

Heathlands School

Summer Term 2023



This year has been a Year of Celebration at Heathlands! Our full school Ofsted inspection was carried out in February and the school was graded as Outstanding, the residential Ofsted inspection took place in March and was also graded as Outstanding! The year got even better when the Post 16 provision was approved by the Hertfordshire Education Cabinet and will begin in September 2024! This is a momentous achievement as Headteachers at Heathlands have been trying to get post 16 at Heathlands for the past 16 years.

There have been many more celebrations throughout the year; Our Year 10 students were winners on the gameshow Sign 2 Win earning £1000 which will go towards parents BSL lessons, Year 8 students were very successful at Battle of the Books in America winning the award for Sportsmanship, Best Individual Reader and becoming Champions of the Buff Division! The school extension to provide six new classrooms was approved and building on site has just got started. Heathlands pupil numbers are the highest they have ever been with more and more parents wanting their child to come and learn at Heathlands!

None of these achievements (plus many more) would be possible without the amazing staff team that makes up our school and teaches your children to Become the Best they can Be! Next year we will be getting the new building ready for students and learning and will be focusing on the A Level offer and establishing sixth form. We have no doubt it will be equally filled with fun, laughter and celebration.

We are all looking forward to a well deserved restful summer break. We wish you all a lovely break with your families and would like to remind you to be mindful of internet use during the summer and monitoring what students access online. We look forward to welcoming students back in September, introducing new students and families to our school community and reading the lower school summer diaries of course!

This term we are saying good bye to Ms Walker who is taking on a new role in Hertfordshire as a peripatetic teacher. She has worked at Heathlands for 13 years and has been a well valued member of the upper school teaching team. We wish her well in her new post and know that the families she will work with will be very lucky to have her as their Teacher of the Deaf.

Robyn and Zayne in the BSL center are leaving us to relocate to Scotland. We wish them the best of luck in their new homes. Scottish BSL learners will be very fortunate to have them both!

Mr Priestley is also leaving us for a short time and will return in September 2024. He is off on his travels so we hope to receive postcards from all of his exotic destinations!

Mrs Buckley is leaving us this year to focus on her family. Mrs Buckley has worked in Tomatoes class this year and has enjoyed her work with all the children.

Mrs White in the finance team is leaving us as she is relocating with her family. She has been a great addition to the team and will be missed.

Mrs Rowbottom has decided to retire and spend more time with her grandchildren. Mrs Rowbottom has retired many times but has been lured back to work. However this time she has decided it is time to enjoy her retirement.

As we wish our leavers the best of luck we are also welcoming some new staff in September, Ms Joshi will be returning as a newly qualified teacher to the primary department. Ms Mohamed is also joining the lower school teaching team.

Mr McWhinney is joining the upper school teaching team and the BSL team. Mrs Henshaw and Mrs Holdbrooke will be joining the finance team. Ms Morris is joining the SALT team and Mrs Hollier will be joining the Heath House team. We also welcome new learning support assistants Mrs Hall and Ms Hill.

We look forward to welcoming everyone in September.



Heathlands School
Become The Best You Can Be

Lower School

Congratulations **King Charles** on your coronation. Heathlands pupils have been learning about it and had a special red, white and blue day this term.



Dragon fruit class were investigating which materials are insulators and conductors of electricity.



Some of the pupils from **Strawberries** and **Watermelons** took part in the lunchtime sports club run by Phoenix.



A warm Heathlands welcome to our new **piano** teacher, Rachel.

Bananas have been learning about the importance of a healthy lifestyle in PSHCE. They sorted food into different food groups and created a balanced meal using the Eatwell guide.



World Book Day-Lower school had a fantastic book themed parade as part of our book week celebrations. Thank you to parents/ carers who sent in fantastic costumes.

