

Welcome to **Heron Hall Academy**

Stronger
Together



School Prospectus



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Welcome to Heron Hall Academy

At Heron Hall Academy, our aim is to provide every student with an enriching and inspiring educational experience, where they can thrive academically and socially, both while they are with us and in the future.

The world is changing. We live in a more global, technologically-driven world where anything is possible with the right preparation and attitude. That means providing a curriculum and learning experience that reflects the highest academic standards and inspires and enthuses students through its creativity and openness to the world around us.

At the same time, we are all also members of our communities, places where we find friendship, support and common endeavour.

As a school, we foster a culture that respects diversity and recognises that we are stronger together than we are apart.

In pursuing this vision, trustees, staff and governors will model it every day, knowing that each one of us plays a part in making this vision a reality for every child and young person.

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It takes 20,000 hours to create a high performance athlete. Our intention is to create a high performing young individual with a great education and great personal confidence.

We were delighted this year to have been selected for the finals of the UK's Secondary School of the Year competition – one of only 5 schools.

The prestigious Pearson Teaching Awards have acknowledged excellence in education for 25 years. Ultimately we received the Bronze Award

Every year we are oversubscribed, so please put us down as your first choice.

I have worked and lived in North London for many years. That commitment to the community is at the heart of my leadership and the work of the school.

You can watch a short video I have made about coming to Heron Hall. Please visit <https://youtu.be/RKDckwcRqEg>

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time with any questions or queries.

Arthur Barzey
Headteacher



Niah Abrahams
Year 10

Coming to Heron Hall Academy

Making a real difference

Heron Hall has not just literally arisen physically through its buildings at the heart of the Ponders End community but we also believe it has risen symbolically as a place of hope - acting as an inclusive bridge to opportunity, enabling young people to follow their dreams to wherever their talents and abilities can take them. Our children are not defined by their ethnic background or their postcode in order to be happy and successful in life.

Equality and diversity, a school for all

Led by one of the few black headteachers in the UK, there has been a sustained focus on equality and diversity since the school began. We have embraced the local community in developing a rich and diverse curriculum with books studied, for example, from authors from a wide variety of ethnic origins. Departments such as English incorporate literature from BAME authors into their KS3 units whilst History incorporates whole units on BAME, and specifically African history, to help our students see their own stories represented in what we teach.

Through links with many organisations we have been able to put in place numerous opportunities for students from BAME backgrounds in areas such as: workshops on identity, social media and relationships; role model workshops for boys; and inspirational BAME speakers for examinations and careers events. All students are expected to sign a diversity pledge, which focuses on ensuring that students no matter their background, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation are treated the same at Heron.

Raising aspirations, career opportunities

Many of our students are unfamiliar with the opportunities available to them when they first start with us. Some will hold the belief that they are going to be unable to obtain places within competitive institutions or careers. Our careers programme helps to eradicate these views, with chances to attend workshops, seek advice from external careers advisors, and support with sixth form applications, as well as interacting with top employers and industry professionals. We have a particularly strong partnership with the Enfield Caribbean Association who organise an annual careers fair with BAME role models, from the Royal Air force to neurosurgeons. External speakers who have come to the school have included a High Court judge, one of the world's top speech writers and YouTube entrepreneurs.

Transition

Transitioning from Primary to Secondary school is a time of excitement and anxiety for both children and parents. New surroundings, new friends, new challenges, and new choices are all on offer as your child opens the door on the first days of school. We have a dedicated programme to help your child transition from primary to secondary education. You can find out more by visiting our website www.heronhallacademy.org.uk/Transition. You can also follow Joe's journey in 5 short videos on YouTube as he started the school this year. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/d8t7aahj>

Working in partnership with our families

We want to work closely with our families and offer them the opportunity to be as involved in the life of the school as possible. It is parents and carers who have the greatest influence on children and young people's lives. We know how important it is that they have access to the support, advice and school relationships they need to ensure their child thrives. The association between parental engagement and a student's academic success is well established. When parents are involved in their children's education, children do better on a range of measures. We also know we need to help you to do this.

