



Heathlands Newsletter - Spring Term 2020

This term has felt quite surreal for everyone. We began the term working busily with KS4 mock exams and before the half term in February we had our residential Ofsted. We were absolutely thrilled with maintaining our Outstanding rating and having the hard work of Heath House residential staff praised by the inspection team. However our joy was short lived as the pandemic of the Coronavirus grew.

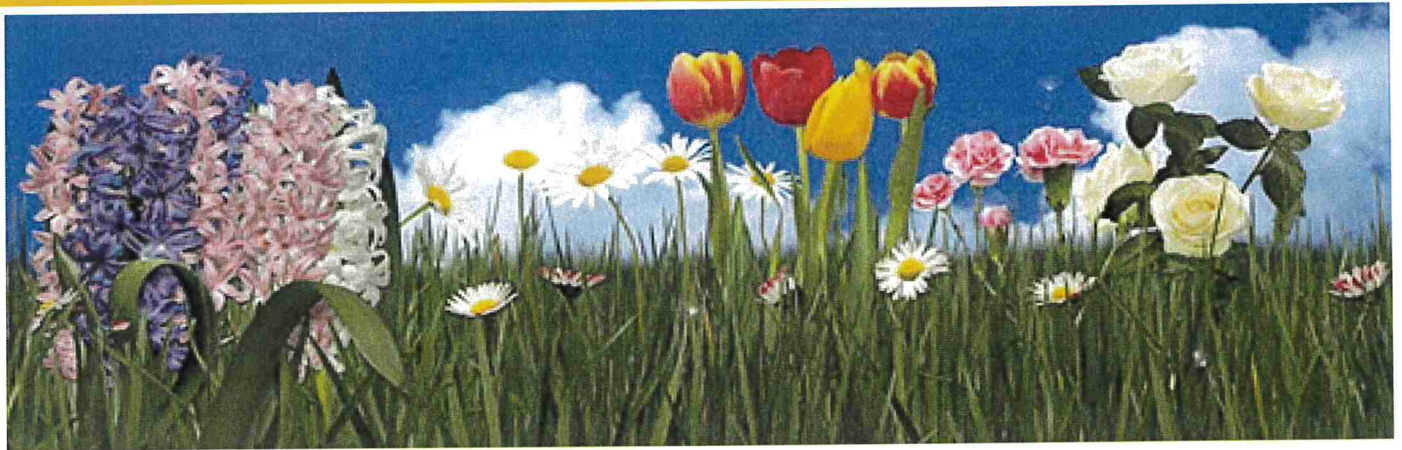
We are all working hard to ensure that children continue learning wherever they are and we have appreciated all the support given from our staff team, parents and our Governors. We feel very lucky to be part of this special community that supports and drives forward children's learning at such a critical and challenging time.

Almost all of our school community, as we write, are being educated at home via distance learning and we have no knowledge of how long this will continue. The Government's key message is to stay safe and that is by staying at home. This is for children, staff, parents, transport teams, admin staff, cleaners and more. Heathlands has remained open for a small number of students whose parents are keyworkers. We have had a reduced staff team coming in to work with them and also to receive video calls from students and parents who require any support at home. This change to the children's learning has been unprecedented, we know everyone is trying their best and appreciate your efforts.

It is important to consider wellbeing as well as learning in times like this and we hope you have found the pastoral advice helpful. Use this time for family games and activities, exercising and playing in safe spaces, for communicating together and having fun. Technology is also aiding us, children can remotely contact their friends and chat together and many organisations are offering free online learning resources including British Sign Language– why not let your child become the teacher?

Lastly we will leave you with a quote from Marie Curie which is so relevant at a time like now, *Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.*

For now, stay safe, stay home and stay healthy.



Lower School - Autumn Term 2019



Children in Caterpillars class painted special 'hello' hands to send to the deaf school children in Gambia. They were taken on the special minibus that Heathlands helped to buy.

