

Head Teacher's Message from Mr Barzey

Little did we know this time last year, as we entered lockdown, that even today we would still be facing up to the challenges presented by Covid. This year has truly been a year that has tested us all in one way or another. I know that some families have been affected more by the loss of loved ones and the long-term impact of illness. However, the efforts of our pupils, families and staff over the past year has made me proud. Many have had to show strength and resilience to find new ways of working and supporting each other; many actions that would have seemed very alien to us all a year ago have become the new norm and as a community we have tried, and in many cases been successful, in turning potential obstacles into opportunities.

As we 'break up' for the Easter holidays I would like to take this opportunity to truly thank you for all your support over the past few weeks. The spring term at HHA had been progressing so positively; with the school putting up its first musical production Aladdin with such resounding success, taking part in national debating competitions and launching their first Anthology of short stories. A number of external organisations have been working with different cohorts of students from Barclays Bank providing valuable life skills, to University students working with a group of high achieving students as part of the Brilliant club programme in raising aspirations. Extensive participation in sports competitions across Enfield involving every year group, both for boys and girls, have also been a key part of the provision this term. Students have also demonstrated benevolent and charitable nature, raising money for our sister school in Sierra Leone as well and bring in donations to help Ukrainian families. All the afore-mentioned activities including visits to the science museum has been part of the extensive extracurricular enrichment and social development programme that students and staff have been engaged with. It is a key part of our STRIVE vision to enrich student's educational experience outside the classroom.

With all these provisions, staff have not lost focus on preparing students for the impending GCSEs as they organise intervention sessions before school, after school, during the half term break and Easter holiday. Staff even gave up their weekend to take thirty Year 11 students on a residential revision weekend in Kent. Students and staff engagement across the term with both curriculum and extra curriculum provision has been commendable. Thank you again for all of your support; by pulling together we can continue to do the best for the children we serve. I believe that our pupils will continue to flourish and become people who reach their full potential and are ready to go into the world and make positive contributions to the common good and social justice. I have been pleased with the attitude with which our boys and girls have returned to school this term. They are a credit to their families and themselves.

Please remember that we are here to help in any way that we can. Please get in touch if you need our support.



Year 10 Geography Field Work

As part of their GCSE course the Year 10s have to study about regeneration in a local area and then as part of their fieldwork they go out to investigate a site. Just before Christmas the Year 10s did an excellent job looking at the regeneration of nearby Stratford as part of the Olympic Site and the impact that this has had on the local area and the local economy. Students completed environmental quality surveys and did a questionnaire outside the station which involved approaching and interviewing members of the public. They were confident and polite. A number of members of the public came up to complement their efforts and how well they explained the value of their research. Mr O'Mahoney said "It was the smoothest run example of completing human geography fieldwork in my 10 years of teaching."



Year 9 & 10 Role Model's Workshops

This half term the school again linked up with a charity called Action for Race Equality (ARE) which conducts work in schools with young BAME students in order to inspire them to go on and aim higher and further in their aspirations after school. A group of 15

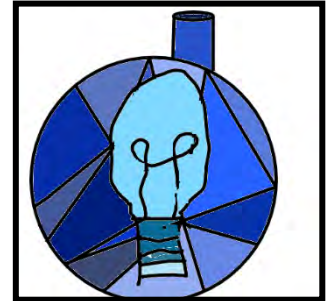
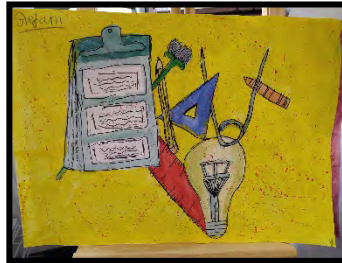
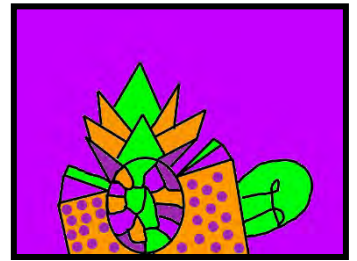
ACTION FOR RACE EQUALITY

Year 9 students and 15 Year 10 students took part in a series of workshops across the term. They focused on the soft skills that they will need in order to be successful in their careers and looked at the different routes that they can take after leaving Heron Hall.

