



# Vanguard Learning Trust Newsletter

Edition 7: July 2021

## Sustainability project

The second stage of the Trust-wide sustainability project, the dragons' den, took place on Friday 9th July 2021. Each school entered a team to pitch for funding towards a sustainability project that would reduce the carbon footprint of their school community. The projects were as follows:

- Field End: Field End says goodbye to cars, hello to bikes
- Hermitage: Mission sustainable
- Ruislip High: Sustainable school allotment plan 2021
- Ryefield: Emission control
- Vyners: MunchBox

The event started with a video from the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, congratulating the schools on their innovative projects. Each school was then given twenty minutes for their presentation including time to answer questions posed by the 'dragons'. The event was a great success with all the groups presenting confidently and articulately to the 'dragons'. It was also impressive how students were able to respond robustly to the judges' questions.

*'It was really fun taking part and representing Hermitage because we can make a brighter future for the world.'*

Guarav, Year 5, Hermitage Primary School

*'This has been a memorable experience, it has made us all think in a different way.'*

Ruqaya, Year 6, Field End Junior School

*'It has been a real pleasure bringing sustainability to our school and I have been very impressed with the large range of ideas year 9 came up with.'*

Mrs Vine, sustainability project lead for Vyners School

**How would we use extra funding?**

- To help eliminate single use plastic bottles we would like to get a drink dispenser for use with reusable drinks bottles - £800
- To buy enough bottles to give to FSM students a lunchbox sets- 122 students @ £4.50 = £549.00
- To buy prizes for students to incentivise them to continue with this scheme 50 @ £10, shopping voucher £50
- To raise the awareness of recycling by buying recycling bins for the playground 2 bins @ £290 = £780

**Project details and how the £500 will be spent**  
A project by children for children

**What we want...**

We want to clean and decorate the existing bike sheds -cleaning fluid, jet wash (£50)  
 • tidy and landscape the cycle track - wild flowers, secure the tyres (£50)  
 • Half termly raffle to encourage children to walk/cycle or scoot to school (A Prize Bicycle - hanging in the school hall £300 with brackets)  
 • Change the attitudes of adults and pupils - badges and rewards (£100)

Slides from schools' presentations

**Pen portraits of dragons**

Lord John Randall served as the MP for Uxbridge from 1997-2010 and for Uxbridge and South Ruislip from 2010-2015. He was Government Deputy Chief Whip from 2010 to 2013. In 2017 he was appointed as Theresa May's special adviser on the environment during her premiership. Lord Randall was appointed to the House of Lords in 2018.

Lord Randall has had a love of wildlife and nature from his earliest days and in Parliament became a passionate advocate of environmental issues. He is a member of the RSPB Council as well as a Trustee of other organisations including the Human Trafficking Foundation and the Bat Conservation Trust. During his time as MP, John also sat on the Environment, Transport and Rural Affairs Select Committee and strongly opposes the Heathrow Airport expansion as well as HS2.

**Cllr David Simmonds**  
David Simmonds was elected Conservative MP for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner on 13th December 2019. He has been active in local politics in the constituency as Deputy leader of Hillingdon Council since 2003. He has led on education and children's services and overseen the progress of the borough in raising standards for children, with over 30% of schools now good or outstanding (OFSTED) and every child able to get a local school place.

His national work has included leading the Conservatives at the Local Government Association, chairing the UK Children and Young People Board from 2011-12 and the Employment and Inclusion Board 2015-16. As chairman of the Asylum and Refugee Task Group he led the perfect work with government developing the 'fast' resettlement programme and the National Sponsor Scheme to support refugee children.

In Parliament, David serves as a Chair, Co-Chair or Vice-Chair on several All Party Parliamentary Groups, including the Africa on Healthcare Expansion and Regional Connectivity, London, Housing and Planning, Refugees and Migration. He is also a member of the Education Select Committee, Finance Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

David's professional background is in finance, where he worked for high street banks after qualifying with the Chartered Institute of Insurance in 1997. Born in East and educated at a comprehensive school in Pinner, then at Durham University and Babcock College, London. He was awarded a CBE in the 2015 Birthday Honours List.

