

# The Heathlander

## December 2022



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## Claiming Top Spot: Hounslow Debate Competition



From left to right: Aditya Bhaskara (13 Gresham), Aiza Awan (13 Dickens), Miss Acharya and Abida Kamran (13 Palmer) posed proudly with their certificates.

On the 14th July 2022 a team of students from Year 12 took part in a Debate Competition, organised by Heston Community School, against other schools: Reach Academy, Gumley School for Girls and Heston themselves.

The competition was structured with two sets of two debates, with the highest scoring team from each set moving on to the final debate. However due to other teams not attending in their set, Gumley went straight to the final. That left us, Heston and Reach to compete for the final spot, with Heston having two debates!

Despite tough opposition, we were able to just edge out Heston in average points with our views on the presence of monuments that represent controversial historical figures, and went on to the final.

Of course, in the final we were up against Gumley. However, at the end, we did enough to score higher and win the competition, a tremendous achievement and one we did not expect would happen at the beginning. Considering the little time we had to prepare and the amount of co-ordination that was required to set up practice sessions alone, this victory is a testament to all the hard work we had put in and it was an incredible feeling to be able to hold the trophy.

*Aditya Bhaskara, 13 Gresham*

"The room was buzzing with excitement and ideas. After watching the other debates, it was our turn against Heston. We argued with full emotion and expression, putting forward powerful ideas to the audience. Rebuttals were a chance to comment on the other group's points.

After the debate was over, discussions took place to see who would end up in the final. The motion for the final was 'Should Queen Elizabeth be the last monarch'.

We waited patiently for the news of who had won The Hounslow Borough Debating Competition and... we won! It was a great pleasure to be part of this debate and would not have happened without Mrs Sherriff and Miss Acharya so a special thanks to their immense help."

*Abida Kamran, 13 Palmer*

## The Head's Up...



Staff raise awareness for World Mental Health Day

What a start to the new academic year! I am thankful to everyone who has warmly welcomed me into The Heathland. This Autumn Term has been extremely busy and we have some great highlights to share in this edition of the December Heathlander.

Students have showcased their skills in various activities ranging from many House events and they have participated in many trips and visits to some amazing places! We have celebrated momentous occasions as well as marking some distinctive and new experiences this academic year. We have had two successful Open Days and Prize Giving Evening in the first half term. All the staff were so proud of last summer's examination success stories and we continue to share these with current students.

We marked the period of mourning for Queen Elizabeth II, World Mental Health Day, Black History Month, MacMillan Coffee Morning, Diwali, Remembrance Day and Anti-Bullying Week to name just a few. We have had motivational speakers in and a number of sporting and musical events.

I would like to wish our whole school and the wider community a very enjoyable Christmas break. We all choose to celebrate in our own way but I hope that you have a relaxing and restful time with your family and friends. We look forward to the new year with continued optimism and excitement for the students and staff as they return!

*Mrs S. Huxley, Headteacher*





# Universify



## Students enjoying the Universify trip

Universify is a programme, which helps students from all academic backgrounds, securing their place at a prestigious university. Their aim is to aid students by experiencing life as an undergraduate at a highly selective university. Through a specific application process, students were chosen to attend this summer residential, which took place in August 2022.

The residential lasted a week where we stayed in the dorms in Somerville College amongst other students from schools across the UK. Everyone was given their own room in which you would sleep and spend some of your free time. This experience of staying in a dorm alone gave me a sense of independence and responsibility. In the mornings, we were required to attend taster lectures on different subjects, which were offered at the university. Many activities took place over the course of the week including scavenger hunts and punting; a type of boating consisting of a large pole used to paddle. We were also given a chance to go into the city of Oxford to explore with our friends. We would often get food to take back to our dorms, which we instead ate in the kitchen of our accommodation with newly made friends.

A memory I will always remember is sneaking into the kitchens late at night to make snacks and have movie marathons until 3am! We were also given the chance to meet our personal coaches who will aid us through our GCSE journey.

Every month until July 2023, my coach will be mentoring and guiding me as to how to achieve the grades I aim for. I was able to develop good relationships with the other students who were involved in this programme, as well as staff members who gave their time towards helping us achieve our goals in the future. I am so lucky to have been able to participate in this residential and to now be given all the support I would need and more.

*Raisa Shahid, 11 Adam*

# Rising Futures, Play your Part Trip



## Pupils enjoying Bedfont Lakes

Pupils in Year 8 and 9 who are part of The Rising Futures programme were lucky enough to participate in the Play Your Part trip at Bedfont Lakes Country Park. Throughout the day, they took part in survival skills; habitat management sessions and animal enrichment, where they got to hold a variety of animals and learn about them. All pupils had a fun day as well as developing their team collaboration skills, building their confidence and improving their social skills.