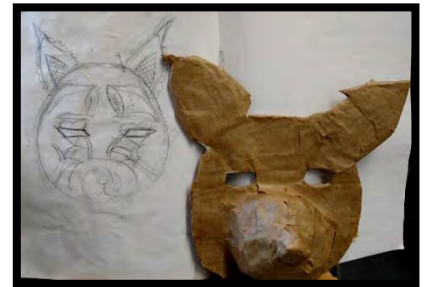
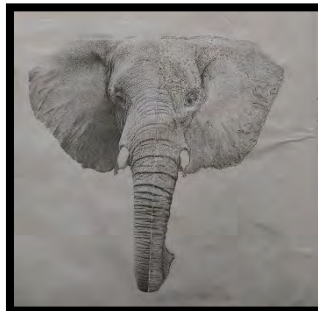
The workshops are run by "role models" who are members of the local and wider community who come in and give up their time to be with the students. This time the students had the pleasure of working with a published author, a professional boxer and a music producer. It was great to see the students benefitting from the life and career experience of all of the people involved. They will be coming back in to work with the students next year and commented that the Year 9s were the best group that they had ever worked with having worked across hundreds of schools across London.

Art & Design so far this Year...

This Term our amazing artists in KS3 have been exploring various different mediums in their Art lessons. Our artists in Year 7 have been studying Michael Craig-Martin and have been exploring his work through 3 different mediums. They have used Oil pastels, Water paint and have even created some digital Art pieces. There are so many great pieces of Art made by this year group that it was hard to pick which to share but we have found some fantastic examples by: Zack, Denis, Huseyin and Stefani.

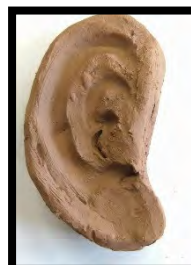


Heron Hall's Year 8 Artists have been exploring several different masks 'from around the world' and been learning about the history behind these masks and creating them. They have been exploring different African masks, Day of the Dead (Mexican) masks and even Native American Spirit Animals. After exploring different types of masks our Year 8 artists started to design their own mask, and have started to create some outstanding 3D sculptures. Here is a selection of masks they have created over this term by the following artists: Mimi, Luca, Cynthia and Milanne-Rae.



Our KS4 Artists have been very busy this year with our Year 9 students working on their topic: texture. Our Year 10 artists have been working on their "Identity" topic and our Year 11 students are working on their selected topic. All of our KS4 students have explored all assessment points and have started to come up with some fantastic final pieces linked to their topics. Here is a sneak peek at some of the amazing sculptures students have made:

Zarah, Teah, Helin, Maisha, Sema and Phoebe.

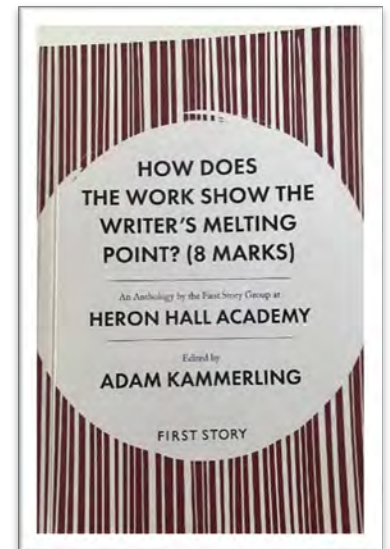


First Story Success!



After a delay due to a world-wide pandemic, we were finally able to celebrate our First Story success with our Year 10 students. First Story is a project where students are able to work with a published author to create a published book of their own. The students had worked extremely hard in producing their own work of creative texts, constructing their very own

Heron Hall published anthology! Students and their loved ones, together with staff and governors, celebrated this incredible achievement in style. There were plenty of food, refreshments, speeches and performances to mark the occasion. We look forward to the next set of First Story writers creating their own anthology and rewarding them too. It was truly wonderful to hear the students read their poems and embrace the passion and confidence that they developed during their writing course. It was also great to hear our resident poet, Adam Kammerling, speak so passionately about both the students and the literature that they produced. Well done to all involved!