After a couple of days of careful planning, Ants class became the teachers today. In Maths they went into some upper school lessons to share their knowledge and understanding of how to add fractions with different denominators and how to find a percentage of a number. They were all very engaging and supportive to all of



Ants class would like to say a big thank you to Year 9 for teaching them how to divide and multiply fractions. Year 9 were very engaging and Ants class particularly enjoyed learning their easy trick for how to divide fractions!



Congratulations to Primary pupils from the Heathlands teams who won silver and bronze medals at the Penathlon Aquatic challenge in the London Aquatics Centre.



Lower school pupils arrived to find a crime scene in the hall. There were all the appearances of having had a burglary at the weekend. This got the children observing, thinking and asking questions to try and work out what had happened. It stimulated a lot of excitement, discussion and imaginative writing.



The investigation into the crime scene, which the Lower School pupils discovered continued throughout the week. Some of the KS2 pupils had a visit from two of our Community Police Officers who answered the children's questions. The children were extremely interested and asked a lot about police procedures and crime.

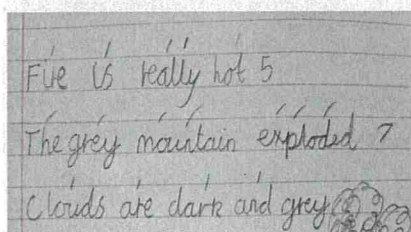
Wow!! Ladybirds, Butterflies and Bees class enjoyed meeting lots of interesting animals and creepy crawlies when Zoolab visited us. The children were very well behaved and brave! They met a giant African snail, a cockroach, a corn snake, a rat, a millipede and a tree frog. They learnt about where the animals are from, what they eat and why they might be at risk of becoming endangered. And we also found out that cockroaches eat EVERYTHING - even shoes!



Bees class are taking part in a programme called Fish Keeper Fry. They have learnt how to set up a tank and look after fish. Now the fish have started to arrive.



Ladybird class worked together to write their own poem about dinosaurs.



Last week the children from Fireflies class wrote Haiku poems linked to their story "Escape from Pompeii." Haiku are poems of three lines, 5 syllables, 7 syllables and 5 syllables.



Lower school students have enjoyed attending workshops delivered by Sign Health where they have learnt about friendships and staying safe online. Thank you to the trainers who ensured the workshops were accessible for all the students.

Caterpillars class made ice cream.. the children were surprised how we used ice cubes with salt to make it really cold - delicious!!



Caterpillar Class are learning about old and new toys.

Yellow bear is very old. His fur has worn away and he has a hole in his arm. He used to have a blue ribbon. Green bear is new. He has all his fur and wears a shiny green ribbon too.

Both are very much loved!





Bees Class were very focused and engaged making Mother's day cards this week, adding flowers made from felt. They each wrote a special poem for their mum, thinking hard about their favourite things to include in their poem.



A special visitor came to see Caterpillars and Bee classes to explain what it is like working as midwife. Megan is very special as she is a midwife who can sign. The children learnt how to help a baby when born and were interested to use the hospital equipment.



Earlier in the term, Butterflies Class did a topic on dinosaurs. They learnt lots of fascinating facts such as a diplodocus could be 27 metres long! They also learnt about the food dinosaurs ate and which were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. In Art lessons they worked collaboratively, learning how to use new techniques and materials to create this huge mixed media picture. They were very proud of

Ants class made some amazing alliteration cards to give to staff in the NHS. They discussed the value of the NHS and felt that we needed to show their appreciation for all the hard work the NHS do.

The cards ended up in Barnet hospital. We are pleased the staff enjoyed them and know how much they are appreciated. This is their response.



The midwifery ward also enjoyed the cards. Thank you Heathlands."



Upper School - Autumn Term 2019

Students from US6, US7, US8 and US10 visited the Sky Academy Studios to see how a professional news studio works and create their own news report. After deciding the topic, they researched facts, wrote scripts, filmed footage and finally, edited their news report. Well done to everyone who took part for your fantastic work on camera and behind the scenes.