# Victory for Rhys in Football Writing Competition!

Rhys Fender (9 Dickens) was victorious last term in the Hounslow School Library Service Competition. Not only did he win a prize of



a £10 book voucher for himself, he also won big on behalf of The Heathland School! Thanks to Rhys, the school library will benefit from £100 worth of free books. Our librarian Mrs Jajh put him forward for the contest, which was organised to celebrate the UEFA Women's European Championship, and he scored with a story entitled 'Victory' about netting the winning goal for Brentford FC.

In his own words...

*To enter the competition I had to write a 500-word story about a football match from any perspective. I then had to hand it in to Mrs Jajh before the end of June. I took part*

*because I was interested in the idea behind the competition after being introduced to it by Mrs Jajh. What inspired me to write my story was my own experiences of watching small-scale football matches and listening to anecdotes by people who had played in those type of football matches before. I did not think I would win when I entered and I was elated when I heard I had won. Well done, Rhys!*





## The Heathland School Committed to Excellence Once Again!

A huge congratulations to our Year 13 and 11 students for making it through a very tough and challenging few years we are delighted with their performance in the first examinations sat since 2019. We are immensely proud of all our Year 13 and 11 students who have worked extremely hard, showing real commitment, resilience and dedication, achieving exceptional results.

There are so many inspirational stories; where during tough times of uncertainty students have strived to learn, leading to their success. It is a real testament to their positive attitude, and they deserve all the success they have achieved.

### Post 16 Results 2022

We are immensely proud of our students who surpassed 2019 examination results, with over 200 of our students gaining places at University, some key highlights include:

- Students achieving 80 A\* grades, 118 B grades and 168 B grades in their A Levels
- 11 students achieved 3 A\* grades in 3 A Levels
- 15 students achieved A\*-A grades in 3 A Levels
- 6 students achieved A grades in 3 A Levels

We are proud of each and every student, some student highlights include:

Nimit Mistry A\*A\*A\*A\*  
 Hamnah Riaz A\*A\*A\*A\*  
 Sarvinthiran Ayangar A\*A\*AA  
 Iqrab Uddin A\*AAA

#### BTEC Applied Science

Alina Ahmed D\*D\*D\*  
 Jashanpreet Singh D\*D\*D\*

#### BTEC Business

Joshua Dharmaraj D\*D\*D\*  
 Amin Mouisi D\*D\*D\*  
 Kieran Rayat-Jones D\*D\*D\*

Students who studied BTEC Business and BTEC Applied Science achieved highly where many have gone on to study at top Universities:

Nursing, Software engineering, Biomedical Science, Diagnostic Radiography, Cyber Security, Digital Forensics and Law.



*The following students gained places at Cambridge and Oxford University to study:*

Zuha Murtaza, Oxford University  
 Experimental Psychology A\*A A  
 Mahi Patel, Oxford University Chemistry  
 A\*A\*A\*  
 Daisy Shaw, Cambridge University  
 Education A\*A\*A\*  
 Sivani Sivaanpu, Medicine A\*A\*A\*  
 Maia Davies, Veterinary Medicine A\*AA  
 Ameera Alkattab, Dentistry A\*AA

### GCSE Results 2022

#### Key Stage 4 Examination Results

We had a large number of the year group come to school to collect their results and some parents and families too; there was some initial nervous faces and many happy students once they had opened their results, and even some loud screams of excitement and jumping in the air!

#### Key Highlights include:

85% of students achieved a standard pass in English and Mathematics 4+

76.43% of students achieved grades 9 – 5 in English

90.49% of students achieved grades 9 – 4 in English

71.86% of students achieved grades 9 – 5 in Mathematics

87.45% of students achieved grades 9 – 4 in Mathematics

Our students achieved an incredible 139 9 Grades, 284 8 grades and 379 7 grades at GCSE.





Having a brilliant time in Barcelona!

## Hola Amigos!: Barcelona 2022 Returns

In Spain, we stayed at an Activity Centre 7 minutes walk away from the beach. We took part in lots of different activities at the beach, at the Activity Centre and we also went to a water park on the last day of our stay.

On our way back, we had some karaoke singing which was really fun. We did a lot of activities related to swimming and that really helped me get used to being in the water

and it helped me get better at swimming. I was able to share a room with my friends and make new ones on the way. We also went to the Barcelona Stadium, which was really cool since we saw a lot of interesting things about the history of the football teams and we also saw trophies from different sports. We also saw basketball related things as well as other sports. The stadium had a shopping area from which visitors could buy

souvenirs. Some of my favourite activities were, going on the speedboats, climbing, the pedalos even though they were tiring and the banana boats, which were exhilarating.

