

# Heathlands Newsletter - Autumn Term 2019



Dear Parents and Carers

We are very pleased to be finishing our first term as Co-Head Teachers! When the term started back in September, Christmas seemed so far away and yet suddenly it is here. Our first term as Co-Heads has been exciting, challenging and joyful. Throughout this time we are constantly reminded of the supportive community we are working in and appreciate all the support from parents, staff and students. Some of this year's Annual Review comments really showed us how positively the students feel about school, some stated it was amazing, brilliant and one student even explained how lucky they were to have not just one but two head teachers, which made us feel very special! It keeps us focused on what a wonderful school we have and how lucky we are to be working with such enthusiastic and talented young people and an amazing staff team.

We are both continuing the work and ethos that is already in place, for Heathlands to provide outstanding education for Deaf children, to enable to them to *be the best they can be*. While we are sharing the Headship we are also continuing our work in the Pastoral and SENCo roles alongside the new leads, Miss Jarrett and Mrs Brinsden. Any contact with school will continue to be via your child's class or form tutor and then via the Deputy and Assistant Heads. If you need to contact one of the Co-Heads, please do so through the school office.

The vision for the future, is very much based on work built upon in the past and includes, you as our valued parents, carers and family members who are part of the wider school community.

We want our school community:

- To support and educate students in preparation for adulthood and life long learning.
- To embrace and engage all families within our school community.
- To be included in national and international developments in education.
- To be recognized as a Centre of excellence.
- To enrich the community through BSL and Deaf Awareness.

We hope that this is a vision you share alongside Heathlands to create positive futures for all of our young people.

Wishing you all a restful and peaceful holiday

Mrs Shields and Mrs Reeves Costi

*Spring term is usually when we have most disruption from bad weather. We will try to give early notice by text to parents and taxis if the school is closed. Please make sure the school office have an up to date text number for you. Remember we can only make an assessment about the weather conditions in the St Albans area. Some children have long journeys so parents must decide if travel is safe in your home area.*





## Lower School - Autumn Term 2019



Butterflies class have been learning about measuring using different equipment; counters, cubes and paper clips. They made estimates first and learnt how to provide more accurate judgements of how many

they thought would fit the pencil, cup and water bottle lengths. They also made symmetrical butterflies using rulers to measure how far away the dots needed to be to be really symmetrical.



Bees Class have been exploring the new sensory Reading Garden in their classroom. They have enjoyed choosing their own books of interest and sharing stories.

We have started a new weekly award in Lower school called the Heathlands Family award. In families everyone looks after everyone else and at Heathlands everyone is encouraged to be kind to each other. On Friday's in assembly the award will be given to pupils whose teachers have noticed them being kind and helpful to others. Fireflies class have created a display to help everyone understand what that means.



The builder's yard is now up and running and open for business! No job too big or too small....please ask for a quote.



Ladybirds class are learning about their five senses in Science lessons. They explored the grounds around school to find something that was rough, smooth, round, red, yellow, tall and something that smells. They were very observant and particularly enjoyed smelling the mint plant.



Butterfly and Ladybird classes visited a Butterfly house. The children class looked carefully to find all the different butterflies



In PSHCE, Butterflies class have been learning about Healthy Eating. Their task in Food Technology was to design, make and evaluate a healthy 'breakfast pot!' They tasted a selection of fruits, yogurts and healthy cereals to help them make their choices. Some yogurts weren't very popular!



In Design and Technology Fireflies class have been looking at pneumatics. They had a challenge to make the book move but first they had to think how they could make the balloon bigger





Dragonflies class used their knowledge of how light is reflected, and that it travels in straight lines, to reflect light around a maze to an end point.



Caterpillar Class made red poppies for Remembrance Day



Lower School pupils went to Legoland to take part in some educational workshops including Robotics and Ancient Greece for KS2 and Undersea creatures for KS1. The children had a good time and learnt a lot, as well as having the opportunity to go on a couple of the rides and attractions afterwards.