As part of Hertfordshire Feeling Good Week, we arranged for a Deaf chef to come and visit us at Heathlands, to teach us how to make healthy snacks and smoothie. Students in US1 to US6 classes participated in this workshop and enjoyed making some delicious and healthy treats. Thank you to Yvonne Cobb from Yumma Foods for coming to Heathlands to teach us about healthy eating and showing us that healthy eating can be delicious



US1 are studying Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in English. They worked in pairs to design and build their own chocolate factory.

The media groups were very lucky to experience a Photography master class delivered by Cory Labrosse. They learnt lots of new skills and reviewed their photographs with feedback from Cory.

Miss Monk's English group went to visit the JDA and met lots of deaf people. They delivered a presentation on global warming and gave tips on how we can improve the environment. They did a fantastic job and received lots of positive feedback.



US8 made their own toothpaste as part of a unit on neutralisation.

Year 7 students have been creating cake designs in clay in Art



The first games club was held on Thursday. The girls enjoyed learning to play a card game and turn taking. Hopefully they can play these new games at home too!





US6 helped to update the Gambia bus map. We were surprised that Remi and Alex didn't cross over the border as we thought, but headed west to the coast.

Heathlands took five teams to the Derby schools football tournament. Both girls and boys teams got into the final and the junior boys clinched the cup! Well done to everyone who played in all of our teams!



US11 led an assembly which explained to pupils how they need to be really careful about what they post online. They explained about posts leaving a digital "footprint" and how images can be passed on by other users.



Please watch this video for parents:

<https://vimeo.com/249792937>

We had 15 Deaf students from the Netherlands visit us. The student leaders toured them around our school and in the afternoon they gave us a presentation about Holland and Groningen School. Their lives are quite similar to ours although they eat fish very differently!



US3 have been learning how to observe and record the weather. They were introduced to a range of different weather instruments used in meteorology. They enjoyed learning how to use a compass, wind vane, a wind speed meter, an anemometer, a thermometer and rain gauge. They worked either individually or in pairs and performed a weather study on a microclimate within the school grounds. They also performed observations based on the cloud cover, the type of cloud, the visibility and the general weather conditions in their microclimate.

As part of the Feel Good Week, some of the students enjoyed the fashion workshop where they made hats and masks using recycled materials.



US1 have been busy this term making night lights. They learnt how to solder components together to make a simple circuit and how to use CAD/CAM to design and laser cut their acrylic plastic shape. Finally, they had to use a strip heating machine to bend their plastic into a shape.



US6 have designed and made their own cam mechanism toy to demonstrate rotary and oscillating motion.

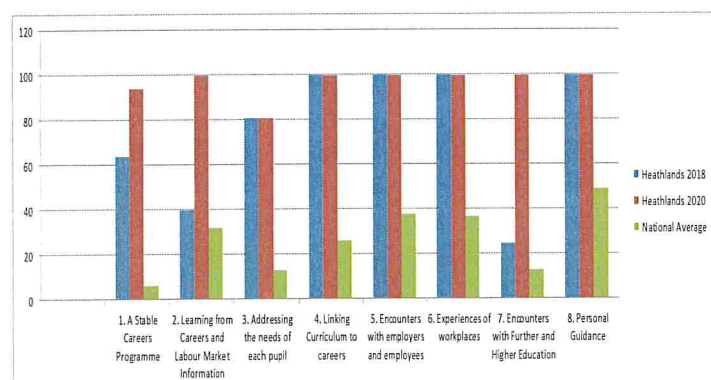
A student from the sports leaders group led a dodgeball activity in her PE lesson today. The student clearly laid out the area with the correct equipment and explained the rules of the activity to the students and answered any questions. Good leadership skills were demonstrated, well done.



Careers and Enterprise

We have been working hard to secure work experience placements for our very large Year 11 group this year (13 students) trying to match up their requests to local employers. We have also been busy organising events for our Careers Week at the end of June (which may need to be postponed).

We were delighted with our results in the self-evaluation exercise we carry out every term. We are making good progress on the Gatsby Benchmarks which allows us to measure our progress against other schools in the whole country.