**Harshvi Neetham**  
Harshvi is interested in wildlife and ecology. She is one of the founding team members of Head Headings, a British charity working to give more land back to nature.

## Pen portraits of 'dragons'

The panel of dragons were very impressed with all the schools' projects.

*'The research and creativity that these students have put into their projects - from community gardens and beehives to cycle and reuse schemes to an eco board game - have a level of professionalism that is very inspiring. Working in the sustainability sector, I see a lot of great initiatives to improve social and environmental sustainability. These ideas are at a similar level.'*

Charlotte Barrow, sustainability consultant

*'I was very enthused by the sustainability projects advanced by the schools that participated. All projects were premised around instilling a sustainable way of living amongst the pupils. It is very encouraging to have young people grow up with such a conscience on preserving nature and using resources in a sustainable way.'*

Dr Andreas Elombo, engineer for research and development, Namibia Power Corporation

*'What an inspiring morning! Practical, focused and engaging, all these young people show the future of the environment is in safe hands.'*

Cllr David Simmonds, MP for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner

# Student activities

## Student awards

Each school in the Trust selected 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:

1. Aspiration - limitless boundaries
2. Community - collective responsibility
3. Equity - opportunities for all to achieve equal outcomes

The recipients received a certificate and a Trust pin badge, and a postcard was sent home to their parents. Each school's recipients for the summer term are as follows:

**Field End:** Saarabi, Riley, Siddh, KS2

**Hermitage:** Leah Mae, EYFS, Mollie, KS1, Avijit, KS2

**Ruislip High:** Paige, KS3, Luke, KS4, Winta, KS5

**Ryefield:** Amina, EYFS, Huzefa, KS1, Xavier, KS2

**Vyners:** Kaaye, KS3, Jared, KS4, Benjamin, KS5

## Poetry competition

The first Trust-wide poetry competition took place in the spring and summer term 2021 on the theme of 'identity'. Schools selected three finalists from each relevant key stage to take part in a virtual workshop with Arvon, a charitable company that supports with creative writing, both for adults and school-aged students; a professional writer led the workshop to support students with honing their poems as well as their craft. The judging was organised by 'blind' marking so that the judges were not aware of students' names, key stages or schools. The overall winners for each key stage were: Lyla Rose (KS1) Ryefield, Marcie (KS2) Field End, Karam (KS3) Vyners and Freddie (KS4) Ruislip High School. All the finalists received a certificate and a poetry book.

*'It was a pleasure to read the poems, and so difficult to choose between them. You must be very proud of the pupils who entered.'*

Jennifer Killick, author



Poetry workshop led by Arvon

## Equality week

Vanguard Learning Trust's first equality week took place from Monday 21st June to Friday 25th June 2021 and coincided with the UK's School Diversity Week. All schools in the Trust collaborated to provide opportunities for students across all year groups to explore the theme of social injustice and cultural diversity. Students actively participated in tutorial activities and a number of virtual presentations, including one from the multi-award-winning youth intervention practitioner, James Aidoo. The week was well received by students and staff, opening up conversations about extremely relevant topics such as race, gender, disability and sexual equality. Some of the comments made by students and staff about the week included:

*'We learned about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and wrote our own class charter.'*

Karen, Year 5, Field End Junior School

*'It was good to hear from the different speakers, that their sessions sparked wider discussions about inequalities in society.'*

Shannon, Hermitage Primary School

*'The week was well received by students and staff and provided opportunities for all of the schools in the Trust to unite and discuss important issues.'*

Mrs Coltman, Deputy Headteacher, Ruislip High School

*'The children enjoyed learning about their heritage as well as their peers. They also learned that disability does not mean the same as inability and produced some wonderful work.'*

Mrs Reilly, Year 2 class teacher, Ryefield Primary School

**Vanguard Learning Trust**  
Equality Week  
Monday 21st to Friday 25th June 2021

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Programme for equality week

# School improvement work

The programme for newly qualified teacher referred to as NQTs and NQT+1 and the Let's Think Hub courses concluded this term. The SSAT leadership courses will continue into next academic year, concluding by February 2022.

