

Heathlands Newsletter - Summer Term

July 2021



WE MADE IT!

What a year it has been for everyone! And as always we are very proud of all students, staff and families for working as hard as they can with their learning! The summer term has been increasingly difficult with Covid cases rising, but continued vigilance from everyone has minimized disruption. The word 'Covid' is said in a similar tone to how 'Voldemort' is said (or isn't!) in Harry Potter- we know our Year 6 students know what we mean!

This year has had so many highs; our student numbers continue to increase and we have been inundated by requests for students to join Heathlands for trials and placements. The progress that our students have made through out the disrupted year has been outstanding and is down to the positive learning ethos instilled in students and the dedication of our staff team. Our staff continue to amaze us, they are now experts at switching to remote learning and work hard to ensure quality education is delivered virtually. We look forward to the Year 11 results day in early August when students will be rewarded for their hard work and efforts before their next step towards KS5.

This term has seen numerous celebration weeks such as Science, Wellbeing, Sustainability, Pride and Book Week giving all students a journey of discovery and greater understanding. Both Upper and Lower school sports days were brilliantly organized, many thanks to Mr Priestley with all students competing and challenging themselves to be the best they can be!

And as always, we look forward now to a new school year where Heathlands will continue to approach teaching and learning with dedication to ensure every child receives their best opportunities.

Staffing Changes.

Parent Checklist.

- Read the school uniform rules and expectations to ensure your child is presented and equipped for school.
- Monitor your child's online activity during the school break.
- Ensure Lateral Flow Tests are continued throughout the holidays and report any positive case to NHS Track and Trace.

This year we say a fond farewell to Ms Miller who moves on to continue her teaching career at another deaf school. We say best wishes to Ms Atkinson in her next adventure and good luck to Ms Sadler who is beginning her teaching qualification. This summer we also say a temporary goodbye to staff expecting babies; Mrs Walker and Mrs Tharby. We wait to hear the exciting news that their babies have arrived safely.



Next term we welcome new teaching staff; Ms Norman in Lower School and Mr Manoochhehri teaching maths and Mr Deo teaching English in Upper School. We also have some new LSAs joining us. In September you can expect to be contacted by your child's class or form teacher introducing themselves and any key staff working with your child.

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Alpacas and Toucans have been learning about pets and how to care for them



Forest School session was enjoyed by **Monkeys** and other classes



Jaguars class made Rhubarb tarts whilst learning about seasonal food



Nursery class enjoyed our Forest School camp fire

Lower School

Heathlands pupils enjoyed watching our chicks hatch.



Classes learnt how to care for our fluffy new arrivals!

'Friendship' as part of Wellbeing week



Heathlands bus became a Reading Bus for **book week** this year!

Lower School



Lower School had a surprise visit from the police

Monkeys Class welcomed their parents for the first Sign & Play



Piranhas and Jaguars class were given a loan by Virgin Money to create and set up a Young Enterprise project, learning how businesses work.



Piranhas Class have been studying Harry Potter in English this term and enjoyed a day at the Harry Potter Studio Tour

The pupils, in Sloths, Tree Frogs and Iguanas Classes enjoyed swimming this term!



Sloth class walked to the post box



Some of the pupils in **KS2** enjoyed a fantastic story read by Dr Rosenberg



Some interesting sensory resources, for investigating, have appeared in the Lower school corridors outside **EYFS** and **KS1**





Upper School



US11 have enjoyed some outdoor learning time as they've been completing their Ecology required practical work

US7 celebrating the theme Sustainability by using off-cuts of manufactured boards to make their storage items.



Year 10s and 11s had a series of virtual presentations from local and deaf colleges to help them plan for transition

US wellbeing week, enjoying a game of chess



US4 students what a magnetic field is and that the Earth has a magnetic field

Jordan Marchant an ex-Heathlands pupil gave a presentation on what he has achieved since leaving Heathlands and in particular how he has excelled in Chess



Some of the students from **KS3** took part in a drama workshop to explore melodrama.

Some students enjoyed a taster yoga workshop





Upper School

KS3 Geography Summer Term means getting out and investigating real life geography. Of course, we haven't been able to go too far due to restrictions, but the Year 7s have been looking at the environment around the school and Years 8 & 9 spent a morning in St Albans looking at sustainability. The students develop their fieldwork skills and how to present and analyse the data they have collected as well as testing the ideas learnt in lessons in the real world.