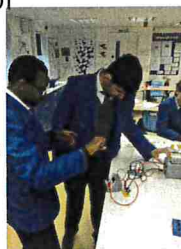
A big thank you to all the parents who responded to our request for information about your work. We want our students to have a great experience when they are on placement and if we can place them with a member of deaf staff or someone who can sign, this really helps give them a worthwhile learning experience. If anyone is able to help us with taking students in the future or coming in to school to talk about their jobs and career, please let us know.

US3 have been learning mapping skills as part of their Geography studies. They had to follow directions into town and then had to match important St Albans landmarks to their correct position on their maps



We are very proud of the students in Heathlands Harmony Signing Choir who performed at the Albert Hall.

US10 students visited St Luke's school which has a variety of animals. The visit was part of their animal care course.



GCSE students have been investigating the relationship between voltage, current and resistance for a resistor and a filament lamp.

US7 have been using foam board in their Design Technology lessons to model their ideas for a storage unit.

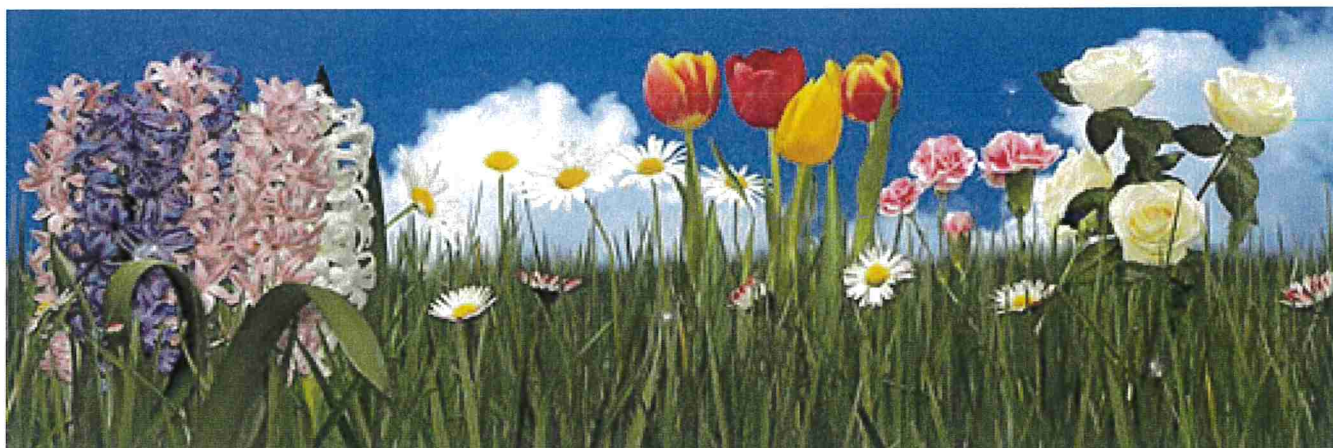


Some of our students were selected to represent the school at the 2020, Rotary Schools Technology Tournament. Over 30 schools from around the borough competed to build a flashing beacon using materials supplied by the Rotary Club.

Teams were asked to connect a light to an electrical circuit and design their own device to make the light turn on and off. Points were awarded for each flash up to a maximum of 20 flashes.

All of our teams were successful in managing to complete the task within the time given but were narrowly beaten by another schools' team whose beacon flashed more often given them a higher score.





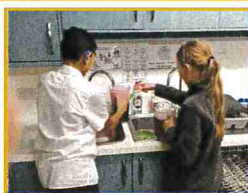
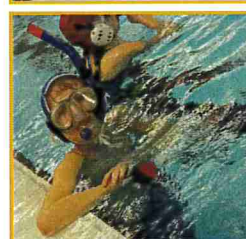
Heath House - Spring Term 2020



Communication when out and about can be really nerve wracking for deaf youngsters. This term we have been working with our SaLT team to give children and young people strategies to request help in a shop or if they become lost. Students are able to write on paper or use their phones to communicate. Staff role play scenarios before they go out which further builds confidence.



