

Heathlands Summer Term Newsletter 2022



Welcome to the end of another school year, and what an eventful year it has been!

Heathlands has been so busy this term/ year and we are feeling so proud of our school community. The school and residential department is as strong as ever with Heath House getting an Outstanding Ofsted report in March. Our pupil numbers are strong, our staff team have never been so talented and our parents and families remain our biggest supporters. It has been lovely to welcome you back into school for events such as sports days, the parent and CoHeads meeting and the school summer fete.

Our student numbers have never been so high in all departments of the school, especially in our residential department Heath House which has expanded dramatically over the past two years. We are tight on space in school and have been working closely with Richard Dougherty, a deaf architect. Richard has come into school, met the staff and students and has a good understanding of what is needed to make some specialist space for deaf learners. It is an exciting project and are fortunate to have Richard working with us. We are looking forward to some building work starting next year and hope that meeting a talented deaf architect like Richard inspires some of our young people to become architects in the future!

A big thank you to all our parents that took the time to complete the parents questionnaire earlier in the term. It was fantastic to see that all parents agreed that their child makes good progress at Heathlands and that they felt their child is taught well. It was clear to see that parents appreciated a good standard of behaviour in the school and recognised that lessons are not disrupted by poor behaviour. There was a clear appreciation of the work the school had done to keep learning at the forefront during lockdown and a consensus that Heathlands always responds to concerns. It is very pleasing to see that all parents would recommend Heathlands to other new parents. Points that we will be looking at improving are ensuring all parents are aware of student targets in both academic and communication targets.

From all of us at Heathlands we wish you a very happy and safe summer holidays and look forward to welcoming you all back in September, as well as the new pupils and staff who will be joining us.

Lesley Reeves Costi and Sarah Shields, Co-Headteachers

Fond Farewells

Mrs Roberts has worked in the primary department of Heathlands for 21 years! In recent years she has been the lead EYFS teacher. She has enjoyed working in early years so much and her legacy will continue in the nursery. She is leaving to enjoy her retirement and spend some quality time with her daughters and grand daughter.

Mrs Sweet has worked at Heathlands for 14 years as a learning support assistant and as a speech and language assistant. She is moving on to enjoy her retirement with her family and to enjoy a new home.

Mrs Hayes is moving into retirement also after working at Heathlands in both Upper and Lower school for 7 years.

Emma Caswell is leaving Heathlands after 18 years working in Heath House, the school and the BSL Centre. She will continue to teach BSL and we wish her all the best.

Mrs McSorley came out of retirement to join us at Heathlands but is now leaving our resistant materials department better equipped. She is going to be enjoying more family time with her granddaughter.

Miss Joshi is leaving to begin her teacher training, we hope we will see her again at Heathlands in the future.

Mrs Owens our speech and language assistant is relocating with her family.

Mrs Owen is moving on to pursue her career as an Educational Psychologist

We wish all our leavers the best of luck with their future and look forward to hearing all their news.

Covid catch up.....

Covid is still around and has been present in the school this term. We expect that the number of cases may rise again over the summer holiday and in the autumn term so please continue to be vigilant to symptoms in your children and yourselves. The isolation period for children remains at 3 days and adults 5 days. We will continue to keep you updated with changes in the new school year.




Congratulations to the KS2 students who played in the Frank Barnes Deaf Schools football tournament this month, hosted at Heathlands. Congratulations to everyone involved and particularly to Heathlands Team A who won all their matches and came second in the final play off.



Lower School



Dolphins and Seahorses have been orienteering around the school site as part of their PE lesson. They have been learning how to use a map to support their learning.

 Some photos from a special day celebrating the Queen's Jubilee.



Turtles class looked for the wolf everywhere. They found lots of letters and clues and spoke to some 'eyewitnesses'. Turtles class were so shocked when the wolf took its head off and it turned out to be MISS READ-ING wearing a mask!



Octopus Class enjoyed making fruit salad this term.

Ros Hedges from St Albans Arts Society joined Seahorses and the willow Stag sculpture which they helped to create.

Thank you to The Arts Society for funding this amazing project.