Ladybirds and Butterflies visited the Shuttleworth Collection. They had fun learning about old aeroplanes and how they fly. They even tried to see if they could fly - if they had wings!



Fireflies class have been learning about the 7 continents. They found so many signs for different countries they displayed them on the map.



The caterpillars are now sleeping inside their cocoons...dreaming of becoming butterflies! Caterpillars class are waiting patiently!

Finally, they have become beautiful butterflies.

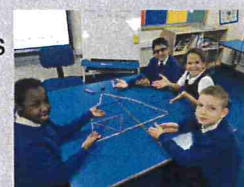


Bees Class helped Sophie from Waddesdon Manor, National Trust with a special Christmas project! Each pupil in Bees Class decorated a lantern to be displayed at Waddesdon Manor for the Christmas season.



The pupils really enjoyed making the lanterns which will be hung on trees down Miss Alice's Drive, at Waddesdon Manor, in the Woodland Walk!

Experimenting with 30 straws in Dragonflies class to try and find all possible ways of creating patterns of triangles, led to two teams coming up with different strategies. They were astonished to find 28 different ways to make triangle patterns from just 30 straws. Can you find any?



Caterpillar Class visited Mill Green Museum to see how flour is made. They watched The Little Red Hen story, took grain to the miller and helped grind the grains into flour! The flour was then taken to the baker who showed the children how to make small bread rolls!



magazines and created a time line.

Butterflies class are learning about the Human life cycle in Science. On Friday they cut out pictures from

In RE, Ants class thoroughly enjoyed learning about Jewish traditions. They made traditional Latkes, lit a menorah and experience a prayer in Hebrew and enjoyed learning how to play 'dreidel'.



Ladybirds class have been learning about purple poppies which are made to remember animals who served in war.



Ladybird class have been making hot air balloons in Art lessons, as well as learning about what the parts of an aeroplane are called as part of their topic 'Flight'.



In DT Butterflies class constructed and tested different gliders linked to their topic on flight. They made a Hammer glider, a Bernoulli glider and a catapult glider, they decided that the Hammer glider was the best as this flew the furthest.



Bees Class had an exciting trip to Waitrose in St Albans. They entered an art competition and won! Here are the pupils with the Waitrose staff being awarded their star prize - Edgar the Dragon!



A big thank you to all the lower school parents who attended Harvest Festival and parents evening. Everyone enjoyed a range of Harvest themed activities and children then took part in a thanksgiving assembly. It was good to see everyone and thanks to

your generosity (and that of everyone who has fund-raised over the last year) we were able to colour in the final hand on the minibus! This means we now have enough to buy a bus for the deaf school in Gambia.



Some of the Student Leaders shared stories in BSL with Ladybird class. The year 1 children enjoyed meeting older students and were fully engaged.



Butterflies are doing Christmas cookery in Cooking and Nutrition as part of the DT Curriculum this term. This week they made sugar cookies; a traditional Canadian recipe.



Bees Class have been learning about festivals of light in RE. They were thrilled to see the lanterns that they had decorated on display at Waddesdon Manor in the Woodland Trail! It was a proud moment to see the names of Heathlands School and Bees Class on display to the public!



Fireflies, Dragonflies and Ants class went in a time machine that took them back to Ancient Greece for the day. The time machine stopped in quite a lot of different time periods before they got to Ancient Greece. The pupils involved in the Ancient Greek day learnt about Democracy, took part in debate and voting and attempted part of a marathon, before heading back to 2019 in the time machine in time for a Greek Myth for storytime.



Some of Caterpillars class went to Carpenters Nursery to buy the Xmas tree for EYFS. They chose one with roots in a pot so that it can carry on growing in their garden. The children helped with the tree wrapping.....PULL!