KS4 College 'Tours' Normally at this time of year, students in Year 10 are visiting local colleges and National schools for the Deaf in preparation for transition at the end of Year 11. A number of local colleges with big deaf units and Schools for the Deaf have Students in both years 10 & 11 have joined us via zoom to tell us what life is like in their institution and also to answer questions our students have. It's been lovely to see some of our ex-students doing so well and promoting their new placements.



Year 10 students had an Artist Presentation Zoom session with Blanche Neville School on 1st July where they discussed their favourite artwork, and a lot of questions were asked. We are hoping to do another session involving an art activity in the new school year- in person if



Upper Sports Day was thoroughly enjoyed by all on Thursday 15th and **Lower Sports** afternoon on Monday 19th. Sadly our parents could not attend this year but we were delighted to be able to go ahead with the events.

Student Leaders enjoyed a sandwiches and doughnuts after a year of giving fantastic support to our students



All the year 11s had a fun day out to say goodbye to those leaving Heathlands this year. Letchworth & Teamwork's Karting.

Many congratulations to our **Year 11 leavers**. We are proud of you all and wish you well for the future



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Upper School

Student Leadership

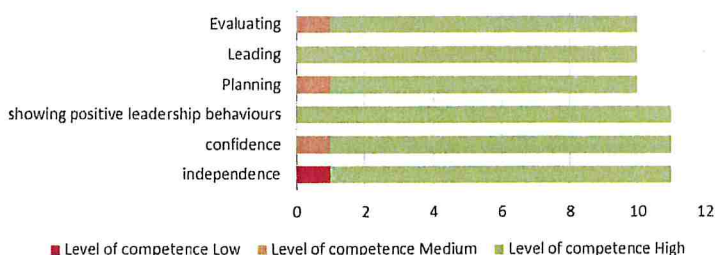
This year we have continued to do work to make sure our students feel empowered and have a say in how they feel aspects of Heathlands should run. Despite the covid pandemic, our student leaders continued to take part in a range of opportunities to develop their leadership skills.

Heathlands School has different focus groups including the Student Council which consist of elected representatives from every for group. These student leaders are led by staff working with them in focus groups. We are proud of them for the qualities that they bring to this position: responsibility, positive leadership behaviour, team -skills and a commitment to improving the life of the Heathland.

This year our student leaders led a number of activities that benefit our students ranging from charity activities to assisting with younger students. They attended training and meetings to plan, lead and evaluate activities. We know our student leaders played a huge part in the school community and worked hard to develop their leadership skills. We would like to share with you some data that shows how well students made progress in developing their leadership skills.

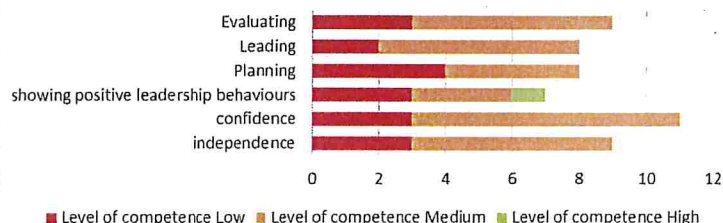
In September 2020, a baseline was carried out; this shows student leaders felt they have not become highly competent in most of the areas.

Student Self Assessment of Leadership Skills - June 2021



In July, the same baseline assessment was carried out; this shows the majority of students felt they have become competent in most of the areas. This is very positive news for us; this shows the student leadership programme is having an impact on developing a positive perception of their leadership skills.

Student Self Assessment of Leadership skills - Sept 2020



Here are some video clips of student leaders sharing their experiences of the leadership programme.



Summer Rewards Trips 2021



Upper School has their long awaited end of year rewards trips! Every group had an amazing time. Here's a taster from the Skate Park trip. More pictures to come on our Heathlands Facebook page. The coaches said *"what an amazing bunch of kids, best school group we have ever had"*. We are really proud of our Heathlands students who represented the school so well.