Following on from helping to make our willow deer, Starfish pupils saw and drew real deer at the farm.



Starfish class enjoyed a trip to Hitchin Lavender Fields. They saw the bees at work visiting the beautiful purple scented flowers and they learnt how to gather bunches by cutting long stems.



Whales class made some Roman Libum buns as part of their topic related food technology.

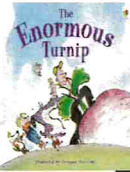


KS2 students are learning about the Celts as part of their history topic this term. They visited Celtic Harmony in May.

Heathlands



Lower school had a special book week in June. They bought in a favourite book and we enjoyed the fabulous fancy dress parade!



Starfish class enjoyed acting out the Enormous Turnip story, working together they pull, pull, PULLED.



Turtles class have been enjoying going swimming this term.



Starfish enjoyed a beautiful warm day at Forest School. When they visited before, it was winter and very cold, wet and they needed warm clothes but now it is very different!



As part of their Topic on the Romans, pupils from Dolphins, Seahorses and Whales classes visited St Albans Cathedral for a special Roman day. Activities included meeting a Roman soldier and trying on some armour, acting out the story of St Albans, seeing the huge puppets used every year in the St Albans parade, examining Roman artefacts excavated from Roman Verulamium (the Roman name for St Albans) and cooking some Roman food. It was an interesting and informative day.



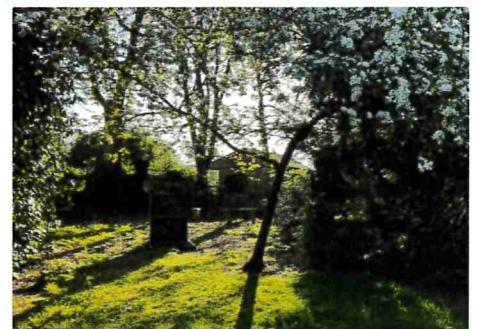
Sharks class have been learning the story of Noah's Ark and to count in twos. They made a

video for assembly. Watch it on our Heathlands Facebook page.



Turtles and Octopus were VERY lucky this

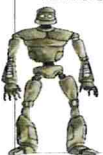
term to go to Whipsnade zoo as part of the Kids Day Out organised by the Rotary Club. The children enjoyed seeing some of the animals as well as a train ride and even an ice cream! **Thank you** to the Rotary Club in St Albans for funding this trip.



Over the Easter holidays a beautiful new outdoor 'classroom' space was created. It's been enjoyed this term.

The Iron Man

The Iron Man stomped loudly on the edge of the cliff.
The Iron Man head turned quickly.
The Iron Man ear twisted slowly.
The Iron Man made eyes glowed brightly red and white quickly.
The Iron Man right foot stomped slowly and turned loudly.



Dolphins Class have been reading 'The Iron Man' in English. Here is one student's independent writing about the Iron Man using adverbs in their sentences.

A pupil in Dolphins class has been practicing her spellings by writing them in sand. Great work!





Many congratulations to our Year 11 (and 12) leavers. Particular congratulations to the award winners who were recognised for the example they set with work ethic, contribution to the school and 'becoming the best they can be'. We wish all of you the very best for your future.



Some photos from a special day celebrating the Queen's Jubilee.



Year 11 students made delicious Jubilee cakes for the party.



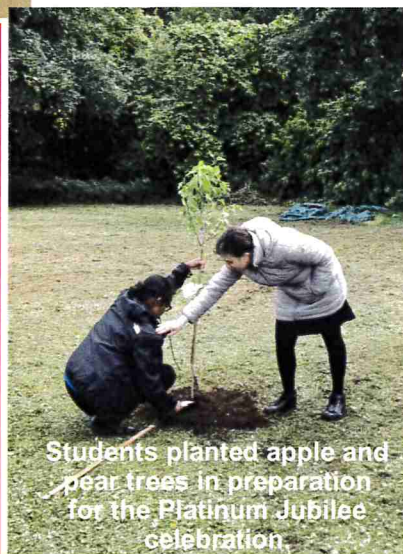
Upper School



On transition day a group of year 6 students tried their hand at pewter casting in the D&T workshop. They were very proud of their finished key-rings.