We are very proud to announce we are on the "best" list of nurseries in Hertfordshire. <https://www.hertfordshiremercury.co.uk/>





## Upper School - Autumn Term 2019



Congratulations to all these students who have been successful in their application to become student leaders. We are looking forward to all the exciting ideas and projects you will lead for the school community

US5 students have been learning how to test different food groups.



There was an Arts focus afternoon where KS3 demonstrated the use of the new apple pens funded through the St. Albans Arts Society. They use them on iPads to create stories in apple 'keynote' apps. They drew characters and designed backgrounds and some students used them to animate shapes and pre-set objects. They then further demonstrated their skills by teaching lower school students.



Heathlands are very proud of our student who was selected as a finalist at the St Albans Arts Award!



This also included film work and editing using the film quality camera again purchased with Arts society funding.

The Year 11 Drama group went for a morning Theatre workshop at St Albans High School for Girls. They enjoyed devising a piece of Theatre based on Greta Thunberg's recent speech to the UN. They worked well with the girls and came up with good ideas to create a unique piece of Drama. Well done to all involved.



Year 11 GCSE Media students also used these pens to create storyboards for pre-production coursework documents.

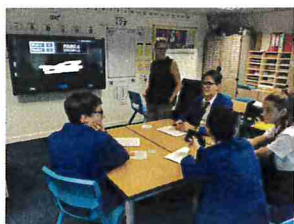
We have recently had 20 achieve the Bronze Arts Award. Students will continue to develop creativity through an Arts Award 'Poetry e-motion' project combining media art, computing and English in producing and publishing an e-book.

Following a further donation this year from the St Albans Arts Society of £500, the Art department have linked up with Nugent Education Ltd who are a leading provider of Arts workshops for Children. <https://nugenteducation.co.uk>

This event is currently being planned and will take place in the New Year. A date is yet to be agreed but we are hoping to find a suitable day that will allow a large number of students to be able to take part.







Possibly for the first time ever, Heathlands, as a British Deaf school competed in Gallaudet's Academic Bowl where American Deaf schools compete against each other to try and reach the finals! The Heathlands team

was fantastic some questions were tough, especially American sports! It was all done via webcam and our team have made it to the Eastern region finals in Buf-

US6-11 went to a film event organised by Into Film on Monday to celebrate the deaf identity, culture and communication. They met a deaf poet Raymond Antrobus, and one of the pupils went on stage to interview him. Then they watched an Oscar nominated film Arrival which the students really enjoyed.



Our GCSE Maths students practised using trigonometry to measure the height of trees around the school - all they needed was a measuring tape and a clinometer to measure angles!



Student Leaders gave a presentation about anti bullying to raise awareness of the damage bullying can do. An exciting part of the week was the Odd Socks Day.



US9 have been working on creating video animations to demonstrate how enzymes work

US2 have been acting out a scene from their class reading book The Beast. They have been learning how to understand reading a script.



Heathlands held an Arts Award event to mark Artsmark's national celebration for arts and cultural education. Artsmark is the Arts Council England's award for schools and educational settings that champion the arts and strive for excellence. Heathlands has started their journey towards Gold status. The film KS3 students made was screened and special guests and staff enjoyed

watching a skills-share, where the Arts Award students taught the younger students the skills they had developed, in small groups. This included story-telling using ipads and apple pencils, camera work, directing, acting, photography and film editing using apple macs. We were delighted to welcome the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Akhtar Zaman, who, spoke of the importance of the Arts in education and whose background is also in technology and film. Our masterclass professional, Ashley Kendall, spoke of the importance of developing creativity and gave achievement badges to the students.



In science, US1 have been learning about sound. As part of this they made their own musical instruments and put together a band.



Year 11 have been busy collecting Ergonomic research to help them design a range of playground toys for their D&T GCSE coursework task. Students from Ladybirds and Fireflies class were very helpful and keen to help out. A big thank you to all.



Student leaders gave a talk in assembly on the topic of well being.





