

## Heathlands Newsletter- Spring Term 2021

What a whirlwind term this has been! From starting with remote learning for all, to becoming a mixture and then finishing the term with everyone back in school again! We have been immensely proud by all pupils' efforts to keep up with their education and learning throughout this time.

As the country slowly moves towards lifting restrictions, Heathlands is slowly returning to a more familiar return, some lunchtime clubs have started up again and Chess Club is proving a real hit!

However, there are some aspects of the pandemic that have been an advantage, particularly with improved use of technology. Students and families are actively using EduLink and Google Classroom. We have purchased 50 Chromebooks in school and our broadband has been upgraded and extended. Virtual meetings have worked well, particularly for parents who have found it difficult to come into school due to distance and all of this has proved- every cloud has its silver lining!

All in all, whether learning from home or in school, it has still proved to be an exciting term! The Green team won their final in Battle of the Books competing against deaf schools in the USA, the Blue team will head into their final next term. We have been awarded a Robotics grant of £300 to challenge students further as well as a Wellbeing grant for the summer term! Students in Lower School have been reading a wide range of books in Literacy lessons and Topic to enhance their love of stories and develop their written language, do watch their brilliant videos on our Facebook page. Heath House have been baking the most marvellous birthday cakes and finished off the term with a party sleepover!

And last, but not least, we are also incredibly proud of our marvellous teaching team being recognised for their dedicated commitment to our students, the British Association for Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD) announced that Miss Head had won the Leading Practice Award for 2019-2020 and Mrs Rodgers and Mrs Roberts the Leading Practice Award for 2020-2021!

And now as we head into the Easter holidays, we wish you all a safe and restful break before the exciting summer term begins on 12th April 2021!

With all best wishes, Mrs Shields and Mrs Reeves Costi





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After the holiday, Upper School will become one 'bubble' and Lower School another. This makes the movement of staff easier, although social distancing and increased hygiene routines continue to be maintained. Lower school will finish at 3.15pm everyday after Easter, including Fridays. If your child received a positive result from a home testing kit, please self isolate immediately and then take a PCR test. If the PCR is negative then the self isolation can end and your child returns to school. If the PCR is positive then your child and the family will need to follow the self isolation guidance. You can access the full risk assessment on the parents tab of our school website.

Thank you to all our students and families who have been completing their twice weekly Covid19 test. It has meant less interruptions to teaching time and a big reduction on the risk of close contacts needing to self isolate too. Please continue testing twice a week throughout the Easter Holidays. If your child or any of your household receive a positive test result, please email [absence@heathlands.herts.sch.uk](mailto:absence@heathlands.herts.sch.uk) with confirmation of the positive test result.



Heathlands received funding from the British Science Association to run three fabulous science shows in early March which were hosted by Mr Rodgers and assisted by Dr Cameron from the University of Edinburgh. Both upper and lower school pupils enjoyed the events and there was also a Community show too so many other schools, children and families were able to take part. There were also special science activities in school too and we learnt more about famous Deaf scientists, will one of our students be the next?!



Are you eligible for Free School Meals? If you receive certain benefits such as Income Support and Universal Credit, your child might be eligible for Free School Meals. Please contact the school office if you think you qualify- [admin@heathlands.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@heathlands.herts.sch.uk) Vouchers have been sent electronically to all families in receipt of FSM and cover both Easter holiday and the Whitsun half term in May.

We will be welcoming Mr Farooq who will be teaching Tree Frogs after the Easter holidays. Mr Farooq is an ex pupil of Heathlands and is looking forward to making his mark as a teacher. Ms Fletcher will be moving from Tree Frogs to Upper School where she will be covering Mrs Marris' maternity leave. We all wish Mrs Marris the best of luck! Photo of Mr Farooq to follow.

