

Message from the Co-Headteachers...

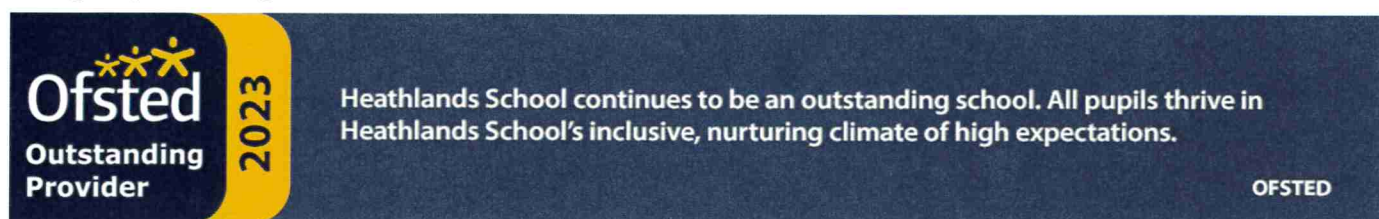
March 2023



Well, this truly has been an **OUTSTANDING** term for everyone at Heathlands School! At the beginning of February we received a whole school inspection from Ofsted who deemed us as continuing to be Outstanding in all areas. Following a very thorough two day inspection, the lead inspector said, *'all pupils thrive in Heathlands School's inclusive, nurturing climate of high expectations'*. The inspection result is a huge credit to everyone who works hard to ensure children and young people at Heathlands become the best they can be, including our community of parents and carers.

We want to thank all of the superb staff at Heathlands for making this a truly remarkable achievement and term and it is a testament to their passion and commitment. Without these wonderful staff Heathlands would not be the **OUTSTANDING** school that it is.

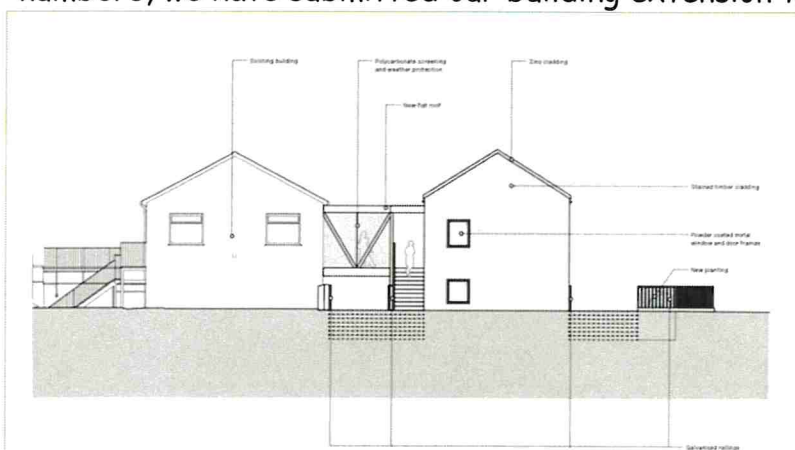
Just a mere two weeks later, Heath House then had their Ofsted inspection which we are eagerly awaiting the results.