I also loved exploring Tossa de Mar as it was a very beautiful place and it had a variety of things to buy and we also went to The Ramblas after we went to the stadium which was really cool.

*Maria Secuiu, 10 Palmer*





## Rise to the Challenge!

All participants in the Senior Maths Challenge

Congratulations to our Sixth Form who took part in this year's Senior Maths Challenge. We had a record 98 participants completing the challenge online after school.

Both Year 12 and 13 students who took part really did rise to the occasion and as a School we achieved 33 Bronze, 11 Silver and 4 Gold certificates. Well done to everyone who took part!

**Gold certificate winners:** Allen Jolly Mathew, Anuj Patel, Deyaa Al Haj Ali (Best in school), Arshdeep Kalsi.

**Silver certificate winners:** Javid Ahmadi, Taufiq Ali, Aryan Basnet, Aditya Chandra Bose, Walden Correia, Tahazib Islam, Shreya Nautiyal, Yash Sawad, Ricardo Serrao, Manas Shah, Himanshi Singh, Iman Syed.

**Bronze certificate winners:** Mohamed Abdullahi, Faizaan Ahmed, Sara Ali, Adam Aljumaily, Omar Alkattab, Ajmal Amin, Amaran Bansal, Samuel Burke, Abdullah Chaudhary, Armaan Chhokar, Daniel Cristobal, Tamim Fawad, Saleha Ferdausi Uddin, Camron Ibrahim, Abdulshakur Khamis, Shakib Mbabaali, Mahnoor Mirza, Hasan Muhammad, Abulla Nowrose, Michal Opozda, Tazriranramim Rahman, Abdullahi Said, Paulina Saladaj, Daljodh Sandhu, Gurtej Sehra, Hamza Shahzad, Rayna Shaikh, Jake Sinclair, Arnav Sinha, Manleen Sodhi, Thurka Sribalan, Laiba Tazmeen, Siadat Yamin, Makemeh Zuanah

### Easy as Pi

Due to their high scores, our 4 Gold certificate winners have now been invited to the next round of the challenge: The Senior Kangaroo round. This is a huge achievement and we wish them the best of luck.



The 4 Gold certificate winners - Anuj Patel, Allen Jolly Mathew, Deyaa Al Haj Ali (Best in school), Arshdeep Kalsi.

## Money talks! Year 13 Trip to HSBC



Students at HSBC event

On Friday 18th October 2022, I had the opportunity to attend HSBC at their Canary Wharf office to learn more about the HSBC Commercial Banking team. The day was very insightful and informative about different pathways into the bank.

It taught me a lot about commercial banking and what the role includes

which was working from small businesses to large corporations. The day also included an opportunity to get an insight into industry-related tasks, which taught me how commercial bankers use analytical thinking and that being open-minded was needed in the role. It was also really interesting networking with employees

in commercial banking and how they got to where they are now. Speaking to current and past degree apprentices had also given me an insight into how to shine through the application process. There had also been a session where we worked on a personal brand and what it is and why it is important when applying for graduate or apprenticeships.

### Philosophy in films: What we learnt

This term, Philosophy Club went to the cinema to watch Black Panther: Wakanda Forever to better understand ethical issues faced in our own society. The trip was highly enjoyable and everyone had an interesting experience. The movie explores the Wakandans trying to use technology to alter the DNA of King T'Chala to try and keep him alive. This obviously has numerous ethical challenges – primarily because it is seen as altering human life. There were also issues such as feminism, the act of war and treasonous behaviour. If this sounds interesting, I recommend trying out Philosophy Club.

*Rhys Fender, 9 Dickens*



Da Vinci showing off their moves at Strictly Staff Bhangra

## Heathland Hearts Give Back!

After two years, Charity Week returned to The Heathland School this Summer. All week Students competed in their Tutor Groups, Year Groups and Houses to raise as much as they could for some worthy causes. In this time, the school transformed, with activities being put on by Staff and Students alike. These varied from shaving Mr Simpson's beard, Strictly Staff Bhangra and a tug of war. The Heathland School also held its first Cultural Day. This was to celebrate the diversity of our community and was an opportunity for Students to come into School in

clothes that represent and highlight our culture.