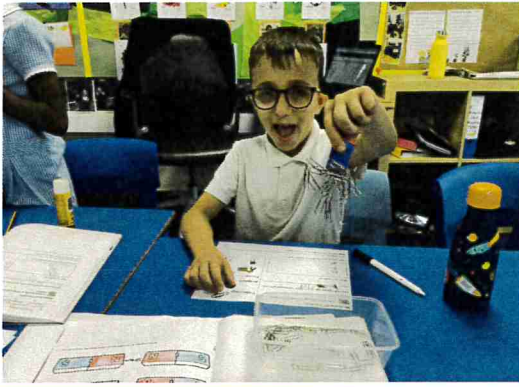


Children in different KS2 classes were fortunate to have a workshop on **internet safety** from Sign Health.



Tomatoes Class learnt all about Stonehenge; where, when, why and how it was built. They made their own model using biscuits! It wasn't easy! Then the best part eating it!

In Science, **Bananas Class** have been learning about how magnets attract or repel each other, and how magnets attract some materials and not others.



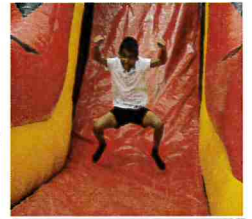
Cherries have been learning about shapes this term. Whilst at the farm, they looked carefully and spotted shapes in their environment.



During Golden Time, some children in **Mango Class** learned how to play chess.

Lower School

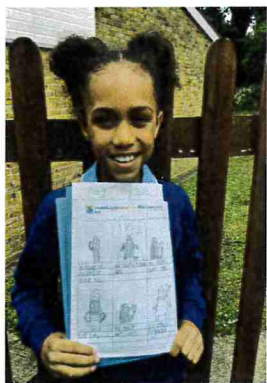
This week Heathlands' pupils had a Celebration afternoon with bouncy castles, an ice cream van and country dancing. We were celebrating achieving two **OFSTED Outstanding** inspections this year, the agreement that the school can begin post-16 education, expanding numbers and the new building work starting on top of a year full of continued excellent teaching and learning.



Mrs Coxall's English group have been gathering vocabulary to write sentences about a character from a story.



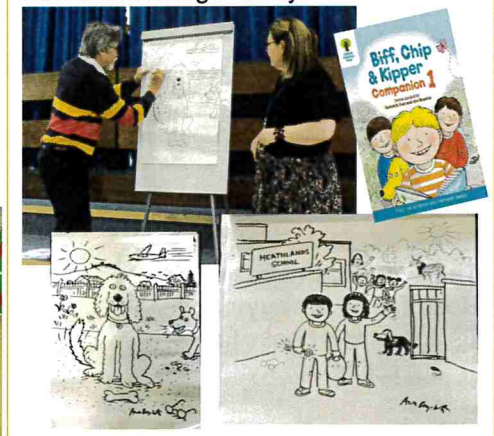
Strawberry class had a lovely visit to Willows farm. The children saw lots of animals, and were even able to hold and stroke some guinea pigs!



Thank you to parents who came to support the Lower School Sports Day. Despite the wet weather, which meant we had to go with plan B and be inside, the children had fun! The winning house for KS1 was Matlin and the winning house for KS2 was Shakespeare.



Alex Brychta's fantastic visit to Heathlands Lower School. **Thank you** very much to Oxford University Press and the Oxford Reading Tree. The children were amazed that when they suggested things for Alex to draw in the picture, he could draw them straight away.



 **Oxford Reading Buddy**

Some of the children have been using their **Oxford Buddies** log-in for independent reading this term.

Early years classes welcomed new students... caterpillars! They have been observing them closely to watch how they change into beautiful butterflies. The children enjoyed a bug hunt where they found eggs on a leaf and a beetle cocoon.



A few of the pupils and staff at Heathlands created a fantastic video about **why they love BSL**. Check it out on our Facebook page.



Mangoes & Tomatoes went to Watford Training Ground for a football tournament with other deaf children. In the morning, they met the Under 21's professional footballers as well as practising a

variety of football skills. In the afternoon, they played a mini 'World Cup' tournament where they represented a country and competed in many matches. The winning team was Haiti followed by China and England.

