leads the planning for each school in the Trust.

Summer term



Activity: Deaf awareness week

Date: Tuesday 4th to Friday 7th May 2027

Location: All schools (organised by central team)



Description: This is a Trust-wide week when students from all year groups engage in a range of activities, including assemblies, tutor-time resources, classroom discussions and opportunities to learn basic British Sign Language (BSL). A Trust-wide competition also takes place.

Preparation required by schools: No prior preparation is required, although staff are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the BSL fingerspelling alphabet and a range of common signs and phrases.

Activity: Cooking competition

Date: Wednesday 19th May 2027

Location: Vyners School



Description: This is a competition for students in Years 6 and 7. They are required to cook a selected meal under timed conditions. Judges will grade the meals based on presentation and taste.

Preparation required by schools: Schools are asked to select two students for the competition and they are required to bring their ingredients and recipes.

Activity: Table tennis tournament

Date: Wednesday 16th June 2027

Location: Field End Junior School



Description: This is a competition for students in Years 5 to 7. Each school is invited to enter a team of four (two boys and two girls). The tournament involves all teams playing against each other in a round-robin event.

Preparation required by schools: Schools are sent information prior to the event and are asked to select their teams.

Summer term



Activity: Primary writing challenge

Date: Wednesday 23rd June 2027

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. Students are supported with writing their drafts in the morning, and then write independently in the afternoon.

Preparation required by schools: Schools are asked to plan the writing day which is held on the same day in each of the primary schools.

Activity: A celebration of oracy

Date: Wednesday 7th July 2027

Location: Ryefield Primary School

Description: This is an event for students in Years 5 to 7. Each school is invited to select two to three children who can present a two-minute persuasive speech on a topic of their choice.



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

Student awards



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).



Certificate, postcard and pin badge

Summary of dates



Activity	Date
Autumn	
Maths challenge	Wednesday 14th October 2026
Poetry project	Monday 19th October 2026
Environmental sustainability week	Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th November 2026
Christmas carol concert	Wednesday 9th December 2026
Spring	
Spelling bee	Wednesday 20th January 2027
Languages week	Monday 25th - Friday 29th January 2027
Netball tournament	Wednesday 3rd March 2027
Science challenge	Wednesday 17th March 2027
Summer	
Equality week	Monday 19th - Friday 23rd April 2027
Deaf awareness week	Tuesday 4th - Friday 7th May 2027
Cooking competition	Wednesday 19th May 2027
Table tennis competition	Wednesday 16th June 2027
Primary writing challenge	Wednesday 23rd June 2027
A celebration of oracy	Wednesday 7th July 2027