As a result of these amazing efforts we raised over £6,000 for our chosen charities; Hounslow Action for Youth (HAYS), MIND, Doctors without Borders and the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. A special shout out goes to Year 12, who managed to raise the most as a collective Year Group. However, 7 Gresham were able to take the title of most raised by a single Tutor Group. We cannot wait to see what Charity Week in 2023 holds!

We look forward to this year's cultural events.



Abida Kamran, 13 Palmer and Morsal Kabir, 13 Kent presenting Heathland's Strictly Bhangra

## Bio-Bodies Bake-Off 2022

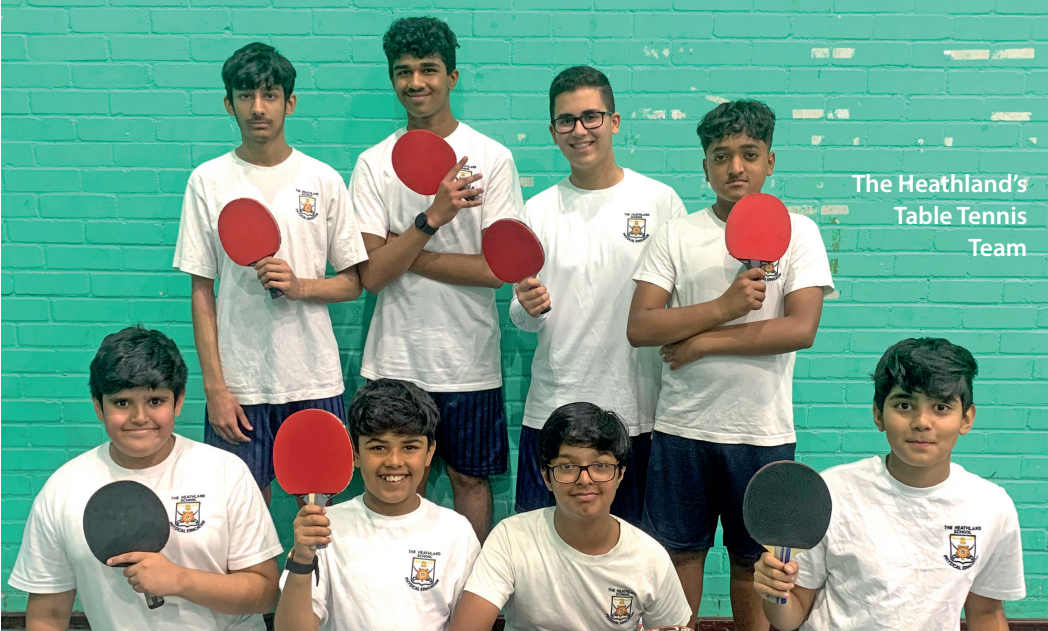
Pupils combined their amazing baking skills with Biology to take part in the 8th National Bio Bakes Competition, run by The Physiological Society. The Technology department were keen to see some creative entries and there were house points to be won. We had some fabulous cakes made to look like brains, eyes and lungs, good luck to all the entries!

Entries involved included Noor Suliman, 13 Dickens (The Lung Cake), Eshal Waqas, 8 Sheridan (The Eyeball Cake) and Aaliyah Thomas, 8 Sheridan (The Brain Cake).



Some of the fabulous 'body part' cakes!





The Heathland's  
Table Tennis  
Team

## Heathland Year 8 Footballers start season strongly!

The Year 8 Footballers have had a busy start to the season, competing in three competitions. The boys carried on where they left off in Year 7 with an excellent performance in a pre-season friendly against Cranford Community College, winning 9-0. This game served as perfect preparation, allowing the team to become familiar with their positions and adjust to playing 11 aside rules. They took this form into the first Round of the National ESFA Cup, winning 6-3 at home with a man of the match performance from Malakai who scored a well-deserved hat-trick along with 2 assists. However, the boys just fell short in the next round losing 4-0. They didn't let this result affect them and went into the first league game against Kingsley Academy full of confidence, winning 9-0 for the second time this season. Well done to all the boys for an excellent start to the season, with special mention to Malakai, Lukas, Lemuel and Shaer for their Man of the Match performances during the opening matches.



Year 8 Footballers all smiles after their cup win!

## A Strong Serve can Make a Difference!

The Heathland boys Table Tennis team recently travelled to Isleworth & Syon to compete in the Borough Table Tennis Championships. The Heathland team consisted of 8 players from a mixture of boys in Years 7-10.