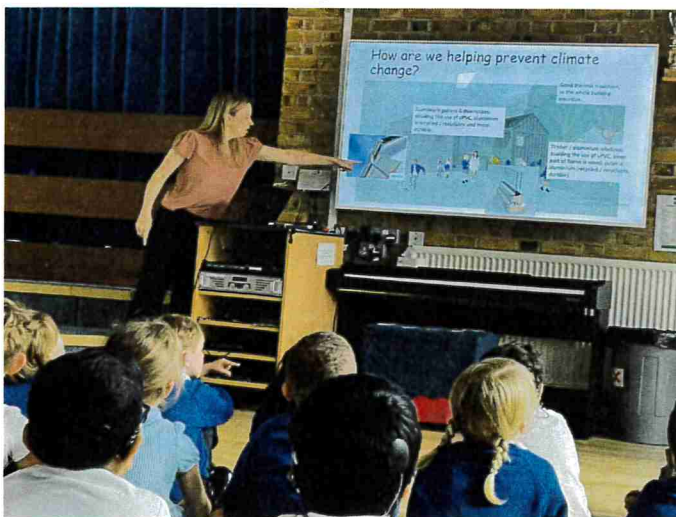


Thank you to **Friends of Heathlands** for buying us some new books for our school library.

Tomatoes class have been learning about the Stone Age and used salt dough to make bone and teeth necklaces.



Mrs Reeves-Costi presented a lower school assembly about the **new building** and how it is sustainable.



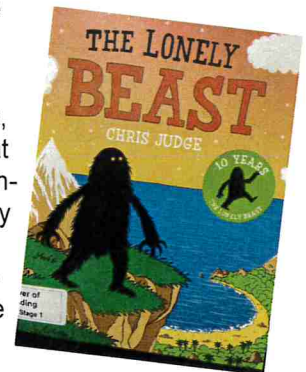
Lower School

EYFS classes **Cherries** and **Pears** welcomed a very special visitor as part of their new transport topic. The children enjoyed asking Mr Lakatos questions and learned about the importance of safety clothing. What a fun experience!



Watermelon class have been reading a new story called The Lonely Beast.

At first, they thought he was scary and would be dangerous, however they soon learned that he is just lonely in search of other Beasts. The Beast accidentally dropped his diary and the children read his extract. They decided to write a message to the Beast and guess what?



HE REPLIED!

ZSL WHIPSNADE ZOO



Pears and **Strawberries** Class enjoyed their 'Kids Day Out' at Whipsnade zoo thanks to the generosity of the **Rotary Club of St Albans** (thank you). They got to see rhinos, camels, elephants, ostriches and flamingos to name but a few! As well as a ride on the train and an ice cream.



Congratulations to all our **Year 11 leavers**. We wish you all the best for the future. Particular Congratulations to the winners of the **Michael Wilson Trophy** and **Heathlands Trophy**.



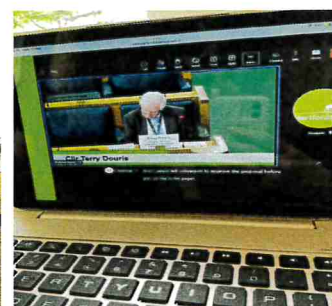
Congratulations to the Heathlands Buff team who won their division! They beat the California School for the Deaf, Fremont in the final! Heathlands Blue team were knocked out by the eventual winners, Washington School for the Deaf. Blue team won the Sportsmanship award and one of the team won Most Outstanding Reader. Thank you so much to **Gallaudet Youth Programs** for all their amazing work- keep reading everyone!!!

Heathlands School

Become The Best You Can Be

Upper School

The building work has started. We can see the foundation walls where the 6 new classrooms are going to be!

