



## Heathlands Newsletter - Spring Term 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you will enjoy another newsletter sharing all the work and achievements of students this term. It has been a very busy term, full of positive learning in spite of a few days of snow!

Behind the scenes we have a number of staff working hard on financial and organisational matters to keep the school running. This term we have been very lucky because several bids to charities were successful. The extra money has been used to pay for playground improvements e.g. the outdoor gym. We have recently been told that another charity bid has been successful and will use this money for an outside trampoline. These pieces of equipment are great fun but also help children develop physical skills.

The Friends of Heathlands have also been busy fundraising and are now planning the summer fete. We need everyone to help so please get involved.

This term we have also arranged several opportunities for professionals to visit Heathlands. Three of our visitors said.....

***"Thank you for a very informative and insightful day. It was amazing observing your students, who were fully engaged and your skilled, passionate staff. "***

***"I had a lovely day watching great teaching and support of wonderful children"***

***"A lovely friendly place that clearly has the children's best interests at the heart.  
A truly inspirational visit"***

All together we had over 50 visitors. Their enthusiasm for the school and fantastic feedback was a real boost to all at the end of term.

I wish everyone a relaxing holiday and look forward to seeing you after the break.

Deborah Jones-Stevens





## Lower School Newsletter - Spring Term 2018

The cold weather at the start of March took the whole country by surprise. Heathlands had its fair share of snow. Children in foundation made the most of it, including creating ice



pictures and throwing snowballs at staff, who stood safely behind the classroom windows.



Pupils from Owls, Doves and Starlings have also shown off their cookery skills this

term, including a special snow day, scone bake



Children in Robins class love growing things. In preparation for Spring, they have been planting out seedlings and enhancing their growing

spaces outside, including adding tyres which will be filled with soil.



Mrs Bullen, a teacher at St Albans High School for Girls, called into assembly to present a cheque for the amazing amount of £826. This was money collected at a recent drama production to help provide communication support for Heathlands students attending ballet classes in St. Albans.



Before February half term Skylarks class ran a mini- enterprise fundraising activity to cook pancakes for staff and students. They made and served over 120 pancakes. After subtracting their costs from the total they made an amazing £136 profit, which will go towards their residential trip in the summer term.







On February 21st, Heathlands Harmony Choir performed with pupils from the choir at St Albans Girls School (STAGS) for the 35th Anniversary service for Hearing Dogs for Deaf people. The choir had attended practices with STAGS in the weeks leading up to the service and their performances were greatly appreciated by everyone who attended.



Skylarks and Kingfisher classes went to the Apple store in Watford to learn how to draw on the ipads using an App called Procreate. The staff in the store showed the children how to draw portraits of each other using straight lines only. It was quite hard to do as the children wanted to draw the smooth curves of their faces. They then learnt how to draw each other by keeping the pen constantly on the ipad and not take it off...easier said than done! The children produced some interesting drawings. They were all given an Apple badge and staff learnt some basic sign language.



This term we reviewed our home learning grids, usually



given for the weekend, and decided to trial a new approach to home learning, with pupils given a choice of learning projects to be completed across a half term. For the first half term the focus was on recycling and students enjoyed showing their projects to each other. The focus for the second half term was booked themed. We will be assessing the impact of this approach to home learning so any comments will be appreciated.



Owls, Doves and Starlings classes visited Woburn Safari park linked to their Science learning.



Congratulations to the teams from Heathlands who came first and second in the

Deaf Primary Schools Swimming gala at the Olympic Park in London.



Kingfishers turned white flowers blue. How?





## Upper School Newsletter - Spring Term 2018



**National Deaf Football Tournament** In February many students from Upper School attended the annual Derby football tournament. Heathlands had 5 teams in the tournament with 2 boys and 3 girls teams. There was a record number of girls attending from our school. 'Heathlands A Girls' just missed out on a place in the semi finals due to drawing their last group game against 'Heathlands C' while 'Heathlands A Boys' made it to the semi finals but lost to the hosts, Royal School Derby. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to all staff and students who attended and made it an enjoyable day!



Upper School and Lower School students have both had the opportunity to be involved in the lunchtime sewing club. This term all the students who were new to sewing club made a cushion cover as this teaches them basic techniques such as, cutting out a pattern, positioning it correctly, backstitching to secure the thread, sewing a seam allowance and how to sew around a corner.



**Save a Life CPR training** The school recently received several life saving packs from the British Heart Foundation and many Upper School classes took part in a lifesaving workshop led by a paramedic. One student wrote-"I enjoy learn CPR how save life if person stop heart" Several staff also attended an after school training session on use of the new defibrillator.