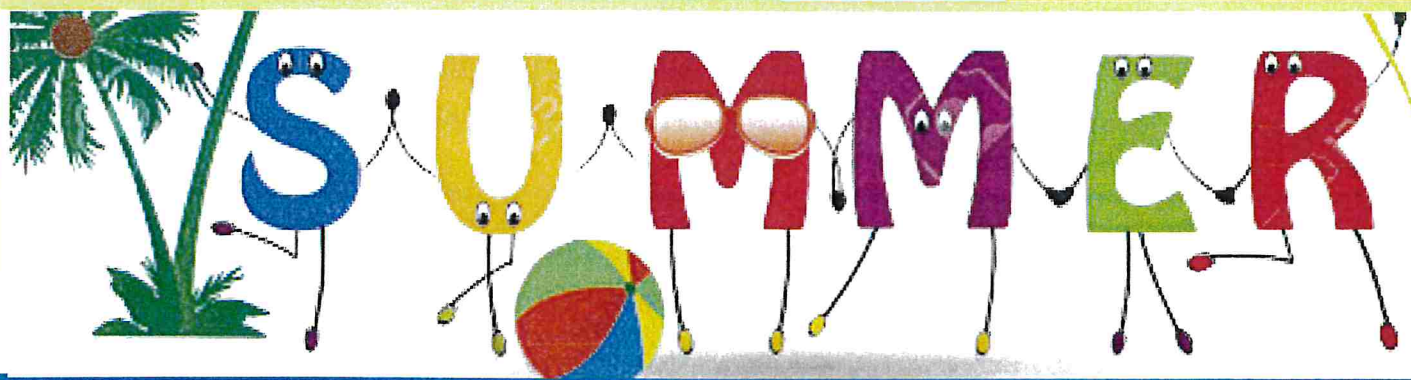


Those pupils on the gold summer reward trip had a slip sliding time at the Orbit in London!

Upper School students on the silver reward trip had a fabulous time at Whipsnade Zoo today. It was very hot so lots of the animals were sleeping (which some of our students would have liked to be doing too!) but they managed to spot lots of amazing animals and even had butterflies landing on their hands.



The coaches said *"what an amazing bunch of kids, best school group we have ever had"*.



Heath House - Summer Term 2021

This term.

Covid rules meant for the first half of the term children and young people were unable to venture out of Heath House. However since rules relaxed the outings have been back on, which the children and young people were really pleased about. Heath House has had many visiting young people over the term and children have enjoyed getting to know others and have welcomed them in to the Heath House family. This term we have celebrated many birthdays and said a fond farewell to our year 11 leaver.

Bike repairs

Some of the young people learnt how to maintain the Heath House bikes. They also learnt how to independently change a tire and repair a puncture.



Freewalking

Some of the young people have been learning free walking skills. One young person said "I been go shop learn buy cookery ingredients. I been pay by myself".



Pride week

A number of the young people worked together to create a banner to celebrate pride week. All the young people spoke openly about accepting everyone for who they



Tuck shop. As the young people have been unable to go shopping we set up a tuck shop to develop skills. One young person said "I run tuck shop I learn how count money work



Chess: This term a number of young people have been learning how to play chess. They play most nights after homework and before school. They even painted the patio like a



Design technology: Some of the young people have been attending an after school technology club. They have learnt new skills. They learnt how to make a clock out resin.

High ropes: Our first outing outside of lockdown was high ropes. The young people jumped at the opportunity to try something new. They really enjoyed themselves and a number of them overcame fears of heights and completed the course. Some of the young people said "I been really enjoy high ropes. At first I feel nervous and scared but determined finish course. Feel happy been finish". "High ropes hard make hand hurt legs feel shake but good fun".





High tea: We has to say goodbye and good luck to Keren this term but enjoyed our last night with her by celebrating with a high tea.

Year 11: We also had to say had to say a very sad goodbye and good luck to a year 11 young person who has been a member of Heath House



Roast dinner: One young person learnt how to cook a roast dinner from scratch with staff support. They said "I learn cook roast dinner it hard work lots do same time but fun learn loads."



Dietary requirements: Some of the young people have been learning about dietary requirements. They have been learning to make vegetarian or pork alternative meals in the eve-



Birthdays: This term the young people have celebrated a number of birthdays. They have researched recipes gone out to the shops to buy ingredients and baked cakes for one and



New skills: A number of the young people have been learning new skills whilst cooking. Staff have been teaching and challenging the young people to further develop



Chilli and cleaning: The young people have been learning to support one and another in the kitchen. Some of the young people made a chilli whilst there peers helped to tidy and



Baking: Some of the young people have learnt to bake biscuits and other such treat for each other. One child said "I learn make biscuits for friends and staff. Taste really nice".