The theme of the final NQT and NQT+1 session was coaching and career development with the aim of providing an opportunity for teachers to reflect on this year, in terms of their successes and challenges, and to identify areas they would like to improve through coaching.

The final Let's Think session provided an opportunity for colleagues to reflect on the impact of the programme on their teaching and beliefs. By reflecting on and revisiting a pre-course questionnaire, the general

consensus was that the training had considerable impact on the way participants viewed learning.

Attendance at the final three SSAT courses this term was very high. It has emerged how relatable the content of the three courses has been to everyday practice; for example topics such as change management and leading with a moral purpose have never seemed more pertinent in terms of applying theory to real-life context.

Plans for next year include the second Trust-wide staff conference on Friday 26th November 2021; a peer-review process with all five schools; the continuation of the Let's Think hub; and a senior leaders' conference on diversity and inclusion in education.



## Interview

### Alex Pape School improvement lead, Vyners School



**Why did you decide to become one of the Trust's school improvement leads this academic year?**

I have been Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for professional development at Vyners for almost three years and I feel that my role is one of the most rewarding in the school. For me, the opportunity to be involved in the wider Trust's professional development programme was an excellent opportunity to build on this experience and learn more about the different key stages and levels of experience within the Trust. I wanted to learn more about the Trust's initiatives, get involved first hand with some of the projects and get to know colleagues in other schools.

**You are leading and co-facilitating the SSAT emerging senior leaders course. What does this entail and what has been the impact of the sessions so far?**

I am enjoying the opportunity to co-facilitate this course with Gareth Davies, Headteacher at Ruislip High School. Together we plan the sessions, adding our

own insights, anecdotes and personal experiences to help generate thoughts, reflections and discussions. We use the materials provided by SSAT as a starting point and what I particularly like is the emphasis on the theory as well as the practice. The feedback has been positive and encouraging and I look forward to concluding the course next academic year.

**You are also leading on overseeing arrangements for all three SSAT leadership courses. What has this involved and how will the three courses benefit all schools in the Trust?**

At first my role was to oversee the logistical and practical challenges of leading three courses across multiple schools. The start of the year involved training from SSAT for the lead facilitators which enabled us to plan modules effectively in-house. The courses have enabled leaders to network with like-minded colleagues. The facilitators have also been able to network through their collaborative work planning the sessions. I hope that, by focussing on key aspects of leadership across the Trust, we are putting a spotlight on sharing leadership best practice in order to strengthen and improve our collective systems for the benefit of our individual school communities.

# Governance day

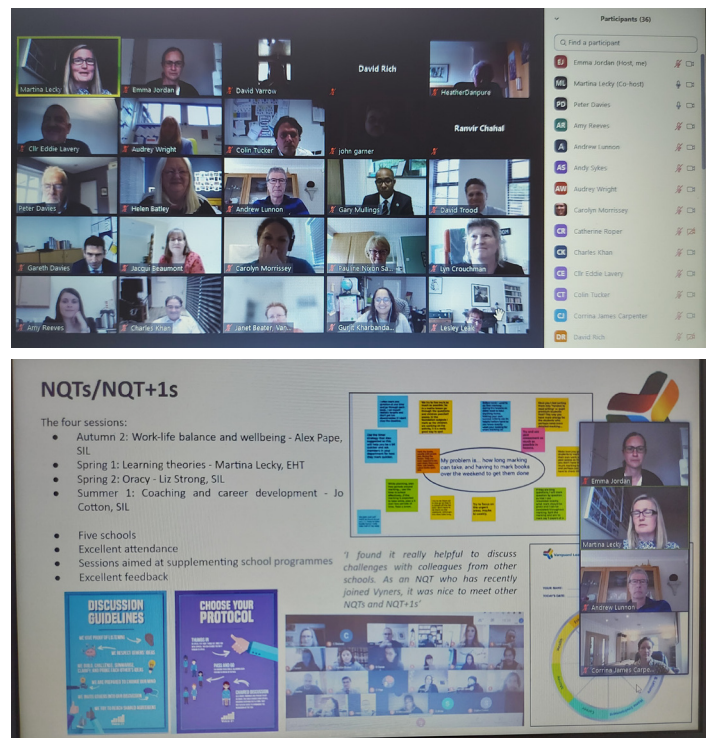
The second Trust-wide governance day took place on Wednesday 30th June 2021. The theme for the event was 'how visible are the school's vision and values?'. The morning session involved a school-based activity, either onsite or remotely, with governors working in groups to review the schools' vision and values.