World Book Day

Thursday 3rd March saw the annual celebration of World Book Day. This was a great day for the students to embrace literature and saw them listening to authors talking about their inspiration, a quiz in form time and trying to guess which books were the favourites of which teachers. This was also of course celebrated by staff who got into the spirit by dressing up as famous book characters. We had Batman stalking the corridors, Aladdin on his magic carpet and the Men in Black drop in for a visit. Reading is such a central part of the school and the curriculum and it was great to be able to celebrate literacy with students. Congratulations to 7L for winning a Pizza Party for winning the form quiz – definitely no cheating by their form tutor Mr Jablonka who just happens to be the Head of English!!



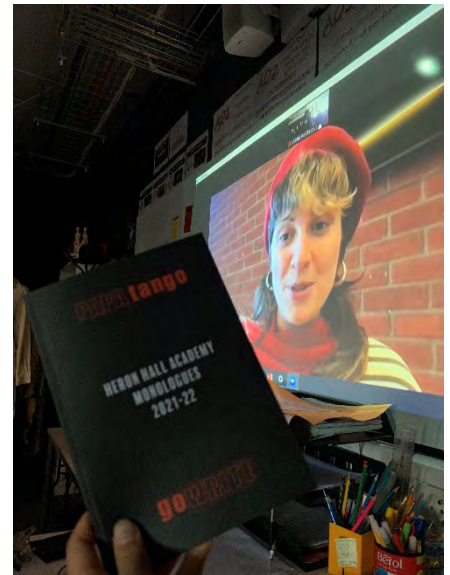
Drama Workshops with Chicken Shed Theatre

Our partnership with Chickenshed Theatre Company and funding from the Mayor's Project has continued this term with our Year 10 drama students. They have been taught movement pieces and created their very own raps surrounding ideas of exploitation. We hope to go with Chickenshed into the primaries within the trust during the summer term to assist with their production of 'Big School' to help current Year 6s with the transition to secondary school.



Drama students in Year 9 became published playwrights with the help of Papatango Theatre Company. During the Spring term, they created monologues in

workshops with Karin, a playwright, who visited us at Heron Hall. We then watched professional actors perform the students very own monologues! Students are welcome to come and read the exciting monologues created by the Year 9s in our ever growing Drama library in the Drama Studio.



Look out for news about KS3 Drama Club coming to the Drama Studio after Easter! We can't wait to see you all there!

Author Visit

On the 22nd February we had a visit from the British-Nigerian rap Artist and author BREIS. He presented an assembly to the Year 9 students about creative writing and his work and also performing some of his music for the students before answering their questions.

He then worked with smaller groups of students for the rest of the day helping them to focus on their literacy, the creative writing process and his back story and influences. Thirty Year 9 students and 30 Year 7 and 8 students had the benefits of



working in a small group with BREIS.

Thanks to Madam Morris for another excellent speaker helping to develop our students.



Aladdin!

We had the pleasure of putting on our first drama production ever at Heron Hall this term – and what a show it was! The cast were amazing ranging from the incredible vocal talents of Eda Sikirci and Joseph Bunda (as Jasmine and Aladdin) respectively, the great comedic timing of Jaedon Henry-Allen as the Genie and the truly villainous performance of Michael Amankwah-Baidu as Jaffar (assisted ably by his sidekick Reuben Frederick). On the opening night it was well attended by students, teachers and parents and Mr Barzey had the pleasure of opening the event.

On the Friday it was a sell-out performance with the teachers desperately putting out more chairs to cater for everyone who attended. Special thanks must go to Madam Hester and Madam Regelous who have worked tirelessly since before Christmas to get the cast up to speed and to Madam Knightley and Mr Mariyanayagam who put together the set and filmed the show on the day. It was great to see a completely different side to the students and watch their confidence grow and develop.