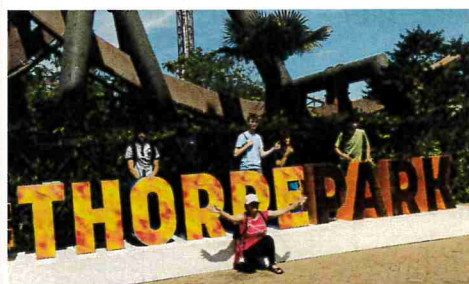


Post-16 Education at Heathlands was approved by Hertfordshire County Council. This will start in September 2024 for the 2024-25 academic year.



Heathlands Sports day was a huge success. Luckily the weather was cooler. Our students achieved some great results!

Well done everyone!



Year 11 went on their 'prom' trip to Thorpe Park in June. They (and staff) enjoyed going on the thrill rides and spending time together. They also practised interacting with staff at Thorpe Park, by asking for items and to make transactions using cash or card.

Before Easter, some upper school students took part in the **Shakespeare Schools Festival** performing a brilliant Hamlet to rave reviews!

This was a compelling and captivating performance with precision and skill from a talented cast.

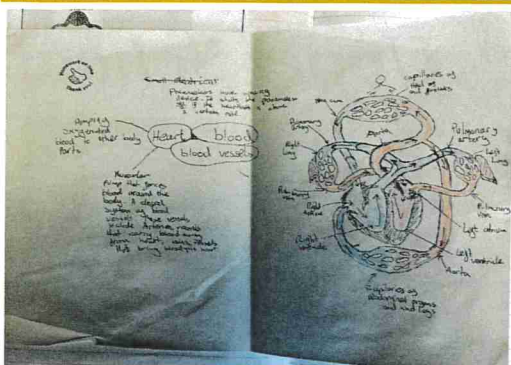
Appraised by Martin Leonard, Shakespeare Schools Festival 2023



This weeks **summer rewards trips** to London Aquarium, Ninja Warriors & Westminster Lodge were enjoyed by all!



8 coram
SHAKESPEARE
SCHOOLS FESTIVAL



In Biology **Delta** have been learning about the circulatory system. Here are some pictures of their homework and some team work in class.



Eta, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Theta, Iota and Zeta classes went to visit Bletchley Park. They learnt how ciphers were used to transcribe coded messages from enemies, during World War 2. They toured Bletchley Park and attended a workshop. Some students learnt about cyber security and how to improve the strength of their passwords to make it difficult for criminals to exploit weaknesses in cyber security. Students also attempted a codebreaking task to crack a code using ciphers.

Heathlands School Facebook



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



A big THANK YOU to the companies who hosted our **Year 11 work experiences**. They are: Deafaid, Orbital Fasteners, St Albans Cycle hub, Scope, Adambikes & Tesco F&F.

An excellent example of a very good **reflective learner**. She used her own notebook summarising key information in preparation for KS3 assessment week.



In Science **Eta** have been learning about collecting and displaying continuous data. They measured arm spans and plotted histograms.



Lovely science mind map made by the student in preparation for her science end of year test.

Student Leaders had a fantastic last training session of the school year - reflecting on their leadership skills, discussing non-verbal communication and brushing up on their debating skills, debating whether we ought to replace schoolbooks with iPads and Google Classroom! They were rewarded for their hard work organising activities this year with pizza and games.



Upper School



Beta students have been learning about aerobic respiration. They used a microscope to identify mitochondria in human



Kappa and Epsilon had the opportunity to take part in a Sign Health Workshop. The students found their information was useful and interesting.

One of the GCSE foundation set was in discussion with Mr Richard Weinbaum, one of our **school governors**, at lunchtime regarding different methods to tackle a trigonometry problem.



Well done to all of my **guitar students** for their hard work and achievements over the last term! We have looked at a large variety of songs and techniques, including groovy and energetic Rock and Pop songs like 'Blitzkrieg Bop' and well-loved film music such as the 'Pirates Of The Caribbean' theme. Spaces available for new students please let the school know if you would like to book a trial session - **Tom Hunt, Guitar Teacher**.