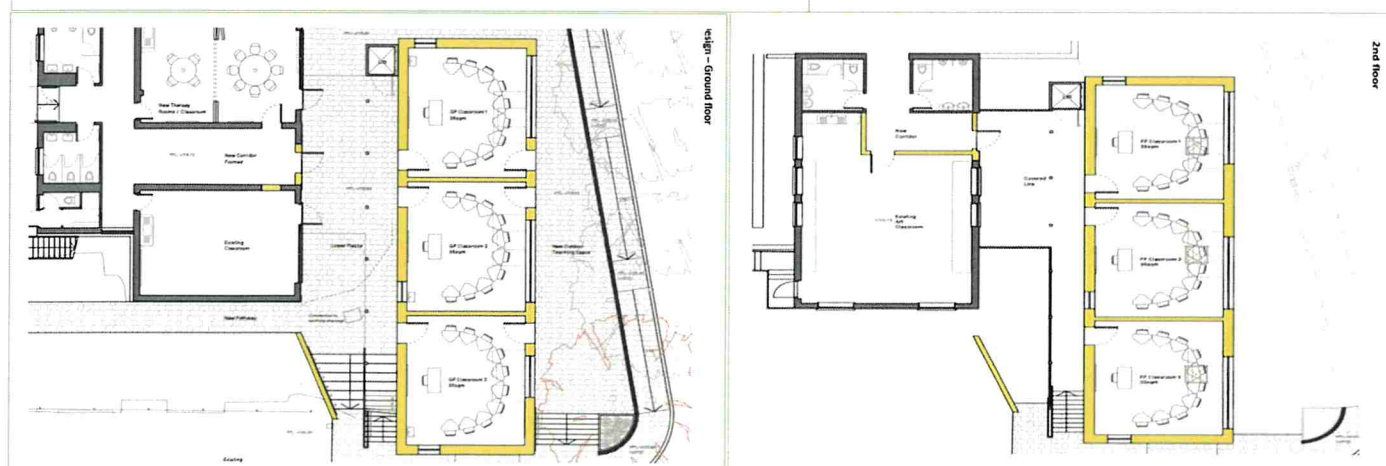
Keeping our eyes on the future

Numbers of children and young people at Heathlands continues to rise as the school is known nationally for its achievements and high standards. To accommodate the growing numbers, we have submitted our building extension to planning permission with the hope to begin the ground work in the summer term. Please see the plans before for our two storey building designed by deaf architect Richard Dougherty.

The formal consultation with Hertfordshire County Council to open a Post 16 provision to teach A Levels at Heathlands has now closed. Thank you to all families who responded favourably. We will keep you updated with our progress.



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H Heathlands School

Become The Best You Can Be

Dragon Fruit class were learning about managing friendships and then focused on the emotion 'jealousy'.



As part of their PSHCE lesson pupils from **Dragon Fruit** class provided Mr Farooq with information on how to care for a dog (in case he is considering buying one).



Some of the KS2 students enjoyed learning archery as part of the lunchtime sports club run by the **Phoenix group**.



This Spring there is a lot growing outside and inside school.



EYFS classes **Cherries and Pears** have been learning about Toys this term. The children excitedly shared their favourite toy from home during Show and Tell. We also enjoyed lots of toy themed activities such as making our own puppets.



Heathlands Students love reading books! KS2 are checking out some new books which have been bought for KS1.

Lower School

In their science lesson, **Tomatoes** class were learning about how different surfaces affect force.



Many **congratulations** to our year 3 pupil, Ellie. Her inclusive ice skating team competed in the Steel cup in Sheffield recently and came first. We are very proud of you.



Some of the students in lower school had an assembly about **on-line safety** and the importance of telling an adult if there is a problem or a concern. They learnt to sign a song to remind them what to do.

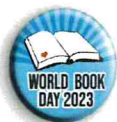
Lower School



Tomatoes class were learning about how litter causes harm to animals and the environment.



For **World Book Day** some of the lower school pupils made a video to share their favourite books on Facebook.



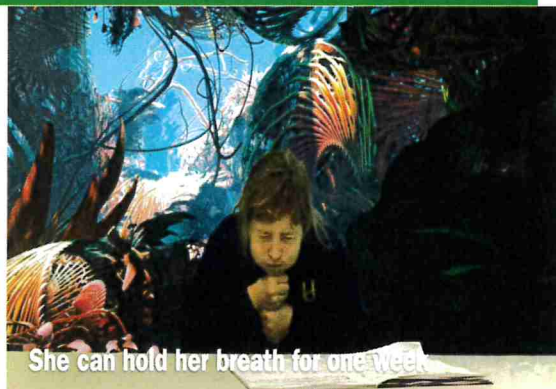
After completing their exploration logs, **Mango** Class wrote their own holiday brochures to persuade people to visit their planets on holiday.

World Book Day-Bananas Class developed their social, communication, and language skills in the community this term by exchanging their world book day vouchers for a book to take home. The pupils enjoyed browsing the wide range of books and stories.

As part of **World Wildlife Day**, some pupils in **Bananas** Class painted pictures of British animals. Can you spot the fox, hedgehog, raven and rabbit?