Grab a virtual tour of the school YouTube

We are very proud of our school and would love to show you around so you can see for yourself what we have to offer your child. We are a large school with bright, airy classrooms, a lovely canteen and outdoor eating areas, a substantial library, and plenty of spaces for sports, including a full sized astro turf pitch. Our facilities are second to none in the area. Let our Head of Year 7, Mr Tom Martin, show you around the school on brief tour. Please visit: <https://youtu.be/1s-HxYT7Wns> You can also watch a film made by our students <https://youtu.be/ldScvOvejy4>



GCSE results

Heron Hall celebrated its fourth set of successful GCSE results this summer. Year on year improvement has remained very good with our students achieving an overall estimated progress 8 score of +1.3 (for 2021).

The Progress 8 benchmark is an accountability measure introduced in 2016 and used by the government to measure the effectiveness of secondary schools in England. It bands students into groups based on their scores in English and Mathematics during the Key Stage 2 SATs. In GCSE results, six EBacc subjects are chosen and each grade is converted to points on a scale published by the government for that cohort. English and Mathematics are worth double points and all points are added together. This is the Attainment 8 score.

Our confirmed progress 8 scores in previous years were +0.9 (2020), +0.27 (2019), and +0.34 (2018).

2021 provisional results

Students in Maths and English made outstanding progress with +1.3 progress in Maths and +1.1 progress in English. Students also made above expected progress in subjects including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Combined Science, History, Geography, Art, Drama and several other subjects.

53% of students achieved a grade 5+ in Maths and English and 70% of students achieved a good pass in both English and Maths.

- Attainment 8 = 5.3
- English Grade 5+ = 66%
- Maths at Grade 5+ = 62%
- Two Sciences at Grade 5+ = 70%
- 5+ GCSE's at Grade 5+ including English and Maths = 53%



What Ofsted say about us

- The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection.
- The headteacher has re-established and strengthened a culture of high expectations.
- The leadership team has ensured that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose.
- Inspectors observed teaching that was typically strong in English and Maths.
- Leaders have implemented systems that allow more rigorous tracking of students' progress.
- Students and staff appreciate the stability and sense of direction in the school.
- The school is growing year on year, the school is now oversubscribed.
- Leaders have a strong understanding of the areas needing improvement and this has led to a number of initiatives.
- The school's new teaching and learning policy has introduced a greater level of challenge and support for all students in their lessons.
- Newly introduced strategies are now evident in much of the teaching, with some skilful use of questioning to extend and deepen the understanding of the ablest students.

Excellence at Heron Hall

High-quality leadership across the school

The most important influence on the success of a school, after the quality of teaching and learning, is leadership. Securing high-quality teaching and learning depends on excellent leaders.

All our leadership team have a strong track record and a deep passion for providing all students with an enriching and inspiring education. They also have a deep commitment to our communities in North London, with many having lived and worked here for a number of years.

Outstanding teaching across the school

Outstanding lessons lead to outstanding behaviour. Our aim is to deliver outstanding lessons all the time. Teachers create set routines within lessons and have high expectations for the students in our care.

At Heron Hall Academy, we pride ourselves in developing outstanding teaching and support staff to ensure the best possible academic and pastoral support for your child. We provide training for staff throughout the year based on national trends and feedback from students and parents.

Ensuring students are ready to learn

To be able to learn and seize the opportunities that education brings, students must feel safe, secure and able to overcome any worries and anxieties they may have. Some of our children live challenging lives, and it is important that we help them in managing the pressures and uncertainties so that they too may flourish.

One of the defining features of our school is our commitment to high quality safeguarding and mental health services.

Our 5 pledges to students

- 1** A curriculum and educational outcomes that reflect the highest academic standards;
- 2** A curriculum and learning experience that is open to the wider world and encourages creativity - reflecting the changing nature of the world of work and the evolving opportunities brought about by technology and globalisation;
- 3** A school that is at the heart of the community, providing young people with a sense of place and an environment for making lasting friendships built on care, respect and trust;
- 4** A school that is full of role models - teachers and governors who care deeply and are inspirational in equal measure;
- 5** A school environment that is inspirational, accessible and respectful for all.