Alpha students have been learning about chemical reactions, they investigated examples of chemical reactions.



Students planted apple and pear trees in preparation for the Platinum Jubilee celebration.



Heathlands have received funding from [#theartscouncil](#) for DJ workshops supplied by [#DeafRave](#). Students were [#woojer](#) packs to feel the beats as well as hearing them whilst DJ Chinaman and DJ Jeffo taught them how to use the turntables. What an experience!



Beta and Delta class had a informative, creative trip in June to the Childwickbury Art Fair where they saw a wide range of artwork. They saw several artists in action and were able to ask them questions about their work - printing, woodwork carving, copper clay firing, bark drawing etc.

The Student Leaders training involved students starting to self-reflect on the skills gained from the Student Leadership Programme this year. They also gave feedback on the Programme in groups.





Zeta class practicing placing electric shock victims in the recovery position and applying CPR for their AQA D&T H&S awards. Some 'victims' forgot that they were



not supposed to be laughing when pretending to be unconscious!

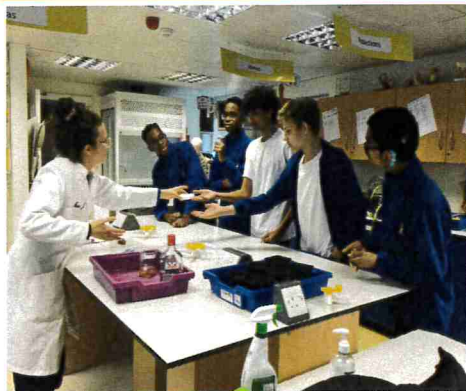
In May 11D students planted gladioli flowers in pots outside Heathlands house area. We have enjoyed them.



Delta class carried out an investigation to see how exercise affects breathing rate.



Gamma and Epsilon classes went to St Luke's school for a Sport Experience Day. They enjoyed it. They also met a famous man called Frank Bruno (he is a British former professional boxer). **Thank you** to St Luke's for an enjoyable day.



Y10 have been learning about how alcohol affects the liver.



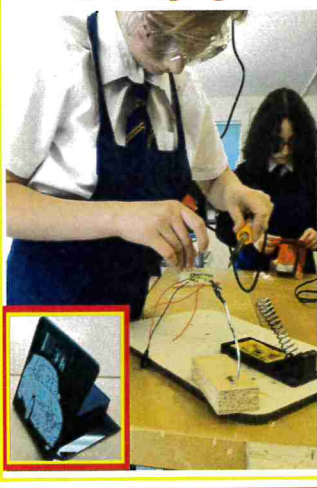
Year 7 and Year 8 have been creating bottle design ideas inspired by several colourist artists.



HEATHLANDS GO CAMPING - On a sunny Thursday evening, 40 Upper school students camped out on the school field for one night.

Students played different games and activities and had a BBQ dinner, cooked by Heath House. Afterwards, they learnt how to set up tents and to set up camp for the evening. Some of the students woke up at 6am and played football on the AstroTurf! The campers all enjoyed a large selection of food for breakfast. One Year 10 students commented "It was really good and fun. I have not camped since I was in Year 6, 4 years ago!".

Beta class were finishing off their laser cut night lights.



Congratulations to our students in Zeta & Delta class who achieved AQA D&T Unit Award certificates.



Well done to our 2022 Rotary Tournament cup-winners and competitors.

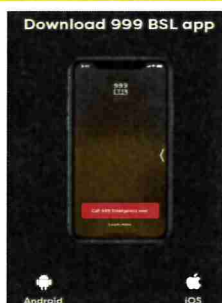
Here they are receiving their certificates.