As part of their sci-fi topic, **Mango** Class have written their own exploration logs based on the planets and aliens they have previously created.



She can hold her breath for one week.



Strawberries class restarted their LEGO club. Here are some fantastic builds!



As part of **feeling good week**, pupils in Lower School designed and painted plant pots for support staff to say thank you for all their hard work.

As a special event this term '**Feeling Good week**'. All the children, staff and dogs in Primary school had a walk around the school field to start the day.





In Maths **Tomatoes** class have been learning about Arrays. (An array in maths is an arrangement of objects, numbers or pictures in columns or rows). Tomatoes made an Array City!

EYFS **Cherries** and **Pears** explored all things Pancake. They followed a recipe to make pancakes, took part in a pancake race, explored counting and investigated floating with lemons.



What a busy, but delicious week!

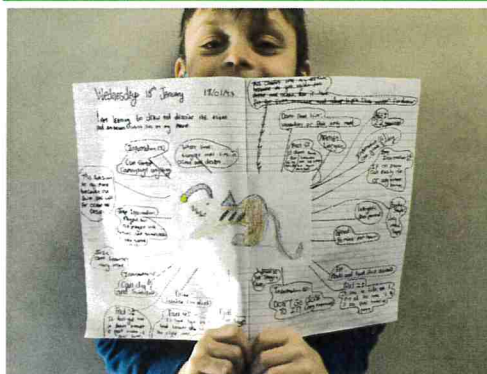
Heathlands School website

www.heathlands.herts.sch.uk

Take a look.

Lower School

Look up into the sky, and what do you see **Cherries class** see great big clouds of different shapes and sizes.



As part of their English lessons, **Mango Class** are learning about sci-fi. They created and described their own aliens, explaining its features and how it was suited to the climate and habitat of its planet.

Mango Class used an atlas to find cities in the United Kingdom.



Tomatoes class went on a on a spring nature hunt outside.



In art, **Watermelon class** have been learning about the colour wheel and mixing colours. They decided the most fun way to see how colours would mix would be to tie dye their white t-shirts! They concentrated, listened and were extremely patient. Their new colourful t-shirts look fantastic, don't you agree?

In Science **Dragon fruit class** have been learning about electricity. They looked at different circuits and predicted if they would turn the light bulb on. Afterwards they made the circuit to see if their predictions were correct.



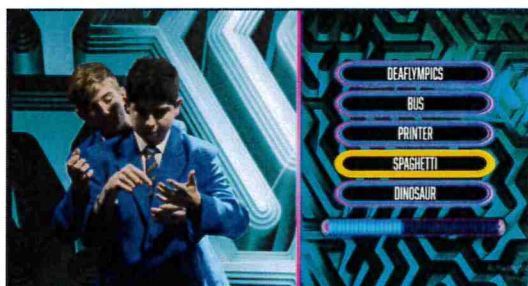


We were thrilled to see two of our student on prime time tv this term. The students were congratulated for the amount of money that they have raised to support Deaf children across the world through their charity.



A huge congratulations to the Heathlands team that entered Sign to Win, winning £1000 which will be donated for BSL classes for parents.

www.BSLzone.co.uk to watch.



Heathlands School
Become The Best You Can Be

Upper School

Kappa and Epsilon visited **St John's Deaf Club** and particularly enjoyed meeting Deaf adults. They also visited the **British Deaf Association** office which is next to St John's Deaf Club. It has been a good experience.



Heathlands students go into battle, for Battle of the Books



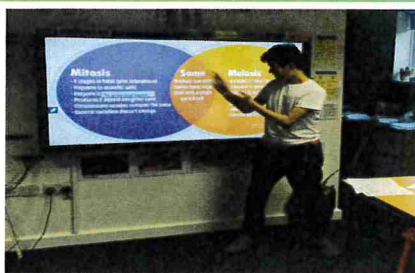
As the Easter holidays begins, 6 students from Year 8 will be at **Gallaudet University** to participate in the finals of **Battle of the Books** tournament, with schools in USA. The Battle of the Books is a reading competition for deaf students in Years 6 to 9. Students read the same assigned books and then compete against other students from other schools, by answering true or false, short answer, multiple choice, and presentation style questions about the books they read. The competition promotes literacy among deaf students and is rooted in a spirit of academic competition and sportsmanship. Prior to the tournament, our students will be sightseeing in Washington DC. We all are so proud of them and wish them well.



