

December 2021

Heathlands
School—Autumn
Term 2021

Heathlands Newsletter

Autumn Term 2021

Dear all,

Congratulations!

Following Ms Oyin Kalejaiye nomination and successful re-appointment as Parent Governor, we at Heathlands look forward to the new year ahead.

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A warm welcome also to:

- Ms Heaney our BSL centre administrator.
- Ms Owens our new Speech and Language Assistant.
- Ms Malik, Whales LSA.
- Ms Brown, Dolphins LSA.
- Ms Savage, Upper LSA
- Ms Bibi, Upper LSA
- Ms Prestidge, Family Support Worker.
- Mrs White our new School Business Officer.

What a fantastic start to the school year we have had so far! This term has been full of excitement and opportunities, we have enjoyed seeing the students learning and Heathlands being a busy hub full of happy children and young people.

Some highlights of this term has been our specialist Science week in upper school, Interfaith Week, Just Talk week and Black History events; meeting some fantastic deaf role models such as Chris Fonseca, Christopher Laing and Semhar Beyene not to mention the joy of meeting Rose Ayling—Ellis and her Strictly Come dancing partner Giovanni! Heathlands has been featured in the media several times already this term and we hope everyone saw BBC See Hear who recorded our Guinness World Record achievement back in September! Also this term we have had a photographer in to take new photos for our school website and know parents will enjoying seeing these in the coming term. The photos capture the joy and fun students have in their learning and reflect what a wonderful school community we have at Heathlands.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a restful new year, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

At the end of this term we are saying **fond farewells** to some staff.

Firstly Ms Kerntiff will be leaving us to take up her new role in another authority. We have been proud of Ms Kerntiff's development in her time at Heathlands; starting as a learning support assistant and later completing her training and becoming a qualified Teacher of the Deaf. She will be missed dearly by all the students and staff at Heathlands for her enthusiasm and dedication but we wish her all the best in her new job.

Mrs Coxhall will also be temporarily leaving us in December to have her baby. She hopes to return to Heathlands in September to begin the new school year. We wish her all the best in her new role of being a mum and as always, we look forward to meeting the newest Heathlands baby!

We are excited to welcome Ms Cornwell and Ms Richards who will replace our departing staff, they will be in contact with their class parents in January to introduce themselves. We are very lucky to have secured two new fantastic teachers and know the students and parents will make them feel welcome.

Dr Rosenberg is also moving onto pastures new, taking up a research post within a University but continuing to focus on Deaf education. Heathlands have benefitted from Dr Rosenberg's academic links through his teaching and learning but also his US links by involving us with Gallaudet University's Academic Bowl and Battle of the Books which we intend to continue with (Blue and Buff team are doing well this year!) We are fortunate that Dr Rosenberg will continue links with Heathlands as part of his research but also in our tutoring programme. Mr Thompson will move over from the BSL Centre to replace Dr Rosenberg from January and we are looking forward to having him start.

Mrs Humphries will be leaving us after working incredibly hard as our Examinations and Finance Officer for Heathlands we thank her and wish her well in her next chapter.

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September book swap was a huge success!

Dolphins class enjoyed visiting Frank Barnes School in September for a BSL Celebration Day.



Lower School classes having fun exploring the library to select their own class-room books.



Some of the students from Seahorses class went to have a look at the See it, Be it exhibition. #toylikeus

Whales, Seahorses and Dolphins class had a fantastic morning in November when Chris Fonseca came to do a dance class with them. They really enjoyed it and found the workshop really inspiring. This was one of the events linked to our Black History Month.



Children in Whales class picked some of the potatoes and carrots they planted last year. They then roasted them using herbs from the school herb garden.

Some of the carrots were very interesting shapes!

Some lower school pupils have been attending Netball Club after school.



Sign & Play was busy again with parents and younger siblings.

Some of the pupils from Starfish, Sharks, Turtles and Octopus classes were very lucky to have Semhar Beyene visit from the CBeebies show Magic Hands. Semhar did a sign singing workshop with the children. They really enjoyed it and found her an inspiring role model. They enjoyed dancing and singing along to the music. If you want to see Semhar's beautiful sign singing, you will find it in the link to Magic Hands below.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/.../magic-hands-black-history-songs...>

Thank you

A huge thank you to the Co-op. We have come to the end of our time as part of the Co-op's Chosen Charity Campaign and they have donated us a very generous £2,067.19. We have put this towards our Sensory pathway. THANK YOU.

Octopus class have been learning about different properties of materials in Science.



Turtles went on a bear hunt, 'we're not scared' they said. They went through the swishy swashy grass, splash splashed through puddles, collected squelchy mud and entered the big dark forest.



Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone's harvest generosity we have been able to take a bit of food to the food bank.



Pupils in Whales, Dolphins and Seahorse classes started their Ancient Egyptian topic with a visit from an Egyptian Pharaoh and completing a number of quests. They then visited the British Museum virtually.

Heathlands Crazy Hair Day in aid of the deaf school we support in The Gambia was a success in November. Here is what it looked like in Sharks class.



Starfish pupils made a 'Pumphog' using pencils being hammered in carefully to the orange skin! Pumphog was then hidden in the trees for others to find!



Black History Month

As part of our Black History Month focus, Upper School and Seahorses and Dolphins classes had a visiting presenter. Ahmed Mudawi is a British TV presenter and consultant. He is Deaf and a British Sign Language user. Ahmed gave a fascinating talk on black history month and the achievements of some amazing members of the black deaf community in the UK. Students had many interesting and thoughtful questions after the presentation and were disappointed when it was time to go back to lessons!



As part of Just Talk week Peer Champion student leaders led an assembly for Lower School on the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. They also introduced a "what's my worry" box as a way for younger pupils to get in touch with the peer champions.



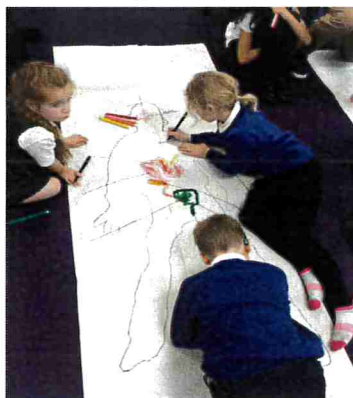
As part of Guinness World Record week pupils had a visit from Beth Lodge, a Scientist and gymnast who, through lock down, achieved two world records.



Turtles Class joined the rest of the school for an act of remembrance at 11 am on 11th November. Before this they made their own poppies to wear.



Dolphins Class have been learning about the digestive system.



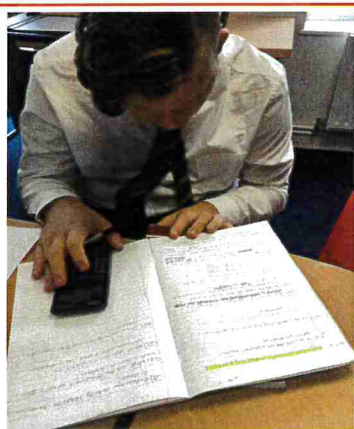
Starfish Class have been learning about Pets. They all painted the toy black dog (who looks very real!) called 'Crackers'!

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As part of our black history month focus and in line with Herts Against Hate Week Y11 and Y12 students created a presentation for all Upper School Form groups to learn about hate crime.



Y11 worked on their exam technique in Biology.



10A presented their research on different continents.



Y10 have been working hard learning how to work with small numbers for calculations in microscopy.

Alpha class have been making bird boxes in the D&T workshop.



Chess club is back in Upper School!



Beta class has been learning about forces. They used a force meter to measure force.

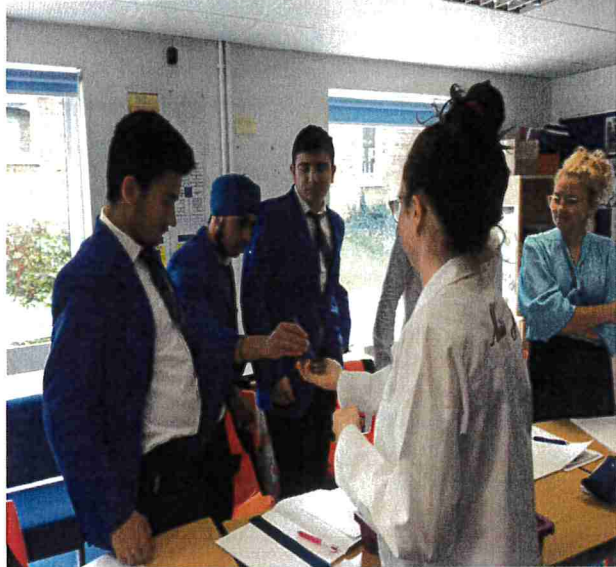
Book Swap



11D students visited St Luke's School as part of their animal care course.



Y11 and 12 have been learning about the effects of alcohol on the liver.



As part of our black history month, black deaf role models events programme Upper School, Seahorses and Dolphins had an interesting Zoom session with Christopher Laing. Chris is an Architect. His research interests include DeafSpace and how to build bridges between Deafness and Architecture. He is a British Sign Language user and a co-founder of Signstrokes, an online facility that informs BSL interpreters and Deaf users of BSL architectural terms.