We have been busy this year doing science projects with the students. Dr Cameron and Fifi Garfield were involved working with our students making 'GCSE Science Required Practical Investigations' video clips. Also, in the previous year Dr Poplett was involved, he is a deaf Physicist. It was so wonderful to have deaf professionals working with our students, especially deaf scientists as we know how important it is for deaf students to meet positive deaf role models. We are proud to share the new Science Teaching Channel that we would like you to share with you, also please help us by sharing it with people you know working with deaf students, especially deaf students in different schools, deaf units and mainstream schools. <https://heathlands.herts.sch.uk/science> If you know deaf people working in the area of Biology, please ask them to get in touch with us as we would like to develop the Biology part of the Science Teaching channel. Any feedback, please email me at derek.rodger@heathlands.herts.sch.uk or send me a signed message.



Eta went to Blanche Neville School GCSE and Entry Level Art Showcase on 21st June where they had opportunity to look at the coursework and discuss with the students there who did the coursework. A lot of their work is centred around being Deaf, Deaf Artists and experiences of being Deaf.

Well done to all of my guitar students! They have made great progress this term with strumming chords, playing basic rhythms, learning new techniques and performing Rock and Pop songs by bands such as Imagine Dragons, The Beatles and Queen. I hope they have a great summer and look forward to teaching them again next term! - Tom Hunt BMus PTTLS



Thank you to Matt Kirby, Community Liaison Officer - 999 BSL app for his informative and helpful presentation to students on how to use this new app to contact emergency services through a BSL interpreter.

Year 11s completed their work experience placements. Staff visited some of them hard at work. It's great to hear how well they did and how they enjoyed learning new skills for the future.



Summer Rewards Trips 2022



Upper school students enjoyed one of two rewards trips at **Lee Valley inflatable water park** and picnic/games at **Hatfield House** yesterday. More pictures to come on Heathlands Facebook page.



*This term Heathlands Blue team left to travel to Gallaudet University to participate in **Battle of the Books** competition. One student joined virtually.*

Our team did really well in the Semi Final, playing against Indiana School for the Deaf.



The Battle of the Books team on their way to Gallaudet! 2022



Heathlands Newsletter for Heath House

Spring Term 2022



This term: This has been yet another really busy term. The children and young people have continued to regularly attend a wide range of clubs. They have learnt many new skills during these clubs and have shown a lot of progress. We have welcomed a new primary boarder into the Heath House group. We will also sadly be saying goodbye to Neal as well as wishing him good luck in becoming the New Design and Technology teacher. We have two new staff members coming to the Heath House team.



Tennis: The lower secondary and primary have been attending a local tennis club. One child said "I been go play tennis I learn how to hit the ball properly, also different strokes". Another child said "I enjoy play tennis at first it hard but I improve I feel like get better". One other child said "I surprise myself I'm good at tennis I want learn to play more and improve".

Cycling: Now that the weather has improved the Heath House children have enjoyed staying fit by cycling around or going for bike rides.



Cooking: The children have continued to get involved in cooking. They have been learning to cook a wide variety of dishes.



Karate: One of our secondary children has been attending and learning karate. He is now preparing for his first grading which will be in October.



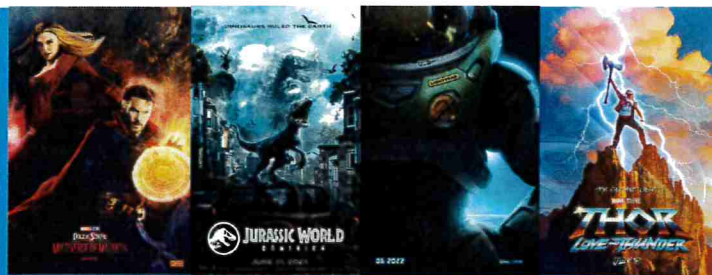
Connect four: The children this term have been playing a lot of connect four. They have regularly had competitions.

Badminton: A number of the Heath house children have been learning to play badminton. One child said "I enjoy play badminton I feel I improve".



Swimming: This term we have hired out a local swimming pool. The children had a lot of fun playing games together as well as spending time practicing and improving their swimming ability.

Cinema: The children have also been regularly attending a local cinema. One child said "This term I been and seen Doctor strange into the Multiverse of Madness and Jurassic Park Dominion". One primary student said "Been seen Lightyear it was really fun and funny". Another secondary pupil said "I am really looking forward to see Thor Love and Thunder soon".