Under water hockey continues to be popular. We have two young people who have developed their skills and enjoy attending. Three more students have expressed interest to do this next year.



Our 24 hour curriculum continues to focus on learning the skills for life. Each young person has targets to develop these skills. Make sure your know what targets your child is working on to support them at home.

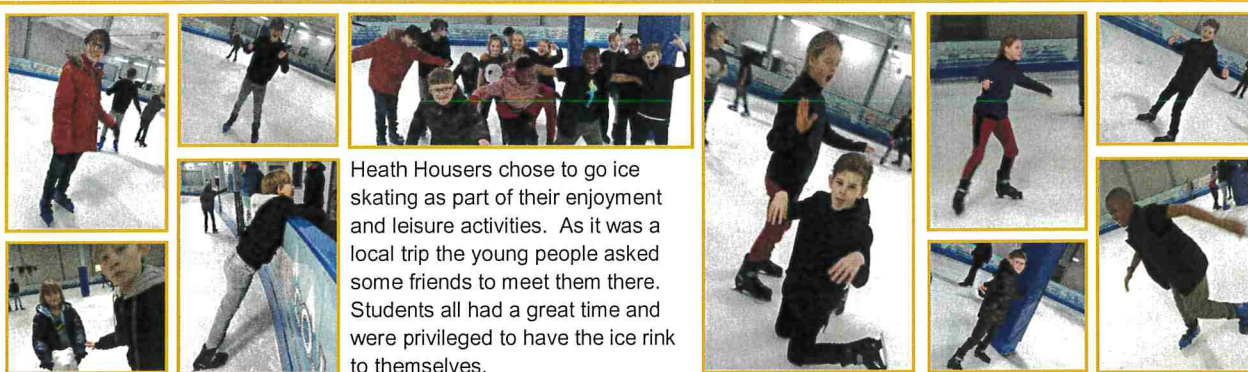


This term Heath House have opened a breakfast club using the Café bus. Each day they make healthy breakfast options and sell them to students and staff. Fridays are the most popular day due to serving sausage and bacon rolls. They are learning to plan healthy options as well as to calculate the costs. All profits will go to the Heath House young people who are thinking what they would like to purchase with the money.



Pancake Day was celebrated by all in Heath House. Children and young people took pride in making and finding out who could toss their pancakes. As always we all loved eating them.





Heath Housers chose to go ice skating as part of their enjoyment and leisure activities. As it was a local trip the young people asked some friends to meet them there. Students all had a great time and were privileged to have the ice rink to themselves.



It's not all fun in Heath House, after the ice skating we went to McDonalds for dinner but children and young people had to use individual communication skills to order their food. Some used their phones to order whilst others used gesture and pointing. Whatever method your child feels comfortable with encourage them to use this when you go out at home.



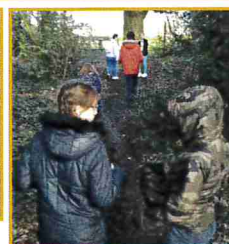
Welcome to our newest boarder. You have settled very well in to Heath house and are making some great friends!



Heath House staff have been very impressed with Year 11 students as they decided to cook dinner for all children and young people without staff support. It's good for them to learn and prepare for independence in their future.



We waited excitedly for the first bit of sun this year so we could go to the park. Young people enjoyed walking across the Heath and enjoyed showing new children where to go.



Heath House children and young people were due to go to Centre Parcs as once again their behaviour this term has been exemplary. Unfortunately the trip had to be cancelled due to coronavirus. However we treated all children and young people to a takeaway pizza and watched a film. We will go to Centre Parcs as soon as we can. But for now though everyone needs to stay safe.



A great big THANK YOU to our staff who redecorated the boys living room. The children and young people picked the wall paper and paint and staff stayed up very late to complete it. The room now looks lovely and fresh. Further painting work will continue focusing on the bathrooms and corridors.





BSL Centre - Autumn Term 2019

With this strange time we are living in we have had to adapt and create online classrooms.