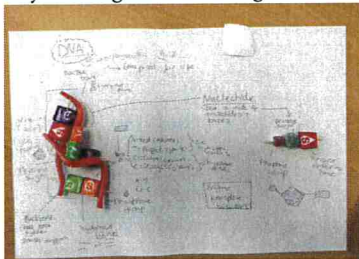


Facebook

Check out & 'like' the Heathlands School Facebook page for fantastic videos, photos and news!



Y10 demonstrated their fantastic learning on the structure of DNA by making models using sweets.

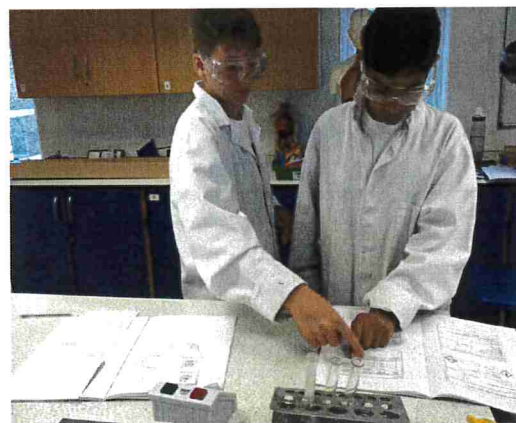


As part of their learning on the respiratory system Zeta class made a model to demonstrate inhalation and exhalation in the lungs.

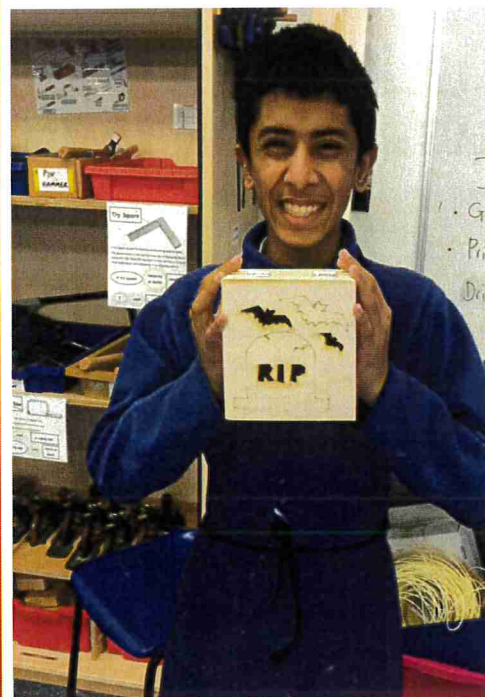


*Congratulations Heathlands!
World Record holders*

Delta carried out an investigation to see how the concentration of an acid affects the rate of a reaction.



Epsilon class have made fantastic spooky Halloween themed light boxes.



Delta class have been working hard on their revision mind maps. Some students chose to work together.

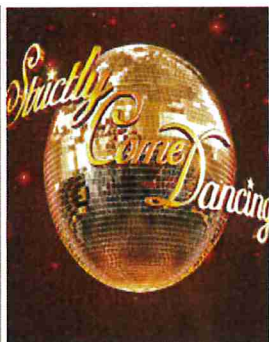
Upper School

GCSE Chemistry and Physics Required Practical Investigation Project We wanted our students to experience the excitement and value of chemistry and physics, and to understand that sciences are relevant to their everyday lives. We received funds from: *The Royal Society of Chemistry & The Institute of Physics* to enable us to work with Dr Audrey Cameron, Fifi Garfield, Dr Iain Poplett and Mark Stocks.

The GCSE Chemistry and Physics project took place during the Autumn term involving the Upper School students making and evaluating video clips of the GCSE required practical investigations. Our students did a fantastic job in making a lot of video clips that will be eventually on our school website. The project has helped out students to develop their presentation, engagement and team working skills.



Upper school students enjoyed an optional lunchtime dance workshop and a fascinating assembly on dance styles yesterday when Chris Fonseca came to visit. Thank you very much indeed to Chris Fonseca and Semhar Beyene for visiting and sharing your talents with the students.