**Student leaders – What have they been up to?** Health and well-being student leaders are planning to run a 'mental health awareness' week in the summer term. During that week students will be invited to try out different activities that will teach them how to effectively deal with stress, such as mediation, yoga and making smoothies . Students will be leading fundraising initiatives to pay for some of these activities.



One school council member is leading a nature photography competition. In order to enter, students need to pay 50p, funds will go to charity.



### The ECO focus group has

been proactive in ensuring staff recycle paper. Now all class rooms have paper recycling bins which are collected and emptied on a weekly basis. The student leader organised a meeting with our Site Officer and Business Manager to find out how we monitor the school's energy levels. The ECO focus group is collecting evidence to obtain the Green Flag Bronze Award for the school.



Students are now in focus groups including the Student Council where they meet up to share ideas and decide on projects to work on. Each focus group is overseen by a teacher and student leader. The student leaders summarise all the ideas from the students and submit proposals to the senior leadership team (SLT). At the moment, they meet in mini-groups to work on particular projects throughout this and next term.



**Peer mentors** led a special weekly assembly for 5 weeks for Year 7 students. They were given a list of PHSE topics to choose from and covered the following: body image in the media, diversity, positive friendships and relationships. For our student leaders to really develop their leadership they needed a sense of self-efficacy – the belief that they could achieve their goals. Positive feedback from year 7 students, they felt by being in a small group they could ask questions and discuss ideas more openly.

This term's assembly theme is '**Being a good role model**'. One student leader decided to deliver a presentation on a person who inspires him. He spent a significant amount of time researching about Nick Beighton who used to be an army officer and while working in Afghanistan, he stood on a bomb and lost both legs as a result. He didn't give up and trained to become a Paralympian. Our students enjoyed this story which helps them to reflect on the importance of resilience.





**Learning culture school leaders** made a short video explaining why it is important to have



some project based homework which was well received by staff and some had said that they will try to include more project based homework. Not having the correct school equipment e.g pens, rulers etc for school is a problem for some of our students. The school leaders are looking into the possibility of setting up a small school shop.

**Sport student leaders** have been leading an exciting weekly sports tournament. Positive competition between house groups supports interaction and is a fantastic way to mix students across Upper School. Students have been competing in their houses in the sport of Dodgeball. Matlin 2 are currently top of the leader board winning both of their games. Many more games are to be played before the eventual winners are crowned champions in July!

We, the US4 girls, went to South Bank for the WOW festival.

South Bank is next to River Thames. When we came in the WOW building (We were a bit late) there was a fun dance competition with a lady who led the dance, it was a great fun. When the dance was over, we went up a flight of stairs which led us to a room where the next workshop is. The title of the workshop is AIG. AIG is a popular insurance company in America.



The workshop is to invent something that will help us. We had a difficult time to have an idea that we can make. In the end, we came up with a robot that makes depressed people laugh. We put the robot's head on the top of a motor spinner so, when we turned on the motor, the head spins and flew off through the air. When the inspectors came to look at our invention, we were worried at first then, we pressed the start button... The head spins and flew off. The inspector laughed and laughed! She said "That was so funny! You pass!" She pressed her stamp on our certificates. We had lunch afterwards, we bought hot chocolates in the café (they were expensive!). The next workshop was about Millicent Fawcett and about problems women had to face. We

played a game; a woman tells a statement linked to gender equality. if you stand on the left side of the room means you disagree, on the right means you agree then if on the middle means you are not sure. One of the statement is "Women feel they are unequal to men." We agreed because in some countries Women finally can drive, come on! This is the 21st century!



It was a brilliant experience! We are glad that we did go! By M (Year 8)



Five groups of Heathlands students took part in the Technology Tournament recently. The challenge was to produce a Space Capsule Launcher.



They competed extremely well against different local secondary schools and came fourth. Well done everyone.







## Heath House - Spring Term 2018

It has been a very proactive term! The children and young people have been very busy taking part in a wide variety of activities as well as attending clubs they are involved in both on and offsite. This term the young people have been motivated to improve their swimming skills so that some of the students can get involved in snorkelling sessions.



**Cubs:** The primary children who attend cubs have continued to work towards earning new badges. This term they have been involved in sponsored walks to raise money for charity. They have also been working towards earning a badge for helping around the house. They learnt how to sew on buttons, clean windows and how to iron.

**Guides:** The secondary girls have enjoyed themselves at guides. They have been involved in lots of activities and have especially enjoyed doing arts and crafts work.

**Scouts:** The boys have been involved in a variety of activities this term. They have learnt how to make a campfire and cook on it, they have been air rifle shooting as well as learning archery skills. In addition to this the boys had to make up a short story and film it using only modelling clay and a camera.



**New staff:** Sam has now joined the Heath House team. He is excited about his new role and looks forward to meeting all the parents.