The afternoon session was held remotely and everyone came together firstly to reflect on the morning's activities and then for a review of the year and plans for next year by Dr Lecky, Executive Headteacher.

The feedback from the day has been extremely positive with delegates noting that the day was useful and informative.

*'It was fantastic to see a school in person after such a long time. Seeing and hearing how the staff and students are coping with the challenges and restrictions of the last year was inspiring. The day really emphasised the purpose of being involved in the Trust and school governance.'*

David Trood, trustee






Afternoon session of governance day

# Vision and Values

A Trust-wide vision and values working party was established this academic year to review the Trust's vision, values, core purpose and mission statement. It was agreed that the Trust's vision of outstanding, inclusive education can be achieved through collective responsibility.

The Trust's values were agreed as:

-  **Aspiration:** Endless possibilities with limitless boundaries
-  **Community:** Collective responsibility, collaborating within and beyond the Trust
-  **Equity:** Opportunities for all to achieve equitable outcomes

A one-page graphic, produced to convey the core messages of the Trust, is available on the homepage of the Trust's website.

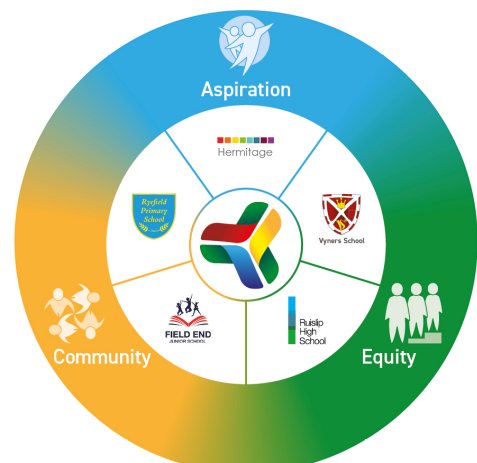
*'Going through this process of revisiting our aims, it's been clear that we share the same ideals. Our vision and values capture perfectly what the Trust is about - outstanding education and equal opportunities, for every pupil, in every one of our schools. These statements are our collective purpose and represent everything we are looking to achieve together.'*

Andy Sykes, Trustee

## Vanguard Learning Trust

### Our vision

Outstanding, inclusive education



#### Core purpose

Vanguard Learning Trust's core purpose is to provide outstanding, inclusive education through collective responsibility across several, rather than individual, local schools. This provides a sustainable foundation allowing for a broader range of school improvement work including cross-phase, joint professional development opportunities as well as student activities. The collective responsibility allows schools and the central team to provide support and share expertise both within and beyond the Trust.

#### The Trust's values are represented by ACE:

-  **Aspiration**  
Endless possibilities with limitless boundaries
-  **Community**  
Collective responsibility, collaborating within and beyond the Trust
-  **Equity**  
Opportunities for all to achieve equitable outcomes

#### Mission statement

As a group of local primary and secondary schools, Vanguard Learning Trust's mission is to serve its local community by providing outstanding, inclusive education. We have a collective purpose and responsibility to provide effective teaching, through a curriculum based on equality of opportunity and entitlement that allows our students to shine both in and out of the classroom. Each school in the Trust has its own ethos, which also complements the Trust's vision and values, and the common aspiration that all students can achieve their potential.

Graphic of the Trust's vision and values