One of the students, who left Heathlands last year, came back to give a talk with the Year 11 Art Class about improving their GCSE coursework; lots of questions were asked! She also discussed applying to college, with all the Year 11s and some Year 10s, giving them advice on getting access, based on own experience in college. The students found her very informative as they are now looking into college placements and courses they would like to do after Heathlands.



A student leader set up a small shop selling school equipment. He will run the shop every week on Thursday during lunch time.



In science US10 students have been learning about how we care for animals. Two lovely rabbits from Heath House were brought in to give the students the opportunity to stroke them also ask questions about what they eat and how they are cared for.

Students in US1 have been working hard to finish their Birdhouses



All of year 11 went to the Dacorum Careers Fair. It was really interesting meeting such a range of different people from different companies and all the students tried a range of ways to communicate with them (communicator, ipad, writing questions). The students asked really thoughtful questions and it has opened their eyes to more options for once they leave school and college.



As part of anti-bullying week, in assembly some of the students gave a presentation about anti bullying, to raise awareness of the damage bullying can do.



This term US3 read the graphic novel, "Stormbreaker" by Anthony Horowitz. The students did individual, paired and whole group reading of the text. They roleplayed various scenes, including fight sequences (showing due care, of course), closely following the author's descriptions. They completed many writing tasks associated with the text including character profiles, writing predictions as to what might happen next, answering comprehension questions, writing letters from one character to another and writing a book review to encourage others to read it.



The sewing club has started again this term under Ms Aylward, using the specialist machines provided through a donation from the Arts Society –Students have been making Christmas bunting and lavender pouches.



Three of our students took part in Battle of the Books, an international reading competition sponsored by Gallaudet University. They played against three different schools in America via video camera! In preparation for the competition, they had to read three different books ready to answer questions about them. They have worked incredibly hard and really enjoyed the experience. The team came 13th, just missing out on 12th place which would have taken them to the finals. We'll try again next







## Heath House - Autumn Term 2019



This term the year 11 boys designed and decorated their bedroom. They took time to plan how they wanted the room to look and chose the colours together. It is good for them to learn how to use DIY skills such as filling, painting, and wallpapering. They learnt how to correct mistakes when they were made. They are now pleased with their bedroom and the new skills they learnt.



In October the Heath House children and young people joined kayaking activities. The students enjoyed themselves learning how to kayak and seeing who could avoid getting wet.



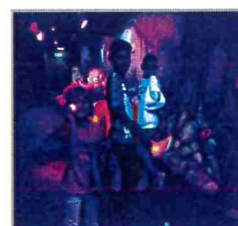
We have had a few birthdays this term the children enjoy baking and decorating a cake to celebrate. Staff are noticing how the cakes are improving and becoming very detailed in the design.



October was a very wet month this year and unfortunately due to the rain and mud we were not able to attend the Pop Up Pumpkin Farm. Instead we made do with choosing our pumpkins at Sainsbury's. The children enjoyed carving their pumpkins for a competition. As you can imagine there was mess all over the kitchen but lots of pumpkin seeds to toast.



In November the children and young people went to Lost World Golf in Stevenage. The indoor course was perfect for a rainy day. The young people loved the neon colours inside and the challenge of playing in the dark.







Heath House organised a Halloween party, the children and young people enjoyed themselves playing fun games and challenges as well as costume and pumpkin competitions. We had a fun packed night full of pizza and a very delicious spooky cake.



Our youngest student has a very clever tactic when cutting onions. We'll be trying this one at home!



Students continue to practice their free walking skills with staff. They are learning how to communicate with hearing member of the public and communicating requests in cafes and restaurants phone. Children should be encouraged to continue these skills when they are at home



We continue to practice our independence skills by using public transport to go rock climbing. Students enjoy climbing to develop their skills.



Life skills and the 24 hour curriculum provides opportunities for young people to learn how to order food, work out their budgets and most importantly learn how to split the bill at the end. Children and young people are becoming increasingly more confident.