British Deaf Association
SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK
#SignLanguageWeek
Protecting BSL
13 - 19 March 2023

To mark the start of **Sign Language week** Heathlands were privileged to receive a visit from some very important guests. The Lord Lieutenant: Robert Voss, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant/ School Governor: Akhtar Zaman, Chairman of the Council: Annie Brewster and the CEO of the British Deaf Association: Rebecca Mansell. Our hearing visitors attended a sign language lesson taught by pupils and Rebecca gave a speech to pupils from KS2, 3 and 4.

Alpha students have been learning about the effects of smoking on the body, they played a board game to extend their understanding.



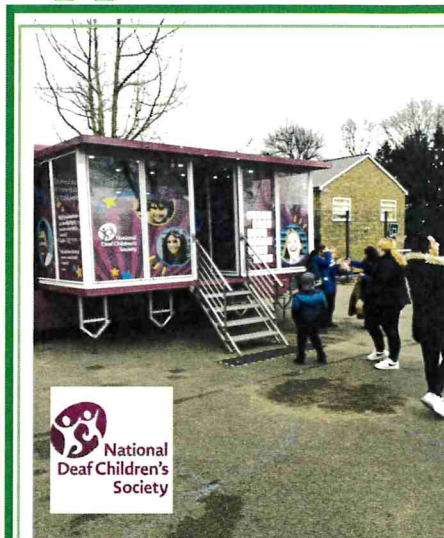
In Biology **Delta** presented their learning on mitosis and meiosis.



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Year 10 students had a zoom presentation from Rachel O'Neill of Edinburgh University. She talked about a **new course: Primary Education with BSL**. This is for anyone interested in becoming a teacher while also learning BSL. This is the first of hopefully many new courses linked to the new legislation. It's great to see that students in the future will have the opportunity to learn at degree level in their first language.

Upper School



The **NDSC Listening Bus** came to Heathlands specifically to offer a range of workshops for Upper School pupils.



Gamma students carried out an investigation to identify exothermic and endothermic chemical reactions.



In Geography this term, **Eta** class have been creating news reports for the Nepalese earthquake. They researched facts and information about the earthquake to include in their videos. They worked in teams to help each other out for the interviews and then edited the videos independently.



Students have been working on their **Art** coursework for their GCSE and Entry Level.



As part of their Animal Care unit in Science **Zeta** class visited the school farm at St Luke's school and helped to care for some of the animals. They also got to meet some of the other amazing animals at the school.



Zeta Class attended the inclusive Careers Fair at West Herts College in Watford. It was good to meet up with an ex-student and also to talk to employers about their work places. A free goody bag was a bonus!

Some students from upper school attended a **deaf schools' swimming competition** on Tuesday 28th February. The event was held at the London Aquatics Centre in Stratford, London. All of the students really enjoyed the day and performed very well. Heathlands finished in 2nd place and the students will be working hard on their swimming to try and achieve first place next year.



We had a deaf scientist in school today giving a talk to the Upper School students about his work at **Thames Water**.



jobcentreplus

Job Centre Plus visited the school to deliver 2 sessions on writing CVs to **KS4 students**. They also came back to deliver CV work as well as preparing for interviews with the Year 11s.



As part of 'feeling good week' **Peer Champions** produced an informative video about managing emotions.



Watch the video on Heathlands Facebook page.



In January **Alpha** students carried out an investigation into temperatures around the school. They learnt how to accurately measure using a thermometer and worked together in groups.



Some of the Heathlands secondary students participated in the **Rotary Technology Tournament**. They undertook the exciting challenge of designing and building a gripping device so that they could safely handle a radioactive meteorite from a distance (a tennis ball was used for this!). Lots of excellent teamwork was seen throughout the day and the judges were impressed with Heathlands students for their unique ideas and the simplicity of some of the designs/gripping devices. One of the Heathlands teams achieved the runner up spot. Well done to all the Heathlands students involved.



