Vanguard Learning Trust Newsletter

Edition 23: July 2026

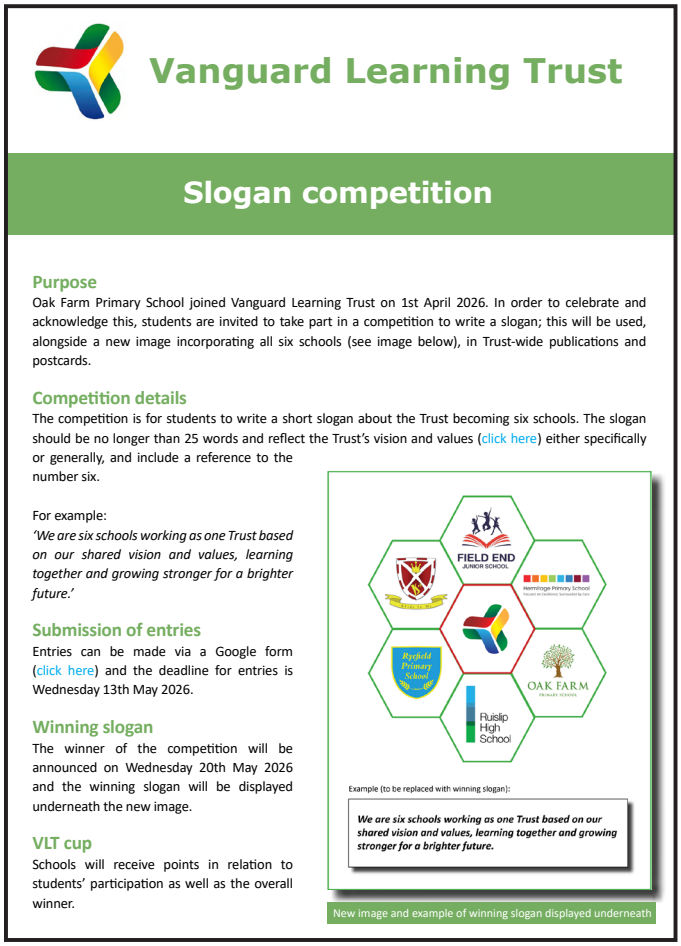
Marking Oak Farm Primary School joining Vanguard Learning Trust

Oak Farm Primary School joined Vanguard Learning Trust on 1st April 2026 after being an associate member of the Trust since 2023. To mark the school joining the Trust, a student competition was held in order to launch a new image and slogan. Students were asked to write a slogan using the number six, to represent the number of schools in the Trust, and to refer to the Trust's vision and/or values in 25 or fewer words.

Over 340 entries were received and 20 were short-listed for judging, which involved governors, trustees and members of the central education team selecting their top three. The winning slogan, which received the most nominations, was written by Eduard in Year 9 at Vyners School and is as follows:

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

Winning slogan with new Trust image



New image and example of winning slogan displayed underneath

Flyer for the slogan competition

The slogan with the new image showing the six schools within hexagons will now be used in publications.

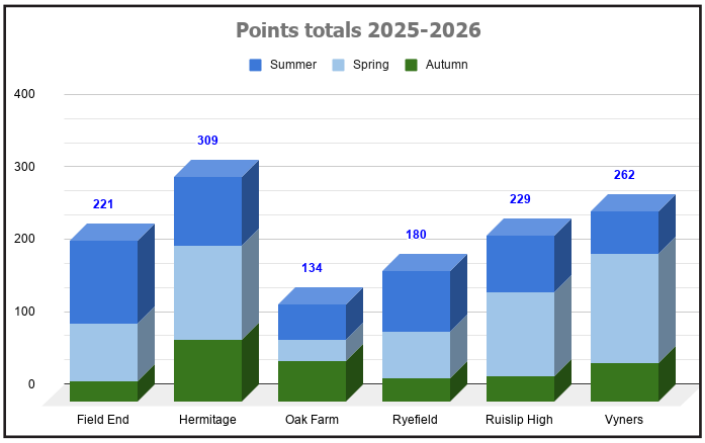
'This slogan perfectly reflects our values at Oak Farm. We are proud to have joined Vanguard Learning Trust and already feel a strong sense of belonging. We look forward to continuing our journey together with high aspirations, collaboration and relentless endeavour.'