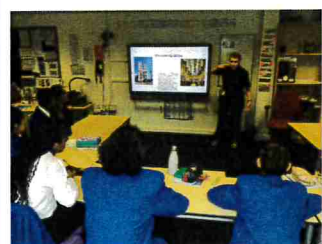


KS4 students had a workshop from **Herts Young Homeless** - a charity that supports young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The presentation and activities were really thought provoking and the students have a better idea of why people might become homeless and what they can do if they or someone they know is homeless. They also looked at the different costs involved when renting and living independently and couldn't believe how ex-

Epsilon and Kappa students enjoyed doing activities such as basketball, bouncy castle and penalty shoot out at St Luke School's Sports Experience Day.



Alpha students have been learning about the different parts of plant cells. It was good to have one of our governors **Mr Richard Weinbaum** joining for part of the lesson.



Sue Whalley delivered a presentation about the Church of England to **Epsilon and Kappa** classes. This is part of their Religious Education. Students enjoyed watching her presentation.

Heathlands School web-

www.heathlands.herts.sch.uk

Take a look at our new images and information.

Gamma students have been learning about the reaction of metals with oxygen. They saw the burning of magnesium and iron with oxygen.



Upper School



Student-led **revision lesson** in science. One student made revision cards with questions for her peers to practise answering in a fun way.



The students enjoyed meeting and talking to a range of professionals in different jobs this term, at the **Heathlands' Careers Fair**. The students were able to ask questions

and learn about how they got into the job which gives them more ideas and options for the future. A massive **thank you** to all our visitors who gave up their time to support the Careers Programme at Heathlands. The students have learnt so much from meeting such inspiring role models.



Zeta had their First Aid training course. The students had fun while learning life saving skills, they did really well and particularly enjoyed the bandaging session. **Thank you Staying Alive** for your first aid training.



Heath House Summer Term 2023

Cooking - Students have been helping staffs cook the dinner by helping with prepping ingredients beforehand, so staffs can cook the dinner efficiently. Students have been building in confidence and learning the valuable life skills of cooking, including learning why it is important to keep a kitchen clean. One child said she 'loves helping staff cooking because she wants to learn about cooking for the future'.



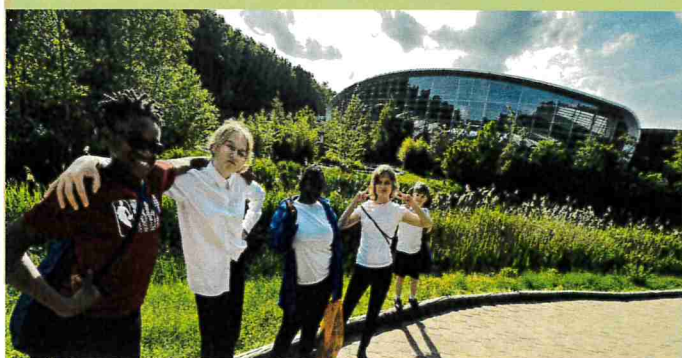
Younger children went to the cinema and McDonalds, which children really enjoyed. They watch The Super Mario Bros and said they want to go to cinema again soon.



Students washed the school's minibus to give them a fun experience and an opportunity to learn new life skills. They learnt about why it is important to keep our school bus clean. We hope they can learn from this experience so they can look after their own vehicles in the future.



They went to Center Parcs Woburn Forest before half term to go swimming. They really enjoyed this trip, especially the wild rapids which were outside swimming. Everyone said they want to go back to Center Parcs again in the future.





Old Photo in 2014



Sadly, our lovely year 11 student is leaving. He has been staying in Heath House for 9 years. He enjoyed his last week, as we took him to



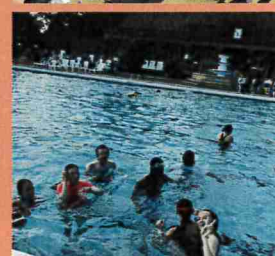
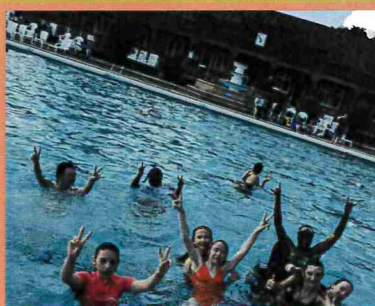
Center Parcs with his friends to go swimming there and have a meal. Also, as BBQ is his favourite, we had a BBQ and played games together with all the students from primary to the older groups.