Volley ball: The young people have also been learning how to play volley ball. They have been learning the rules and practicing in the evenings. They even went to a local park and played on one of the sand volley ball



Park visits: This term we have visited a number of parks as the weather has is getting better. One young person said "I like go different park have fun with friends in sun".



Art and crafts: They also spent time doing some art together

Homework: Some young people have been getting one to one support form our home-

Cycling: Some of the children have used the bikes to exercise and gone cycling in the local woods together.



Hall games: As we have been restricted in going out this term the young people have had to be resourceful and created a number of new games.

Euro's: The young people have really enjoyed watching the euro's in the evenings this term. They were fully behind England.

Heathlands Newsletter - Summer Term

BSL

Well done to all our learners this year, you have persevered with zoom learning and then following the COVID rules when we returned to face to face teaching.

Zayne and I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching you all this year despite the roller coaster ride.

You have all done well sitting exams and will receive the results as soon as they come in.

Feedback from you all has been lovely and we really appreciate the comments from our teaching groups.



Good luck to all learners awaiting exam results!

All learners can now take a well earned rest over the summer break and come back ready for the next level in their BSL journey in September.

The new curriculums for BSL level 3 and 4 have worked well. Zayne and I have both enjoyed the courses and the way the curriculum works.

We have also noticed learners are focusing more on their BSL skills, which is what we had hoped would happen.

Parents Support group

We have trialed an online group this year run by Zayne. He has enjoyed meeting the parents and discussing various topics about raising a Deaf child.

Starting in September we will have our face to face parents group back at a new time of 2.00pm-3.00pm on Monday afternoons before school finishes, for parents who are able to attend. And a second online group on Thursday afternoons 1.30pm-2.30pm for parents who are unable to attend due to distance.

We hope more parents can join the groups and share experiences or ideas.

"I enjoyed the BSL Level 4 course, there were lots of good learning points, a varied approach and we were well prepared for exams!"

BSL Level 4 Learner 2020-2021

"I like the face to face tuition, but also like all the information being on google classroom"

- Parent Support Group -

Examples of topics that will be discussed -

- What audiological devices are available to aid my Deaf child's residual hearing?
- Which school would be best for my Deaf child?
- What is an EHCP? How do I get one for my child?
- Best form of communication? (BSL/SSe/Oralism/Total Communication/Bilingualism)
- Services and Charities that can help support you and your Deaf child.
- Tiredness in Deaf children - why is this an issue? Ideas to help them cope.
- Disciplining my Deaf Child & discussion about Visual Misunderstandings.
- How to improve your Deaf child's English skills.
- Working along with Professionals that are involved with your Deaf child.
- Discrimination Issues related to Deafness.
- Employment opportunities for Deaf people.
- What benefits are parents of Deaf children/Deaf children entitled to?
- Having a Deaf child in a Hearing family.
- Technology in the Home.
- Sign Language Week.
- Exploring your feelings about having a Deaf child, including is grieving acceptable?
- Mental Health.
- Deaf History.
- Exploring Deaf Culture.
- Deaf Politics.
- Deaf Awareness Week.
- Deaf Identity.
- Entertainment & Social Media related to Deafness.
- Encouraging Independent Living.
- Your Deaf child's future.

"I feel in a much better position now to make decisions for my Deaf child when I need to" - Melissa

There will be special guests appearing at some sessions too

Course will be led by Zayne Thomson, Deaf teacher & Tracy Bailey, Deaf instructor

"It's an eye opener." - Holiday

"This course feels like a celebration for Deafness" - Dani

Interested?

Please contact bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk for more details.

Heathlands Newsletter - Summer Term 2021

BSL

"I found the course engaging and interesting. I found myself using more sign as the course gave me confidence. I enjoyed the games, videos to help on google classroom and the homework!"

BSL level 1 learner 2021
2020

What makes the BSL Centre a great place to learn?

Both teachers have a wealth of experience teaching all levels and assessing learners. And both have won awards from Signature.

We have a large resource base that learners are able to access, including books, DVD's and online materiel via google class-room.

Classes are interactive, homework is given and learner participation is essential for you to develop your BSL skills.