**Gardening project:** The secondary boys have been helping to prepare the vegetable garden. We had more soil delivered which has now moved into the vegetable planter. As a group we are discussing what we want to grow ready for the summer.



**Tennis club:** The children and young people have continued to attend tennis club. This remains a popular activity and a lot of the children are improving their tennis knowledge and skills.



**Multisport table and dart board:** The children and young people have been making use of their new sports table. They have been learning how to play table tennis, pool and air hockey. There have been a number of competitions in Heath House with all the children and young people taking part. In addition to this all they have also been learning how to play darts.

**Pizza night:** We had a make your own pizza night, students created their own pizzas and then helped to make desert together.



**Shopping:** Some of the children and young people have been going into town each week. They have been learning to independently buy their own cookery ingredients. This has helped some of them to earn their free walking privileges.

**Rabbits:** This term the students have been working hard to help tame Casper and Snowdrop. They have been taking it in turns to pet them.

**Heath House meal times:** The children and young people are always keen to help staff to prepare and cook the evening meal each evening. They have collectively learnt a number of new skills and are able to cook a wide variety of meals with only guidance from staff. Some of the students are bringing recipes from home and cooking them for their peers.







## BSL Centre - Spring Term 2018

This term has been as busy as always, two new Level 1 fast track courses began in January. Learners have just completed their first exam and are now developing their vocabulary and topic knowledge.



The three other BSL level 1 courses are working towards their BSL 102 and 103 exams which will take place next term. This includes our BSL level 1 young persons' afterschool class at St Alban Girls' School.

BSL Level 2 are working on developing their productive and receptive skills ready for their exams. Both classes are progressing well.

Our BSL Level 2 young persons' course has been fantastic for the young learners developing their skills and broadening vocabulary and linguistic knowledge.



BSL Level

3 Tuesday group are still going strong and revising for their linguistics exam which will take place before Easter.

The Thursday evening class have been working on receptive and productive skills.





This year we have two study support groups, one on a Tuesday evening for pre-level 3s and one on Thursday morning for pre-level 4s.

Both groups have been working hard on developing their skills all round, especially productive and receptive.



BSL Level 4, both classes are beginning to fill their portfolios with assessment clips and self analysis. Portfolios deadline for completion is before May half term. All are working hard to get clips filmed and submitted for marking.

BSL Level 6 started in February. We have a small group of learners developing their productive and self analysis skills to create their portfolios. The course will complete in December.

The BSL Centre is very proud to finally be able to deliver BSL level 6 for the first time.



As teachers we are constantly encouraging our learners to go out and meet Deaf people at events and Deaf clubs. This is the best way to learn and develop your BSL skills.

Using the language regularly enables you to develop both productive and receptive skills by meeting different people. This academic year many learners have been to various events and Deaf clubs. Well done to all who have ventured out to meet people!







## Parents' Page - Spring Term 2018

**Tesco Bags of Help Scheme.** Thank you to all the parents who have been helping raise money as part of the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme. Heathlands School came first in the St Albans store vote and got £4000 to spend on outdoor gym equipment. The basketball hoops, mirrors, chalkboards and whiteboards, bought with money raised in the Hatfield store, have also been installed.



The Friends of Heathlands (FoH) have purchased 2 laptops to help support the children's learning. Thank you to everyone who has supported the events in order to raise those funds.



Sign and Play is held every Tuesday 1.10-3. All pre-school children, both hearing and Deaf are welcome! Join in the sign singing and meet other families.



Despite the freezing temperatures, FoH had a very successful 'Bunnings Warehouse Sausage Sizzle' raising an amazing £630!! This included a single donation of £100!!



KS3/4 parents asked if we could offer more privacy for Parents' Evening.

We were able to respond by providing privacy screens and some classroom based sessions in order to allow signers not to be overlooked during their consultations.



The FoH are planning a Summer fete for Saturday 7th July it will be held 12-4 at the school. There will be food, fun and games. If you would like to run a stall please contact [friends@heathlands.herts.sch.uk](mailto:friends@heathlands.herts.sch.uk)





## Heathlands Newsletter - Spring Term 2018

### Summer and Autumn Term Dates 2018

#### Summer Term 2018

Inset Day	Monday 16 April 2018 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Tuesday 17 April 2018
Bank Holiday	Monday 7 May 2018
Half Term Holiday	Monday 28 May 2018 – Friday 1 June 2018
Term Ends	Thursday 26 July 2018 @ 12.30 pm
Inset Day	Friday 27 July 2018 (no pupils in school)

#### Autumn Term 2018

Inset Day	Mon 3 September 2018 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Tuesday 4 September 2018
Half Term Holiday	Mon 29 October 2018 – Fri 2 November 2018
Occasional Day	Fri 30 November 2018 (no pupils in school)
Term Ends	Fri 21 December 2018 @ 12.30 pm