Theatre: This term we have also been into London to watch a play at the Dorfman Theatre. One child said "We watched a play with deaf actors called "Barrier" it really good". Another child said "The play was really funny. I like watch real deaf actors".

Snorkelling: The children have been attending a snorkelling club. One child said "I been learn how to snorkel hard work but fun now learn under water hockey". "I love under the water Hockey and also lots of fun. Also have new experience and get to learn new skills. I scored a hat trick in my first game".



Freewalking: Some of the young people have been using their freewalking permission to go into town to go for dinner. One child said "We went for some food together to celebrate our friends birthday. We had waffles and crapes".

Birthdays: We have celebrated a number of birthdays this year. Some of the children have made cakes for one and another.



Nando's: This term some of the secondary children went to Nando's for dinner without staff. One child said "We had to learn buy and pay food without help. We have fun with no staff".



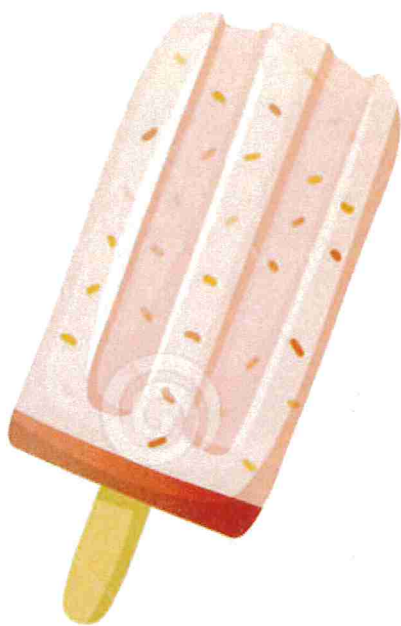
Youth club: The children have enjoyed taking part in a wide variety of activities this term when going to St John's youth club. They have especially enjoyed going canoeing. One child said "I had so much fun canoeing I even fell in the water".

Staffing: Sadly we will be saying goodbye to Neal who has been with us this academic year. Fortunately he will not be going far as he will be becoming the new Design technology teacher. We would however like to welcome Cheila and Kimahrie who are both looking forward to working in Heath House. They will be contacting families in the coming weeks to introduce themselves.

French students visit: This term we had a visit from another deaf school from France. The French students and staff joined us for dinner and some games. The children had to communicate through a mixture of French sign language and BSL. The children said "At first we were nervous but learnt lots of new French signs". "We also been teach the French pupils BSL". Another child said "We learnt in France nothing school uniform". "They really lucky". One other child said "we been give them a tour of Heathlands school".



BSL



We can't believe this is the end of the 2021/22 academic year. This year has been full of ups and downs for so many of our learners but we got through and they have done well. We are so pleased and proud of how far they have progressed. For some, it has been a different experience returning to the Centre after the recent pandemic and have had to adjust, but they have all worked so hard to get through their level of learning.

BSL Level 1: All three classes have now finished all exams and have completed their course. We have had some great results so far. Learners have really enjoyed the course and learning the different topics.

BSL Level 2: They have also finished all exams and are awaiting final results. They have had fun this year developing their vocabulary and learning some basic linguistics.

BSL Level 3: We have two large size classes and everyone has worked hard learning linguistics and practising receptive. Many are continuing their BSL journey onto Level 4 with some wanting to become interpreters, so watch out for them in the future!

BSL Level 4 & Level 6: They have been developing their vocabulary, receptive and translation skills. They have worked hard filming and self-analysing clips for their portfolios and will complete their exams soon. One of our learners has been accepted for an Interpreting course starting in September!

"Very much appreciate the effort put into planning and supporting students, keep up the good work!" — Anon





BSL

"I had a very good time, the teaching and material were first class and the others made the whole 32 weeks fun and thought provoking. I have already recommended to others as I feel this is a very rewarding language that I'm sure I will find extremely useful" —Anon



A final message from Emma Caswell, BSL Centre Manager:

After working for over 18 years at Heathlands, I am finally taking the leap and moving on. I have seen many changes since I started and worked with many staff members over the years, some have become good friends. I have been trying to work out how many people I have taught over my time at the BSL Centre, it must be nearly 1000 people, from Deaf awareness training to BSL Level 6.