Our shared STRIVE values

At Heron Hall, we have 6 key values that we feel all students should leave us with. Our STRIVE values run through all areas of our curriculum and are regularly discussed in assemblies, form time, lessons and curriculum days.





Curriculum

We want the educational experience of all our students to be one that raises aspirations and self-belief, and enthuses children to become life-long learners.

The world is changing and we know that literacy and numeracy, whilst being an essential bedrock of education and learning, and the right of every child, are only the beginning. Children and young people are moving into a world where creativity, innovation and the STEM subjects generally are going to be at a premium. Indeed, the consultants Price Waterhouse Coopers, recently produced important research that showed that in preparing for tomorrow's workforce, schools should be "focusing more on STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), but also exploring how art and design can feature at the heart of innovation (as is being pioneered by the 'STEAM' movement, where 'A' represents 'Art and design')."

KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7-8)

We follow the National Curriculum and study:

English
Mathematics
Science
Technology
Information Communications Technology
French or Spanish
Humanities (Geography, History)
Art
Music
Drama
Dance
Physical Education
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
Religious Education

KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 9, 10 & 11)

Students undertake studies to prepare them for their GCSEs. We also prepare students for alternative accreditation. Whatever their path our students follow a core curriculum including:

Mathematics
Science (Triple or Combined)
Physical Education
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
Religious Education

Students can choose from a range of additional GCSEs and vocational qualifications. Option choices include History, Geography, Spanish, French, Resistant Materials, Food Technology, PE, Music, Art, Drama, Citizenship, Statistics, Further Maths, Business Studies and Sociology. Work experience placements are provided for all students to help prepare them for life after school and to give them an idea of the type of careers and work that they might undertake in the future.

KEY STAGE 5 (YEARS 12&13)

We have recently announced plans to provide our year 11s with a Sixth form option in 2023 to stay at the school.

Homework

Homework is vital for academic success. Specifically, homework:

- raises attainment
- adds a substantial amount of study time to a student's education
- offers opportunities for work which is independent of the teacher
- can exploit materials and sources of information which are not accessible in the classroom
- allows students to complete work started in the school
- allows students to practice skills learnt in the classroom
- checks students have understood classwork
- permits the setting of tasks in accordance with the ability of the students
- strengthens the home-school links and parental involvement by increasing their understanding of what their children are learning in school
- set on a regular basis, encourages good study habits and ensures that work becomes part of the culture.

Extra-curricular activities

Being able to offer students a wide range of diverse of extra-curricular activities is very important as it encourages them to become independent, confident, and well-rounded individuals. Students can participate in creative activities as well as sport, dance, photography, computing, languages and drama.

The school provides opportunities for students to learn outside of the classroom and runs several educational visits throughout the year. Trips to date include visits to top universities, the Globe Theatre, West End shows, Geneva, Disneyland Paris and many more.

Sporting activities for all

We are able to offer our students some of the best sporting facilities in London. We have outstanding sporting activities for students to choose from, which also run as clubs at the end of the school day, encouraging physical activity, having fun and competition. Our £500,000 4G Astroturf is used all year round. Your child is sure to find something they will enjoy at Heron Hall.



A love of literacy

Literacy is at the core of the school. We have created a culture of literacy that has impacted significantly on the progress of our students' reading ages and more importantly, encourage a life-long love of reading. Year 7 have an average reading age of 10 years 6 months. Year 8 have an average reading age of 11 years 2 months. Year 9 have an average reading age of 11 years 9 months. Interventions accelerate the rate of literacy skills for students significantly below their counterparts. We are very proud to be one of the few schools to employ a full-time, dedicated librarian and a library assistant. To encourage a love of literacy, the following strategies are in place:

- All class rooms have a 'Literacy Wall' display
- Word of the Week takes place each Monday
- Year 7 and 8 students take part in the Lexia programme - a computer-based approach to improving reading.
- Bespoke literacy intervention when needed

The library

We are extremely proud of the library – which is one of the hubs within the school most loved by students. Our bright, spacious and busy school library offers a positive, safe, inspiring and vibrant learning space. It encourages all students to develop a lifelong love of reading for pleasure and promotes information literacy and research skills.

