



Thursday 14th March 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

It's been a busy few weeks since half-term and I would like to share a few highlights with you.

Year 9 pupils attended our annual **World of Work Day** on Wednesday 21st February where they learned about a wide range of career opportunities. Visitors from 24 different employers spoke to our pupils and we received extremely positive feedback both from our visitors and also from the Year 9 pupils.

World Book Week started on 19th of February with a visit from Adisa the Verbaliser, a Performance Poet. He ran three workshops for pupils from Years 9 and 10. He read his poems and guided them in writing their own poetry using metaphors and other figurative language. On Tuesday 20th, we welcomed Breis (pronounced Breeze), a poet, author and Rap artist. He did an assembly for Year 11 where he performed his own poetry and told them about his life and how he began his career as a poet, rapper and educator. He then facilitated three workshops for different groups of Year 11s. He spoke about the similarities between rap and poetry and guided them in producing their own spoken word poems.

A range of activities took place last week:

- Ms Jajh organised a competition for pupils and staff to design a book cover.
- 'Book Bingo' enabled pupils to find out teachers' favourite books
- On Thursday 7th March staff dressed up in a literary themed costume which always sparks some discussion around books and the joy of reading. In registration a short story was read to each class.

My thanks to Ms Moran and all the staff who took part in the events during the week.

STEM Week this week has provided pupils with a number of opportunities to learn more about Science and Technology.

- Year 7 pupils experienced 'Zoo Lab' and had a fantastic opportunity to meet some unusual animals and learn about their habitats, symbiosis and adaptations. We were delighted this year to welcome a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils from Suffah Primary School to also experience 'Zoo Lab'.
- Year 9 enjoyed visiting Science Dome in our Main Hall. Pupils were able to explore Science, Geology and Geography in an interactive way. This was an unusual learning experience... a portable pop-up planetarium!

There were also a wide range of lunchtime events and competitions put on by members of the Science Department. I would like to thank Mr Odulate and Mr Lynch for co-ordinating the week, and to all the members of staff who were involved.



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



May I now bring other matters to your attention.

1. Mobile Phones

As you may well have seen on the news, the government has recently published guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones during the school day.

For over 10 years at The Heathland, our Code of Conduct and Behaviour and Discipline Policy have stated that mobile phones are banned items and should not be brought into school. Moreover, our Home-School Agreement states that mobile phones are not to be brought to school and if they are found they will be confiscated for 10 school days (5 school days for sixth form students).

Every school has a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils can learn and thrive. One of the greatest challenges facing schools in the UK is the presence of mobile phones. Today, by the age of 12, 97% of pupils own a mobile phone.

Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion. We owe it to our students to do what we can to remove distractions and enable them to be fully present and engaged in the classroom. We also owe it to our pupils to keep them safe at school. One in five pupils in the UK have experienced bullying online. By removing mobile phones from the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying.

All pupils are clear on the school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones and are reminded of the policy, and the consequences and sanctions for not following it, at the start of each school year and again, where appropriate, at regular intervals. The Code of Conduct is printed in pupil diaries.

Pupils are taught the risks that are associated with the use of mobile phones, both in school and more broadly, to ensure they understand the school policy to prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. They are also taught the benefits of having a mobile phone-free environment and are encouraged to see such an environment as desirable and valuable.

Parents have an important role in supporting the School's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones and can I ask you to reinforce and discuss the policy at home as appropriate, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.

If there is an emergency and parents need to contact their child during the school day, please contact the school office:

Telephone: 020 8572 4411

email: admin@heathland.hounslow.sch.uk

2. Term Dates

Dates for the Spring Term 2024

Monday 8 January to Thursday 28 March 2024

Half Term – Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February

Easter holiday – Friday 29 March to Friday 12 April 2024

Monday 15th April 2024 is a staff training day and pupils should not attend school.

Dates for the Summer Term 2024

Monday 15 April to Friday 26 July 2024

May Day: Monday 6 May 2024

Half Term – Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2024

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 is a staff training day and pupils should not attend school.

3. Forthcoming Examinations

YEAR GROUP	EXAMINATIONS	DATES
7	End of year exams	Monday 13th May – Friday 17th May
8	End of year exams	Monday 3rd June – Friday 7th June
9	End of year exams	Monday 10th June – Friday 14th June
10	End of year exams	Wednesday 19th June – Thursday 27th June
11	Pre-public Examinations	Monday 18th March to Tuesday 26th March
	GCSE Art, Photography and Textiles Examinations	Monday 29th April – Thursday 2nd May
	GCSE Public Examinations	Thursday 9th May – Wednesday 19th June
12	Pre-Public Examinations	Monday 22nd April to Tuesday 30th April
13	Twilight Exams	Monday 18th March to Friday 22nd March
	Public Examinations	Tuesday 13th May – Friday 21st June

4. Ramadan

Many students and staff in our school community will be marking the month of Ramadan. We aim to support students and staff who will be observing their fast. We promote understanding about the importance of Ramadan through our Religious Studies curriculum, and through the assembly programme. All staff and students are reminded about being mindful of the observance of the fast, in line with our core value of Respect.

We provide a prayer room throughout the year at lunchtime where students and members of staff from all faiths or none can pray or reflect as they wish.

We know that Ramadan is traditionally a time when larger numbers of Muslim students are likely to observe prayers, so the prayer room has now moved to the Drama Studio, so that we can accommodate larger numbers of students praying - students can access the prayer space during their lunchtime.

Throughout Ramadan, the prayer room will be supervised by a member of staff who will ensure that the space remains a calm and orderly environment for the purpose of religious observance.

My thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,



J.M Rose
Headteacher