My greatest memories are seeing the young people who I first worked with in Heath House and at Heathlands St. Luke's grow into adults, find good jobs and have families of their own.

My greatest achievements are seeing the BSL Centre develop into an amazing learning environment, providing a range of courses and supporting learners through their BSL journey, some of them becoming interpreters.

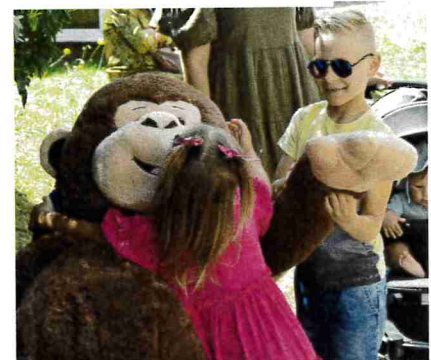
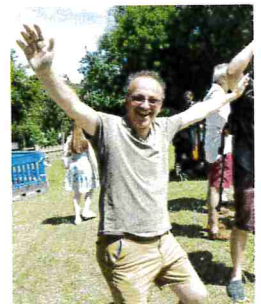
I have enjoyed my time at Heathlands, but the time has come for me to take a new challenge. I will continue working within the Deaf community and with Signature, one of the awarding bodies for BSL courses. I wish everyone the best of luck for the future.

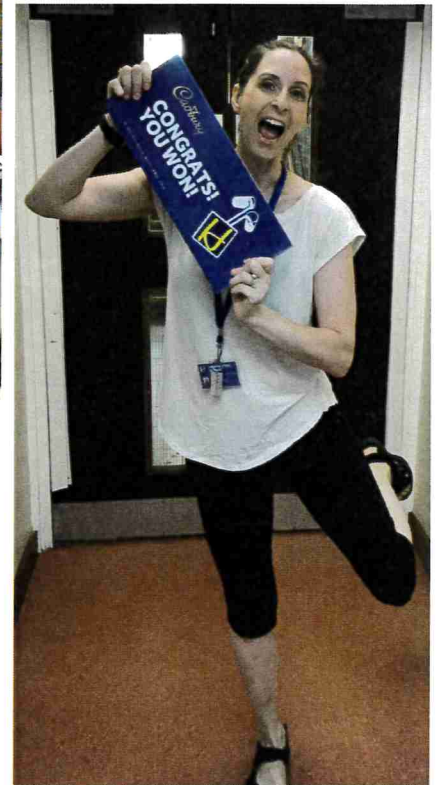


For information on courses please email BSL@heathlands.herts.sch.uk or visit BSL Centre on the Heathlands school website.



Summer Fete 2022
Find us on our new
Facebook page
'Friends of Heathlands'
from Monday 5th September 2022







HEATHLANDS

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Tel: 01727 807807 or E.mail: admin@heathlands.herts.sch.uk
Nursery, Primary & Secondary Provision, Day & Residential, BSL Training & Resource Centre



HOLIDAY DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022 - 2023

Autumn Term 2022

Inset Days	Thurs 1 September 2022 – Fri 2 September 2022 (no pupils in school)
Term Starts	Mon 5 September 2022
Half Term Holiday	Mon 24 October 2022 – Fri 28 October 2022
Occasional Day	Fri 25 November 2022 (no pupils in school)
Term Ends	Wed 21 December 2022 @ 12.30pm

Spring Term 2023

Inset Days	Thurs 5 January 2023 – Fri 6 January 2023
Term Starts	Mon 9 January 2023
Half Term Holiday	Mon 13 February 2023– Fri 17 February 2023
Term Ends	Fri 31 March 2023 @ 12.30pm

Summer Term 2023

Term Starts	Mon 17 April 2023
Bank Holiday	Mon 1 May 2023
Inset Day	Tues 2 May 2023 (no pupils in school)
Half Term Holiday	Mon 29 May 2023 – Fri 2 June 2023
Term Ends	Fri 21 July 2023 @ 12.30pm

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