Kappa and Epsilon students have been learning how to draw a landscape (from John Constable - artist) with the paint brush - well done to everyone.



A class of Upper School Students supported a class of Lower School students in a rainbow challenge activity as part of **STEM week** in school. The theme was connections and Upper School students had to communicate a picture to the Lower School students which they then they had to replicate without seeing the picture.



As part of equality and diversity education a group of Upper School students took part in a **Celebrating Difference workshop**. They learnt about the Equality Act and protected characteristics. They shared views and experiences and discussed how to empathise with one another. They will meet again to create a film to communicate their learning to the rest of the school. We would like to thank form Heathlands pupils Davina and George for delivering this positive workshop.



Heath House Spring Term 2023

This term: Heath House has been very busy. We have welcomed Naomi to the team. We have also had a residential Ofsted inspection which we are eagerly awaiting the result from. We have also welcomed a new boarder in February. Heath House children have helped to renovate the primary lounge and set up the secondary independence living area. The children have been shopping and chosen the furniture which they like. They then returned to Heath House and helped to build the furniture. The young people have also been enjoying a range of activities on offer, both in side and outside of Heath House. In addition to this they have continued to develop their skills.



Shopping: This year the children have been developing their independence by learning to go shopping and buying their own cookery ingredients. The children said "We regularly going into town shopping where we often buy cookery ingredients. We learn how to budget money and pay for ingredients".



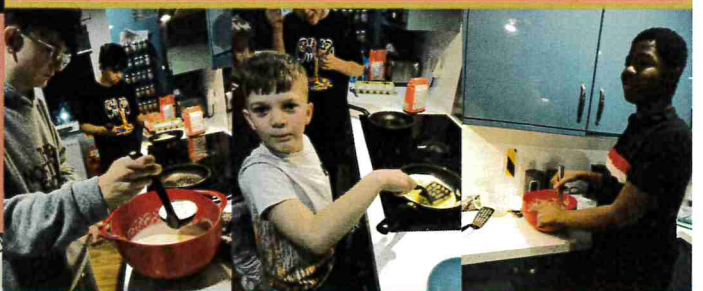
Soft play: The primary children went to a soft play centre this term where they had a really good time and enjoyed playing around together. One boy said we have fun enjoy play together".



Cooking: This term the children have continued to develop their cookery skills and have enjoyed cooking with staff. In addition to this the year 10's and 11's are now independently cooking each night. One boy said "I enjoy cooking and learning, I also feel more confident in the kitchen now".



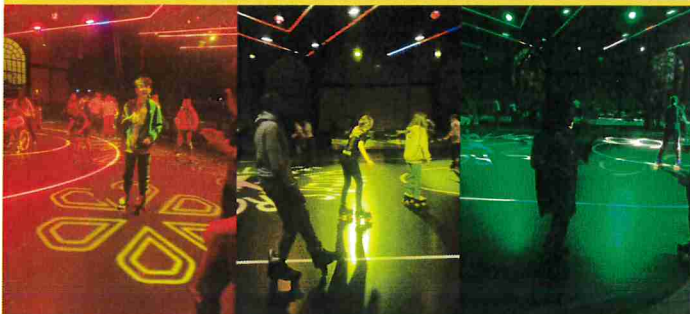
DIY: Some of the children helped staff to make the new furniture which we brought for the new primary lounge. One child said "We learn follow the instructions and work together make new furniture in our lounge".



Pancakes: This term for pancake day the CYP all had a go at making their own pancakes. Another child said "I enjoy make pancake I been try flip but go wrong". "It was really yummy".



Roller disco: The children went into London with staff to take part in a roller disco. They had a lot of fun and for a number of them enjoyed learning a new skill. One of the girls said "I enjoy learn how skate but it hard I fall over lots". Another child said "I thought be easy but it hard work really tired after". One other child said "Have loud music and lots of lights".



Skate park: The primary have been attending the local skate park. Where they have been learning how to go on the ramps whilst on both scooters and skate boards. The children have had a lot of and are really developing their confidence. One child said "I like go skate park I have lots fun with friends".



Heath House: Some other Heath House activities the children have taken part in are art clubs, going to the local park, playing basketball, football, learning to play badminton and table tennis as well as playing dodge ball in the hall or going on the bikes outside.