Oak Lodge residential school boarders came to visit Heath House for a social event. Students enjoyed meeting and getting to know each other. We are looking forward to visiting Oak Lodge School next term in January or February 2020.



This term we are delighted to welcome two new students. Welcome Evie and Jack.



Heath Housers returned to Centre parcs for their end of term reward. They enjoyed eating at the Pancake house, swimming (especially the outdoor rapids) and a spectacular fireworks display. As always they want to return again, we have to say a big thank you for all those who organise this for us.







## BSL Centre - Autumn Term 2019

The new academic year has started well, we have 91 learners on different courses. It's lovely to see learners returning to tackle to the next level in their BSL journey and new learners starting.

We said farewell to Robyn and welcomed Stefano into our team. We look forward to working with Stefano and developing the Centre further this year. We also welcomed Lise, who took over from Alison. Lise has been getting to know the Centre and all our learners.



BSL Level 1 courses are going well, all learners have sat their first exams and are developing their BSL vocabulary and understanding of Deaf Culture.

We have a BSL Level 1 young peoples course again this year and they are all enjoying learning through different activities, as well as taught sessions.

Both our BSL level 2 courses are full and learners have been developing both their productive and receptive skills.



We have two BSL level 3 courses who are developing their understanding of Deaf culture further through research on different topics and going to deaf clubs to meet people.

BSL Level 6 began in September with the new qualification, learners are getting to grips with making sure they can use their linguistic theory in practice. To achieve the new level 6 assessments and portfolios.

BSL Level 4 are learning how to self analyse and understand BSL linguistics in more depth. They are having to collect evidence out in the community for their portfolios.

### January 2020 Courses

- BSL Level 1 Fast Track Thursday morning or evening.
- Bridging the gap course for Level 4 to





## Parents Page - Autumn Term 2019

### Friends of Heathlands

We were lucky enough to see some of you at the Retro TV gameshow. Fun was had by all! We raised in excess of £100 for school projects.



Look good, feel good.

We also have our winter discos for the children. They love the opportunity to meet with their friends in a social context. We are looking for volunteers to take this on going forward next year.

**We are always looking for new members.**

### **Spring term events:**

FoH Meeting 3.45-4.30 09.01.20

FoH Meeting 3.45-4.30 27.02.20

Bollywood 12.00-4.00 21.03.20

**Date for diary:- Summer Fete on 27.6.20**

E-Safety We have had reports of some negative social media use, which have happened outside school this term. You can get up to date information and advice suitable for your child's age at [www.internetmatters.org/advice/](http://www.internetmatters.org/advice/) or see

[www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)

**48%**

of parents believe that their children know more about the internet than they do

**73%**

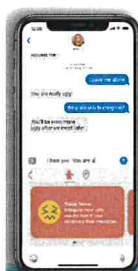
of children agree.



Do you feel left behind?

**internet matters.org**

Worried about texting/posting?



Get this trial app **free for 60 days** using code: ABA2019. Download the Safeguarding Assistant, to encourage and support your child.

The bus is now open, the pupils are now using this regularly. We are now welcoming parents to come and make use of it's facilities. If you have any feedback on this please let us know.







## Term Dates for the Academic Year 2019-2020

### Spring Term 2020

Inset Day	Mon 6 January 2020 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Tues 7 January 2020
Half Term Holiday	Mon 17 February 2020– Fri 21 February 2020
Term Ends	Fri 3 April 2020 @ 12.30pm

### Summer Term 2020

Term Starts	Mon 20 April 2020
Inset Day	Thurs 7 May 2020 (no pupils in school)
Bank Holiday	Fri 8 May 2020
Half Term Holiday	Mon 25 May 2020 – Friday 29 May 2020
Term Ends	Fri 17 July 2020 @ 12.30pm
Inset Days	Mon 20 July 2020– Tues 21 July 2020 (no pupils in school)