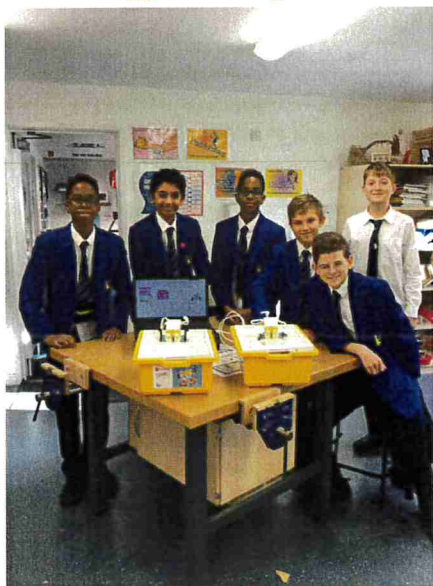


The Drama students and Year 12's were fortunate

to take part in a Deafinitely Youth Theatre workshop in November where they had some surprise guests! Rose Ayling Ellis was involved with Deafinitely Youth at the start of her career and gave the children lots of acting tips. They were both pleased to take home a Heathlands fleece with Rose remarking that Gio was 'now more cuddly!' Rose is a brilliant ambassador for the Deaf community and a role model for all at Heathlands. Go and grab that Glitterball!



A sense of achievement in making your own product.



Beta and Delta classes were creative in art class working out individually how to create the colour wheel in different ways using only coloured paper or card.

The new Student Leaders along with last year's Student Leaders had their first training of the school year where they learnt what are the qualities of a good leader and what is bad leadership. They learnt through presentations, discussions and activities.



Some of our student leaders have been chosen to be Peer Champions. As part of their role in promoting wellbeing and anti-bullying across the school our Peer Champions are working with younger pupils as role models. Here are some photos of them in action building relationships and leading games at lunchtime



Heathlands Newsletter for Heath House Autumn



Pool party: After the summer we were fortunate enough to be able to have utilise the last of the sunshine by having a private pool party at a local school. One child said "I really enjoyed pool party, was good fun we played lots of games. Best part we had pool to ourselves".

This term: This has been a positive term for the children and young people they have really enjoyed getting back together after a long summer. They have also made many new friends as we have had a number of new additions to our ever growing Heath House family. We have also been fortunate enough to welcome a new member of staff to the team in Grace who looks forward to the new challenges her role will present.

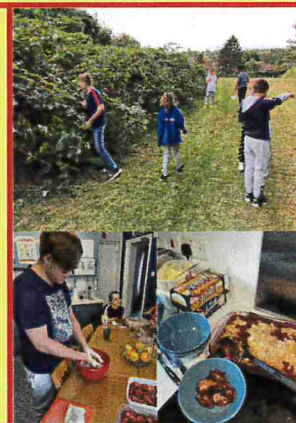
Dunstable Downs:

The young people had a go at flying some stunt kites at Dunstable Downs. The young people enjoyed this activity although they found it difficult as we lost the wind. However they did enjoy the view from atop the hill.



Blackberry picking: Some of the young people went blackberry picking this term. They managed to gather quite a number of berries which they enjoyed finding a recipe and turning into a blackberry crumble. One child said "I enjoy pick fruit we got loads".

Another child said "We found recipe for Blackberry crumble. We follow recipe make crumble. Really delicious".



Quasar: This term the young people enjoyed going to Quasar. We visited a new centre where the young people had a really good time.

One young person said "I really enjoyed this activity. We picked two teams red and green then played quasar. We played two games red team won both".



Cinema: The young people went to the cinema this term they watched the latest Marvel film. They learnt to pay for their own tickets and snacks.

One young person said "This film was fantastic really enjoyed it. Want go cinema again".



Furniture: The young people dismantled some of the old bedroom furniture and help to put together and build a number of new cupboards, draws and beds.

Halloween: The young people enjoyed celebrating Halloween. They went shopping for pumpkins researched and carved their pumpkin ideas. These were then judge and winners chosen. We had a Halloween buffet dinner and a party.



Skateboards and scooters: This term we ordered the young people some skateboards and scooters. The young people helped to put these together and enjoyed using them.

Birthdays: The young people this term have been helping one another celebrate their birthdays by baking one and another their birthdays cakes.





Gardening: Some of the young people have been doing some gardening. They tidied up a garden patch. They went to a local garden centre where they were able to buy new plants and bulbs. The young people were then shown by staff how to plant these in the correct way.

One child said "I enjoyed doing gardening but it hard work".



Karate: Some of the young people have been attending Karate classes. They have been enjoying this activity and a number of the young people have shown an interest to pursue it further. One child said "One child said I been enjoy activity".

Washing: The young people have continued to learn to manage their washing. They have been learning how to use the washing machine and dryer. They have also learnt to fold it as well.



St Johns deaf club: A number of the young people have been attending this activity. They have learnt the journey to the deaf club. They have had to walk to the station, pay for a ticket and catch a train to get there. The young people have made some new friends.