Mrs J Cheema, Headteacher, and Dr C Moore, Chair of Governors, Oak Farm Primary School

Student activities

Vanguard Learning Trust (VLT) cup

The remaining Trust-wide student activities took place this term and points were awarded to schools for both participation and for being placed first, second or third in the competitions. With the final scores in, the student league was complete and this year's VLT cup winners were announced. The final league standings are shown in the figure below outlining the points awarded each term.



The top three schools in the league are as follows:

- **First place: Hermitage Primary School**
- Second place: Vyners School
- Third place: Ruislip High School

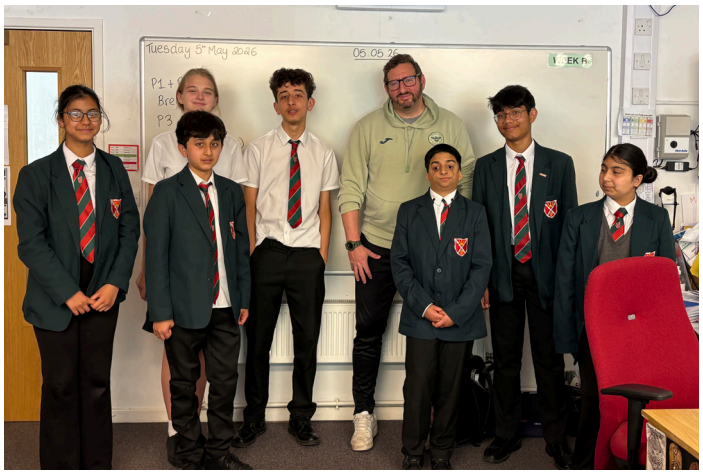
Congratulations to Hermitage Primary School, and to all the schools in the Trust, for taking part in the student league this year.

'All of the schools work incredibly hard to ensure the opportunities provided by the Trust are fully embraced. It is an honour to be the first primary school to win the VLT cup and I hope this is the first of many. Well done everyone at Hermitage!'
Mr Hingley, Headteacher, Hermitage Primary School

Mr Hingley, Dr Lecky, and students with the trophy

Deaf awareness week

The Trust marked deaf awareness week from Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th May 2026, with students and staff taking part in a range of activities designed to promote a greater understanding of hearing loss and inclusive communication, as well as celebrating deaf identity, language and culture. Throughout the week, schools across the Trust engaged with a variety of age-appropriate activities and resources. Secondary schools delivered tutor-time presentations and discussions, whilst primary schools explored simplified activities, videos and interactive learning opportunities. Students were introduced to aspects of British Sign Language (BSL), including basic greetings and the BSL alphabet, and they considered how communication can be made more accessible for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.



Students at Vyners School practising British Sign Language

The week has left a lasting legacy; several schools have introduced ongoing initiatives, including BSL lunchtime clubs, permanent displays and plans to further embed signing into everyday school life. Feedback suggests that deaf awareness week is becoming firmly established across the Trust, with many students able to recall and build upon learning from previous years.

'Deaf Awareness has taught me that if you are deaf, don't give up - be proud of yourself'
Avneet, Year 7, Vyners School

Equality week

The week beginning Monday 20th April 2026 marked the annual equality week, with schools across the Trust coming together to celebrate this year's theme, *'The Power of Language'.* Across the Trust, students engaged in a wide range of

Student activities

activities designed to promote respect, kindness, and understanding. These included year group assemblies, which introduced key messages about how language shapes attitudes, influences inclusion and impacts others, PSHE lessons, and anti-bullying workshops. Many schools also explored important topics such as identity, inclusion, and the need to challenge harmful or offensive language.

Creative and cultural activities further enriched the week, with students taking part in music, dance, art, and food-based experiences that celebrated diversity. Opportunities for collaboration, including cross-school visits, helped to strengthen connections between students of different ages.

Equality week 2026 provided a meaningful opportunity for all members of the Trust to reflect on the power of words and to reaffirm our shared commitment to creating inclusive and respectful school communities.