The library, which is staffed by a full-time, dedicated librarian and library assistant, is open to all students before, during and after the school day for library lessons, independent study and group work. The students also benefit from a variety of IT resources including desktop computers, laptops, and chrome books for flexible working.

We offer a breadth of titles for students to support all abilities, interests and many languages, books that reflect the diversity of our school community.

This enables students to access a range of titles that encourages curiosity and extends their love of reading. We also offer a range of non-fiction and revision texts for students enhancing their subject knowledge of all curriculum areas and useful information suitable for the whole school community.

In library lessons for years 7 and 8 we carry out a range of activities to support literacy skills and as a whole school we monitor students' reading progress and activity using Accelerated Reader. Students' reading achievements are celebrated with merits, certificates, badges, cinema and book awards, trips and assemblies.

The library also offers a growing and very comprehensive careers section which provides students with a range of information and prospectuses for their post-16 options.

We are very proud of our library and our school community's enthusiasm towards it.

Community Outreach

Our dedicated Community Outreach team provides invaluable support to our families all year round. They work with a range of partners enabling you to network with other parents and to enjoy a large number of free workshops to suit your needs. Many of our outreach programmes are accredited and provided in partnership with organisations offering courses such as returning to work, preparing for job interviews and help with parenting teenage children. The team also runs a dedicated 'Parents Cafe' within the school.

Our partnership with Save the Children is nationally recognised as one of the best in the UK. During the pandemic the team has liaised with major food companies like Tesco, Farmfoods, Greggs, Waitrose and the Felix Project who kindly provide weekly food bags for families who need a little bit of extra help at this time.



Well-being support

We strive to know our children well and to be able to spot signs that they are struggling or anxious. Our school benefits from the time and expertise of professional counsellors. This means that our teachers and support staff are able to signpost any student that needs it to a person who can help them. We are proud of our partnership with 'Place To Be', the national charity dedicated to supporting schools to improve mental health provision. Additional support is provided by trust-wide staff who lead on medical and health issues facing our students, and an Education Welfare Officer, who supports schools improving absence and overcoming lateness.

Partners with the University of Warwick

We work in close partnership with the University of Warwick, one of the top ranked universities in the World. Over the past five years, we have run an extensive teacher training programme with them, producing a large number of newly qualified teachers, trained by some of the very best education professionals in the country. We also benefited from having a senior Professor of the university sitting as a Member of our Trustees.

Visits

Students will get the opportunity to visit colleges and universities in their final two years. We organise a very active careers programme with visits to the school from top employers nationally and locally, across many different industries, allowing our students from Year 8 to begin to think about their future choices.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of staff. We believe that safeguarding our students is about prevention – and this means knowing our students and their families well, building a culture of trust – where people can talk, and always being on the lookout for concerning signs. We are stronger together when it comes to safeguarding our children.

Equal opportunities

We work hard to ensure that every child, regardless of race, religion, culture or class has an equal chance to develop fully. We value a child's home language and encourage the use of it in spoken and written forms in our school. All the children are equal in our esteem and affection. We are totally opposed to racism or discrimination in any form. We avoid sexual or racial stereotyping and encourage every child to have a positive image of themselves and respect for others. Children may only call each other by their given names.

We see the rich variety of cultures in our community as a positive asset to your child's education. We celebrate a range of festivals throughout the year, including Diwali, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Eid and Hanukkah.



Our mission, vision, values and culture

Our school is part of North Star Community Trust, an educational charity that manages a family of 4 academies in North London, educating some 2,600 students. As partners in our community, our mission is to provide every child and young person with an enriching and inspiring educational experience, where they can thrive academically and socially, both now and in the future. By being 'Stronger Together' in our educational quality, our parent and community engagement, our investment in our people and our sustainability, we can meet our specific pledges to all of our children, communities and staff.





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Heron Hall Academy



Heronhallchat



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North Star Community Trust



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