Park: Some of the younger children have enjoyed going to a local park to play as well as going to the local shops for a treat.

Water colour painting:

This term the young people had a go at learning how to use water colours.

One child said "I enjoy learn new skills and try make nice picture".



Cooking: The young people have continued to get involved in cooking. They have been learning to make a wide variety of new recipes and learning how to cook without support or guidance from staff.

Shopping: Some of the young people have been acquiring free walking permission to go out in the evenings. Others have gone with staff but all have been practicing their money management skills by going to the shops regularly to buy a treat or to buy ingredients for cooking.



Hall games: Now that the weather is starting to change, the young people have been making more use of the school hall to play games and take part in activities. They have spent time playing bench ball, badminton, volley ball, table tennis and dodgeball.



Glass painting: Some of the young people have been getting ready for Christmas by decorating the glass panels on the Heath House stairs with their Christmas art work.

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Welcome back to the BSL Centre to learners who have studied with us previously and a warm welcome to new learners. We currently have 82 learners on levels 1-6.

BSL

We said farewell to our Centre Administrator Lise before the Summer and have welcomed Sharon into our team. We look forward to working with Sharon to develop the BSL Centre. Sharon started last week and has been getting to know the BSL Centre routines and learners.



BSL Level 1 and Level 1 young people

BSL Level 1 courses are doing 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.

Exams have gone well
so far for level 1
learners!

BSL Level 2s

We have another two lovely classes of Level 2 learners this year. All are doing well developing their vocabulary and learning sentence structure.

They are discovering more about regional variations and receptive clips in preparation for their receptive exams next year.

Can you list 10 regional variations in signs?



BSL

BSL Level 3



We have two level 3 classes this year, they have been learning linguistics and developing their skills with the additional knowledge.

This is what we call the realisation level, where learners realise there is more to BSL than just the language and learning vocabulary.

The history, culture and social side to BSL is much greater than learners realise until Level 3, this is where they learn

BSL Level 4 and Level 6

I love teaching BSL Level 4 and Level 6, this is where the learners have communication skills they couldn't see themselves using when they first started BSL Level 1.

Level 4 enables the learner to continue developing their linguistic knowledge and put this into practice with productive skills.

Both levels develop vocabulary knowledge within different areas; medical, law, political, social and more.

Level 6 learners tend to reflect more on their journey so far and then set their sights on where they want to go with their BSL skills. They may decide to become Communicators or continue into Interpreting.

Seeing a learner through each level of BSL is magical, their understanding of how to use BSL and their ability to sign is very noticeable at each level they achieve. It's one of the best things in teaching.

**"I learn
something new
every week in
class"**

Level 4 learner

2022

New courses for 2022-

BSL Level 1 fast track on Tuesday Evenings
6pm-9pm places are filling up fast!

Please see website to enroll or e-mail
bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk



Parent Page

Guinness World Record

In September we were recognized as 'Officially Amazing' by the Guinness World Record team. All staff, pupils and parents and the school community came to be a part of the event. The aim was to achieve 150 people signing a Nursery Rhyme in BSL we achieved 242! Thank you so much to all those families who attended and made the event a success. We now have the certificate framed and on the wall in the school reception. We were lucky enough to have SEE Hear attend to film and document the result. You can see this on BBC iplayer episode Series 41: Episode 8. Well done to all the students who tried to get an individual record for fingerspelling the alphabet, we weren't quite quick enough. There is no reason why you couldn't try again!



Summer Fete

Big news! We hope to have this event back that was postponed from 2020. The new date for your diary is Saturday 9th July, 12-4. We are looking for families who can offer time to help volunteer or set up a stall. Should you want to share your ideas or to offer help please email friends@heathlands.herts.sch.uk



Friends of Heathlands

We were very thankful to Neal Caws for his tireless support as Chair of Heathlands since it's beginning in 2016, he decided to step down this year due to work commitments. The hunt started for a new star to shine and we have been lucky to recruit Elizabeth Sly as our new Chair. She has lots of ideas and enthusiasm and ready to take us forward. See below pictures of the new team. We have regular meetings on zoom on Thursday evenings. Everyone is welcome who would like to support. Meeting dates below, see you on Zoom! Meeting ID: 593 796 6989 Passcode: 7A8rye

FoH Meeting Dates. All at 7pm on Zoom

- ♦ Thursday 13th January
- ♦ Thursday 3rd March
- ♦ Thursday 28th April
- ♦ Thursday 26th May
- ♦ Thursday 30th June

FoH Committee



Chairperson
Elizabeth Sly



Secretary
Saurabh Mittal



Treasurer

Heathlands Newsletter



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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