We hope to see you a course soon!

September 2021 courses

BSL COURSE

Signature
**BRITISH SIGN
LANGUAGE
COURSES**
**September 2021 —
July 2022**

- . Deaf Awareness and communication tactics Course
 - . BSL level 1
- . BSL Level 1 young people
 - . BSL level 2
 - . BSL level 3
 - . BSL Level 4
 - . BSL Level 6

For more information-
bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk
<https://heathlands.herts.sch.uk/bsl-courses/>

September courses are open for enrolments, with some courses booking up fast!

If you already have a BSL qualification or are a signer and unsure of your skill level we also provide skill assessments.

Please see Heathlands website to enroll on a course or email bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk for more information.

- BSL Centre Present -

Parents of Deaf Children Support Group

- Are you a parent of a Deaf child?
- Do you live in Hertfordshire?
- Do you feel there is a lack of support in raising a Deaf child?

Then we have a free course for you!
The course is offered twice a week.

Every Monday 2pm-3pm at the BSL Centre.	Every Thursday 1:30pm – 2:30pm on Zoom.
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Deaf parents are also welcome!

This course is designed to support parents of Deaf children. Every week we will be discussing a different topic relating to Deafness and support for you and your child. Our aim is to help you and your child feel more confident.

"Courses are interactive, confidence building, energetic and fun!"

BSL level 3 learner 2021 2020

"It was excellent experience, thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of course"

BSL Level 3 learner 2020-2021



Parents' Page - Summer Term 2021

Friends of Heathlands (FoH)

FoH are looking for new members. Come along in September to the AGM and join up! If you can't make it to school then join on Zoom to find out what is going on and how you can help.

We need people:

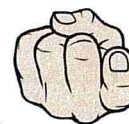
- ⇒ Decision makers, who are happy to meet regularly
- ⇒ Volunteers, who are happy to help at events



FoH Events



AGM
Thursday
16th
September



Upper School
Winter Celebration
Thursday 16th
December



Lower School
Winter Party
Friday 17th
December

Summer Fete 2022
Saturday 9th
July



Guinness World Record Opportunity!



We have been approached by the Guinness World Book of Records, they are looking to break a record. In September we will be trying to break the Signed Song Relay with the song 'I can sign a rainbow' It would be great if you could learn the song so you can be involved. They will also have plenty of opportunities for students to break other records, like fastest alphabet fingerspeller or quickest to out on their socks!

Red and yellow and pink and green
Purple and orange and blue
I can sign a rainbow,
sign a rainbow, sign a rainbow.

Listen with your eyes, Listen with your ears,
and sign everything you see,
I can sign a rainbow,

Summer Fun for deaf children!

Pheonix group have activities open to the whole family

www.pheonixgroup.org.uk



Remark! Youth club or play schemes
<https://www.remarkcommunity.org>

Or find your local NDCS group



Red and yellow and pink and green



Purple and orange and blue



I can sign a rainbow,



sign a rainbow, sign a rainbow.



Listen with your eyes, Listen with your ears,



and sign everything you see,



I can sign a rainbow, sign a rainbow,



sign along with me.





HEATHLANDS

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Nursery, Primary & Secondary Provision, Day & Residential, BSL Training & Resource Centre

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HOLIDAY DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021 - 2022

Autumn Term 2021

Inset Days	Wed 1 Sept 2021 – Fri 3 Sept 2021 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Mon 6 September 2021
Half Term Holiday	Mon 25 October 2021 – Fri 29 October 2021
Occasional Day	Mon 29 November 2021 (no pupils in school)
Term Ends	Fri 17 December 2021 @ 12.30pm
Inset Days	Mon 20 Dec 2021 – Tues 21 Dec 2021 (no pupils in school)

Spring Term 2022

Term Starts	Wed 5 January 2022
Half Term Holiday	Mon 14 February 2022– Fri 18 February 2022
Term Ends	Fri 1 April 2022 @ 12.30pm

Summer Term 2022

Term Starts	Tues 19 April 2022
Bank Holiday	Mon 2 May 2022
Half Term Holiday	Mon 30 May 2022 – Fri 3 June 2022
Term Ends	Fri 22 July 2022 @ 12.30pm

Any changes or amendments will be announced on our website
www.heathlands.herts.sch.uk