Year 10 and 11 lounge: The older children enjoyed going shopping, choosing new furniture, building the furniture and decorating their new lounge. The children said "We like are new lounge". "We like relaxing and watch film together". "We like having our own space away from younger children".



Ice-skating: The older secondary children choose to go Ice-skating. Staff booked this for them. They went along and had a really enjoyable time. After this they popped to get some hot food and a hot drink. One child said "I fall over lots but get up have fun. I improve and get better". One other child said "It good fun ice-skating with friends but prefer go roller skate and it not cold".



Primary shopping in town: The Primary children have been learning to walk into town. They have been shopping for treats as well as going into town to buy new board games for Heath House. This has given them a good opportunity to practice their money management skills. They have also developed their confidence in communicating with the hearing public.



BSL



Cannot believe it's almost April! We welcomed 2023 with new learners joining our Level 1 fast-track courses, taught by Bethany-Joy. The feedback has been positive with candidates recently passing their 101 assessment and many are interested in progressing to Level 2. Our existing learners, have been working hard and are now over half-way through their courses. With assessments coming up next term they continue to learn new topics plus brush up on current knowledge and skills.

On 17th April 2023 we start our 10-week "Intro to BSL" for young people aged from 8 years to 15 year olds. It is great to see the next generation wanting to learn Sign Language. Here they will cover BSL basics like fingerspelling, greetings, numbers, colours etc. for one hour on Mondays, hopefully piquing an interest to enrol for Level 1

BSL Centre
@ Heathlands

Are you under 16 and interested in learning Sign language?

At the BSL Centre, we have a weekly "Intro to BSL" course suitable for ages 8–15 years. From Monday 17th April until 10th July 2023, 4–5pm*.

£60pp

*Term time only

To enrol or for additional information please email BSL@heathlands.herts.sch.uk.
Website: www.heathlands.herts.co.uk

Created on www.british-sign.co.uk



We are in the process of finalising our timetable for 2023/24. Our amazing team are planning to offer BSL Levels 1 to 6. When all is confirmed, the timetable will be available on the Heathlands School website.

For any enquiries, please email: bsl@heathlands.herts.sch.uk



We hope you
enjoy the
Easter break!



Parents



Congratulations to a Year 7 student, Maisie, who won our competition to create a new Friends of Heathlands (FoH) logo!



St. Albans Rotary club are looking for keen cyclists to take part in the Rotary Cycle ride. You can enter to complete a 40, 30, 20 or 10 mile challenge.



On Sunday 14th May, if you register by the end of April you will get a 25% discount. The school will receive a small donation. For more information contact www.sacccr.co.uk/registration.php

The next FoH event is the Colour run. On Saturday 10th June 10-1. This is just for fun, the aim is to run, walk, skip 3k around school. We are asking people to bring a picnic to enjoy afterwards. For more information email friends@heathlands.herts.sch.uk



We are also opening the bus to parents on a Tuesday after school during the lower school football club. Parents can enjoy the opportunity to chat and perhaps have a coffee. We only ask that you respect that it is left tidy for the next guests.





HOLIDAY DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022 - 2023

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) |
| Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation | Mon 8 May 2023 |
| Half Term Holiday | Mon 29 May 2023 – Fri 2 June 2023 |
| Term Ends | Fri 21 July 2023 @ 12.30pm |

HOLIDAY DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 - 2024

Autumn Term 2023

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Inset Day | Fri 1 September 2023 (no pupils in school) |
| Term Starts | Mon 4 September 2023 |
| Half Term Holiday | Mon 23 October 2023 – Fri 27 October 2023 |
| Occasional Day | Fri 1 December 2023 (no pupils in school) |
| Term Ends | Wed 20 December 2023 @ 12.30pm |

Spring Term 2024

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Inset Days | Thurs 4 January 2024 – Fri 5 January 2024 (no pupils in school) |
| Term Starts | Mon 8 January 2024 |
| Half Term Holiday | Mon 19 February 2024 – Fri 23 February 2024 |
| Term Ends | Thurs 28 March 2024 @ 12.30pm |

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