Heath House won't be the same without him because he is very helpful and kind. We wish him all the best for the future!



Two children went to learn skateboarding with an instructor to help them develop skateboarding skills. They said it was great fun and a good experience to see what skateboarding is like. They want to continue with this club.



Our children & young people enjoyed attending Hitchin outdoor swimming pool in lovely weather but could also use the indoor pool too. They loved to dive underwater to grab the toys. They also brought a picnic to eat and drink poolside.



A group went to a snorkelling underwater hockey tournament. It was their first tournament ever. One child said it was 'a good experience for them' and 'will use that experience and will be ready for the next tournament in November'.



BSL

As another school year comes to the end, what a year it has been:

- ♦ We welcomed new and existing learners to the BSL Centre.
- ♦ We were able to offer fast-track courses where you could complete BSL levels 1&2 within the same year .
- ♦ We offered 2 x BSL level 1 courses which started in January 2023.

All our students are now eagerly awaiting their results after preparing so hard for their exams. We wish them Good Luck!

We also offered an “Intro to BSL” for 8-15 year olds, which was a success with many now wanting to enrol for the BSL level 1 young persons course which will be on Mondays 4.30pm-6.30pm.

The rest of our timetable for 2023/24 is available, however demand has been high and there are limited spaces left. If you know someone who is interested in learning British Sign Language, they can check Heathlands School website or contact BSL@Heathlands.herts.sch.uk for further details.



Quote from learner 2023/24:
I have really enjoyed level 1, the teacher made the sessions fun and interactive which helped with learning and made the sessions enjoyable to attend .



Quote from learner 2023/24:
Our teacher was fabulous and I really enjoyed the course.



Quote from learner: 2023/24:
A great course with a great teacher.

A big “thank you” to Bethany-Joy, Donna, Gemma, Robyn and Zayne who have worked hard over the year providing support to our learners. The feedback has been amazing with so many wanting to progress and continue their BSL journey with us at the BSL Centre @ Heathlands. Hope you enjoy the Summer break. Happy Holidays!



Quote from learner 2023/24:

The instructors were brilliant. They were very knowledgeable and friendly so it was easy to ask questions and we got expansive answers to help us understand and learn.

Thank you to both our sponsors, who kindly donated to our event. They made it extra fun!



This term we had the Colour run. All parents were invited to take part with their teams on Saturday 10th June.



The drone video is now on Facebook if you would like to watch it! Fun was had by all and the sun came out too!



Parents



We are currently buying books to make our library more diverse.

FoH 2023-2024 Calendar of Events

AGM: 22.9.23

Come along and find out more about what we do and how you can help. Mix of hearing and deaf there will always be an interpreter to help out.

Upper school disco: 14.12.23

The peer champions will be running this event. It is an opportunity for the students to get together and see their friends. We are looking for helpers to supervise on the night.

Lower school Winter Party: 20.12.23

The children get together and have a party, they may meet Santa too! Stacey Shah (Lower school parent) is organising this, she is looking for volunteers, let us know if you can help.

Summer Fete 13.7.24

World theme, the whole community are welcome! We will travel between the 7 continents. All ideas and help welcome, come along to a meeting to show your support.

Contact: friends@heathlands.herts.sch.uk





HOLIDAY DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 - 2024



HEATHLANDS

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

Final Copy 5.10.22

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

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts	Mon 15 April 2024
Bank Holiday	Mon 6 May 2024
Half Term Holiday	Mon 27 May 2024 – Fri 31 May 2024
Term Ends	Fri 19 July 2024 @ 12.30pm
Inset Days	Mon 22 July 2024 - Tues 23 July 2024 (no pupils in school)

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

