



Heathermount School – Newsletter

May 2024

Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of the year! It's hard to believe we have just one term left of this school year. It may have been a short one but it's been busy!

We turned Heathermount green for Mental Health Awareness week

Thank you to staff and students for dressing green for mental health awareness week last week. We had an external visitor doing workshops teaching the students all about meditation techniques.

First aid day for KS3

We had two paramedics in for the day to teach our KS3 students the basics of first aid. The morning was spent learning the theory, then they had great fun with the practical aspects and role playing in the afternoon.

Primary music workshop

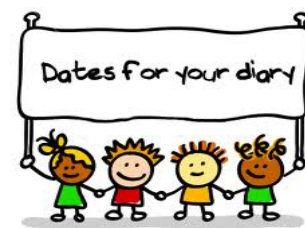
The primary department had a wonderful morning learning all about brass instruments with a visit from the Berkshire music trust and the students had fun having a go on the instruments they brought in.

PGL

A big thank you to Dani, Nicola, Abby and Laura who took some of our Secondary students to PGL on a 3 day residential trip to Marchants Hill. The students tackled every challenge with enthusiasm and teamwork and learned a lot about themselves and others during their three days packed full of activities. I managed to spend the morning with them, showing their skills in climbing and raft building.

Vocational learning

We have had a lot of vocational learning this term with a visit to KCP Network, Mars class embarking on their chocolate project in Business Admin, Forest school and horticulture have been creating planters around school (inside and out), and some of our budding journalists interviewed me for their first edition of the Heathermount Herald - a



Mon to Fri 27-31 May
May Half Term

Monday 3rd June
Start of Term 6

w/c 17 June
Royal Ascot Week - be aware of increased traffic

Monday 24 June
Parent Coffee Afternoon (2:30pm)

Tuesday 23 July
End of term celebration (10am to 2pm)

Wednesday 24 July
Last day of term for students

Thursday 25 July
Inset Day – Staff Training



Congratulations to all our stars of the week his term:

- o Taim
- o Abdul
- o Cohen
- o Paul
- o Finley

Wow Moments

Well done to all our students who had wow moments:

Foundation:

- o Bradley
- o Christopher
- o Billie-Joe
- o Mylo
- o Alice
- o Lauren
- o Noah
- o Buddie
- o Zachary
- o Pieter Brian
- o Brody
- o Dennis

Primary:

- o William
- o Paru
- o Charlie-Ray
- o Sammy
- o Alex
- o Jamie
- o Harry
- o Jacob

Secondary:

- o Charlie
- o Jay P
- o Jay R
- o TJ
- o Colbie
- o Cian
- o Ethan
- o Cohen
- o Sam
- o Oliver
- o Eric
- o Ben
- o Isaac
- o Lucas
- o Oliver B
- o Tyler
- o Yusuf
- o Tobias
- o Taim
- o Ciaran
- o Billy
- o Benjamin

new termly newspaper for the students. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Mike O'Mahony and Adam Murray from HDR into our school assembly to speak to the secondary department about the importance of engineering and careers in the construction industry.

Staffing

As is always the case with schools, as we come to the end of term we have staff leaving us. We are sorry to say that in July we will be saying goodbye to Leah Durham who will be leaving us to take up an Assistant head position closer to her home.

The good news is that we have been really busy these last few weeks interviewing and had some very strong candidates and have offered to the following people, subject to references and checks.

Cara Bagley has now gone off on Maternity leave and Caroline Gale, our Teaching assistant in Foundation will be covering for Cara until the end of the year. Liliana will be joining the Primary team as a teacher in June. In September Nicki will join the Foundation team as a teacher, Lily will join the Leadership Team as our Assistant Head of Primary in September and Megan will join Heathermount as an Art Teacher, we will send some photos out to students a little closer to the time. Thank you to all the staff who have worked hard at interviewing to fill these roles.

Ofsted visit

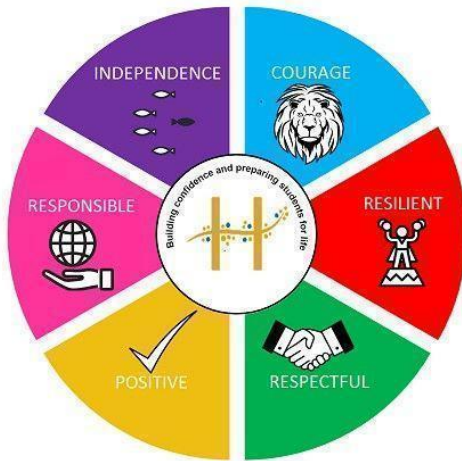
As mentioned last term, we are expecting a full Ofsted inspection before the summer and we look forward to showing the inspectors the school and our wonderful students. When we are notified of the visit, I will contact all parents and provide a link to the Ofsted parent questionnaire portal. This will give all parents the opportunity to complete the questionnaire (very similar to the annual school questionnaire) and add any further comments.

We were very excited by the arrival of our two new minibuses. A big thank you to Craig and Andy for going down to Dover to collect them for us. The staff will be embarking on training after half term.

Do look at the [Highlights of Term 5](#) news article and [photo gallery](#) on the website for everything the students have been up to and don't forget to keep an eye on our website.

I hope that you all have a wonderful Half Term and we look forward to returning for the final term on Monday June 3rd.

David Stewart
Headteacher



Core Values

Each term, the whole school focuses on one of Heathermount's core values. At the end of term, staff nominate students who they feel have demonstrated the core value really well. An overall winner is then decided for foundation, primary and secondary. This term we have focused on being **Positive** and our cup winners are:

- **Foundation - Bradley**
- **Primary - Sammy**
- **Secondary - Jay R**



Whole school attendance 92.1%

Thank you to everyone for contributing to the fantastic overall attendance figures this academic year. Please do continue to keep us informed of your child's absences. It is important to notify us of each day your child is not in school.

The greater the attendance in school = the greater the achievement

Is my child too ill for school?

Please follow the NHS guidance on when to send your child to school
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

School Lunches

The [menus](#) for the Summer term are on our website. The first week back after half term will be Week 1. Please remember to pay for your child's lunches via the Arbor parent portal or Arbor App. Any top up amount can be added to your child's account.