All players were required to play four single matches in the tournament against players from the five other schools that entered. The results from all the matches were combined to give a final league standing once all matches had been played. The team finished a very respectable and well deserved third place

out of six teams. Shlok Mufti (7Ba) was the pick of the performers, winning all his 4 matches, some of which against boys in Year 10. Well done to all eight boys who represented the school so successfully, not only displaying great table tennis skills, but also great sportsmanship and teamwork. *Shlok Mufti, 7 Banks*

## The Heathland School Poem

The Heathland School, located in Hounslow,  
Has co-ed students numbering over 1800  
Children of all ethnicities come and go  
"Committed to excellence" and a school well led

The curriculum is extensive for all to see  
Experienced staff encourage concentration  
Inspiring students to work to their best ability  
To achieve their preferred university destination

Clever, displayed areas yellow, mauve, red and green  
Students change classrooms throughout the day  
Eager to impress and show teachers they're keen  
Hoping to collect good comments along the way!

Sixth Form silent study rooms in place  
For revision and reflection of their work  
We know success will mean a happy face  
There's no challenge which they will shirk

The sports facilities are second to none  
With students always trying to do their best  
The school will provide knowledge and fun  
And stands out, locally, among the rest

Safeguarding is paramount with no stone unturned  
As safety for all at Heathland is taken seriously  
The students are proud of all they have learned  
And know this is the first step to their degree

*Mr Evzona (Cover Supervisor)*

## What law would YOU change?

Recently I entered the Stephen Lawrence Day 2022 essay competition based on the topic "What Law would you change or enact to help young people live their best lives?". As I am interested in studying Law at University, I saw this competition as an exciting opportunity, which would help build my personal statement and show my interest in Law. Surprisingly my essay won first place and as part of the prize I was awarded a week of Work Experience in a Law chambers in Lincolns Inn. I took part in my Work Experience over the summer where I observed interesting court cases at the Royal Courts of Justice, participated in mock trials and shadowed Solicitors and Barristers. This was a great experience and I would encourage others to take part in opportunities such as these. *Zunairah Qureshi, 13 Palmer*

## Changes to Heathland House Names

**Da Vinci** will now be **NIGHTINGALE**

**Hirst** will now be **PARKS**

**Foster** will now be **MALALA**

**SHAKESPEARE** remains the same

**NEWTON** remains the same



## Shooting for Success with our Year 10 Football Team!

This football season has been amazing to say the least and all the boys have shown incredible team spirit and ethic to get us on great form.

Although facing some tough teams we have shown our drive to win and play great football each game. I believe that every one of our players have represented the School and our principles in great manner even through a lot of unsportsmanlike conduct from opposing teams. We hope to carry this on into the rest of the season and nonetheless stay consistent in our performance.

*Adam Kolli, 10 Jenner*

## #Let Girls Play: Celebrating Female Athletes at The Heathland



### Our Female Athletes Posing Proudly!

As captain of The Heathland School Netball Squad, I would like to thank my fellow team players for their devotion to the sport from consistent attendance to the training sessions, to encouraging others to join up, and for always being present at the games against other schools in the league.

I have to say, I feel deeply privileged and fortunate for the gender equality in sports at The Heathland School as I understand it is not the case everywhere; football is not a sport only for the boys... we have a Girl's Football Club each week and like the boys we play football in PE on the Astro turf, neither is rugby or basketball or rock-climbing...the girls too experience the contact game play as part of the curriculum and vice versa the boys play netball, badminton, and participate in gymnastics, dance and trampolining. There's no such thing as a boy's or girl's sport.

Girls can play sport. Girls can win major tournaments. Just give them the chance too.

The progress we have made, the opportunities as a school and the eagerness to tear down boundaries makes me so proud to be part of the Sport Committee and investing in #letgirlsplay.

What is a better way than starting the new half term with the Year 9's 12-6 win over last year's Netball league champions Gumley School?

Keep it up girls!

And on behalf of all the pupils, I would like to thank the PE Department Staff for all the passion, effort and time they put into running and promoting the extra-curricular clubs and lessons, fighting the stereotypical boundaries in sports, supporting fair play and in particular Miss Whitaker- our expert coach- for making this all a reality for the Y9 Netball Team.

*Anastasia Tymoftey, 9 Sheridan*

## Term dates 2022/23

### Spring term dates 2023

Tuesday 3rd Jan – Friday 31st Mar 2023

Inset Day - Tuesday 3rd Jan 2023

Half Term - Monday 13th to Friday 17th Feb 2023

### Summer term dates 2023

Monday 17th Apr – Friday 21st Jul 2023

Inset Day - Mon 17th Apr 2023

May Day - Monday 1st May 2023

Half Term - Monday 29th May 2023 to Friday 2nd June 2023

Inset Day - Wednesday 5th July 2023