Whilst creating classrooms for all our courses we deliver, we are also creating a Parents Group. I will email all parents with a link to join the group. Each week we will add new video clips starting with BSL level 1 information, vocabulary and sentences. Look out for the link and join our online parents group.

We have 4 BSL Level 1 classes, each are now working towards their second assessment and learning about describing people, house and home, hobbies, pets, food and drink, as well as other basic information.

Level 1 is an essential part within learning BSL as it builds the foundations for learning the basic grammar and vocabulary.



BSL Level 2 have been building on their level 1 skills and developing their linguistic knowledge by learning about grammar structure and using facial expressions. They have also been

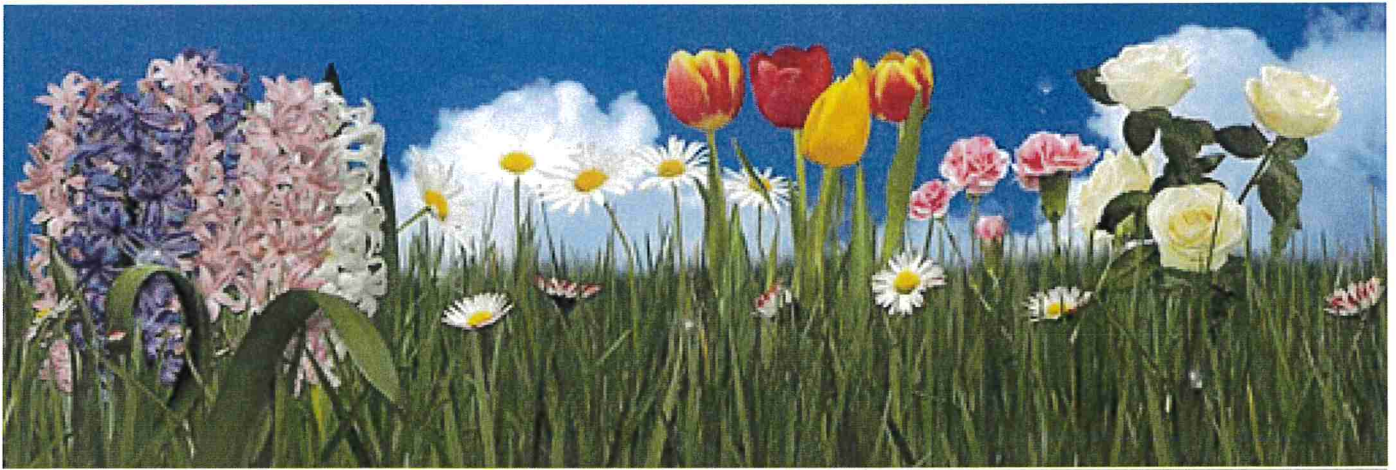
BSL Level 3 is where learners discover more about BSL linguistics and the essential part it plays in our language. It allows the learner to develop and understand their skills by using BSL in a safe and encouraging environment. They have been discussing consumer issues and daily living for Deaf people.

BSL Level 4 have been working on their portfolios, unfortunately these are on hold until we can get film clips done again. They will be focusing on receptive and productive skills, translating BSL clips into English and English



BSL Level 6 have also had to put their portfolios on hold for the time being. They too will be working on translation and maintaining their productive and receptive skills.

Our study groups have enjoyed developing their receptive skills and looking at grammar translation.



Parents Page - Spring Term 2020

Thank you for your continued support and working alongside the school to help provide new opportunities for all the children. Here is a look back over all the fantastic events that you have helped to support. If you have any ideas of future events you would like to see organised please get in touch with friends@heathlands.herts.sch.uk



Thank You



Term Dates for the Academic Year 2019-2020

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)

Autumn Term 2020

Inset Days	Wed 2 Sept 2020 – Fri 4 Sept 2020 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Monday 7 September 2020
Half Term Holiday	Mon 26 October 2020 – Fri 30 October 2020
Occasional Day	Mon 30 November 2020 (no pupils in school)
Term Ends	Fri 18 December 2020 @ 12.30pm