'I loved the cultural art workshop. It gave me opportunities to be creative while exploring other cultures and ethnicities.'

Kaiden, Year 9, Ruislip High School

Oak Farm students taking part in equality week activities

Cookery competition

The annual cooking competition took place at Vyners School on the afternoon of Wednesday 20th May 2026. Students' focus and enthusiasm were palpable as the talented young chefs prepared, cooked and presented their chosen dishes. The brief was to cook a dish which represented the teachings of the Eatwell Guide, a NHS publication outlining how to achieve a healthy, balanced diet, within a challenging time limit of only 90 minutes. With

A selection of dishes in the cooking competition

trophies and prizes at stake, the event was held in a competitive but friendly spirit. The standard of dishes produced was incredible and it made judging very difficult. The dishes were judged on the range of skills demonstrated, the appropriateness of the sensory qualities and how well they complemented the teachings of the Eatwell Guide. After lots of deliberation from the judges, the top three dishes were announced. The overall winner was Lissia from Ryefield Primary School, who produced an incredibly more-ish chicken kebab with a homemade naan bread. Second place went to Jimmy, also from Ryefield Primary School, and in third place was a collaborative effort from Audrey, Teddy, and Louis, from Hermitage Primary School. Mr Welch, Assistant Subject Leader of Design and Technology, is thanked for his excellent organisation of the event.

'We really enjoyed cooking and learning the new skills, as well as seeing what all the other schools cooked.'

Angela, Year 6, Oak Farm Primary School

Table tennis tournament

The annual table tennis tournament took place at Field End Junior School on Wednesday 17th June 2026, involving all teams playing each other as part of a round-robin event. Despite a very windy day posing an extra challenge, the core focus of the event was entirely on fun and enjoyment and it was a resounding success. Field End and Ruislip High tied at the top of the leaderboard with 27 points each, but the real victory was the spirit of the day. All participants had a wonderful time, thoroughly enjoyed the competition, and played with fantastic smiles and sportsmanship.

Student activities

'I really enjoyed taking part in this activity. It was fun as I have never played it before. Everyone was very kind and supportive. Although it was difficult, I had the best time and met some amazing new people. Mr Wheeler really inspired us, giving us a new sport to play and learn.'

Carly, Year 6, Ryefield Primary School

Field End's and Ruislip High's winning table tennis teams

Primary writing challenge

The second annual Year 6 writing competition took place on Wednesday 24th June 2026 based on specific visual stimuli to inspire students' creative writing. The event involved a morning session for students to collaborate with peers and teachers to brainstorm, create and refine their story ideas, and then in the afternoon, students worked independently to write their stories. Each school chose the top two stories to be entered into a Trust-wide competition. The short-listed stories are currently being judged and the results will be shared in September 2026.

'The image of the child opening the door appealed to me because I love writing about fantasy. I worked on it over two days and am really pleased with my story.'

Mia, Year 6, Field End Junior School

Images used as stimuli for students to create their stories

Student awards

The Trust's 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: Aurora, Noah, Hunter, KS2
Hermitage: Cassian, EYFS, Aleeza, KS1, Zahra, KS2
Oak Farm: Anaya, EYFS, Suvir, KS1, Luna, KS2
Ruislip High: Ella, KS3, Gurveer, KS4, Eve, KS5
Ryefield: Orla, EYFS, Tasneem, KS1, Robert, KS2
Vyners: Olivia, KS3, Alesia, KS4, Hanif, KS5

Vanguard Learning Trust Award

For supporting the Trust's value of *Equity: Opportunities for all to achieve equitable outcomes*

Awarded to:

Olivia

Summer 2026

Signed .....
Dr M Lecky
Chief Executive Officer

Signed .....
Mr G Mullings, Headteacher
Vyners School

Vanguard Learning Trust

FIELD END JUNIOR SCHOOL · Hermitage · Ruislip High School · Ryefield Primary School · Vyners School

Vision: Outstanding, inclusive education **Values:** Aspiration, Community, Equality

Certificate, pin badge and postcard received by award recipients