Thoughts from the cast:

Aladdin was an amazing experience. A variety of students each putting in their hard work, even if events occurred - wardrobe malfunctions, props going missing, we would all pull through in the end. It could help the younger students choose their GCSE lessons and the older students with college applications. I would definitely recommend anybody with an interest in Drama to join in the next one! *Jaedon Henry-Allen (Year 11; The Genie)*

Being in the cast of Aladdin gave us a wonderful experience. From gaining more confidence to new friendships blooming. We all enjoyed performing for our friends and families and even teachers. Spending time laughing and enjoying our short period of time together we were upset to know that the long months together had come to an end so quickly! We all gained more knowledge of acting and singing and it even helped us cope with things like anxiety and stress. We would like to thank Madam Regelous and Madam Hester for their perseverance and resilience to power through and create an amazing show for everyone to enjoy. *Delal Polat and Eda Sikirci, Year 10*



Alexandra Palace Book Awards Trip

This spring term 10 Year 7 students have been shadowing six shortlisted books nominated for the Biiblio-buzz prize run by the Alexandra Palace Book Awards. Our students along with north London schools attended the awards ceremony (Friday, 25th March 2022) at Alexandra Palace. We were entertained by music duo and masters of ceremony, Simon & Gecko. Our students participated in a creative writing workshop with author, Ben Davis, where they learned how to develop a character using illustrations, their imagination and everyday inspiration. We later visited the newly restored Alexandra Palace Theatre for the announcement that Jack Meggitt- Phillips, author of *The Beast and the Bethany*, a firm favourite, won the overall prize. Students had the opportunity to ask the panel of authors questions about their inspiration to write and the overall message was that they all read and regularly attended their school and local libraries as children and young people.



All shortlisted books (below) are available in the library.

- [The Soup Movement](#) by Ben Davis
- [When Life gives you Mangoes](#) by Kereen Getten
- [Maggie Blue and the Dark World](#) by Anna Goodall
- [How I Saved the World in a Week](#) by Polly Ho-Yen
- [The Beast and the Bethany](#) by Jack Meggitt-Phillips
- [Dark Peak](#) by Marcus Sedgwick

Barclay's Life Skills Workshops

The Year 10 Students have spent this term learning about money. Barclay's bank run a series of sessions for students about money, risk, fraud and debt. Students had external providers from a charity called the Talent Foundry come in to talk to them about vitally important subjects that will help them in the future. In the first session they learnt about credit cards, debt and how to make sure that they don't spend beyond their means. They then looked at incomings and outgoings on their payslip and taxation in the second session before going on to look at financial risks and fraud. In the final session the students looked at the future of money and where it could go in the future. It was fascinating to see the students learn about how far money had come in the last few decades and be amazed by the idea that even 10 years ago we paid by cheques and mobile phones didn't rule the world.

Fun in Science

Heron Hall was lucky enough to be selected to have a presentation from the Royal Institution. Only a very small number of schools are chosen to have a presentation each year so this was a really big honour for the school. The Royal Institution's science presenter Chloe, took the year 7 and 8 students on an exciting journey through the stores of energy which surround us. From elastic to gravitational, kinetic to chemical, they saw some fiery and explosive demonstrations of what energy is and how it affects our lives.



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During **British National Science Week 2022**, Heron Hall participated in activities on the theme '**GROWTH**'.

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Key Stage 3 students looked at **growth in plants** and **growth in technology**.

Key Stage 4 students **grew bacteria** on agar plates and then investigated which **antiseptics** were best at killing them. Both Dettol and hand sanitiser worked well at inhibiting bacterial growth. Students also set up super-saturated solutions to grow their own **copper sulphate crystals**.



Heron Hall Public Speaking team

Rubi Cheek, Eda Sikirici and Faiza El Arbi (all year 10) progressed to the third round, the penultimate stage of the ESU - Churchill Public Speaking Competition. This was held at the ESU Headquarters at Dartmouth House in Mayfair. The English Speaking Union is the largest and most prestigious Public Speaking charity in the world and this was an amazing achievement, considering it was the first time the school has ever entered this competition. All three girls were praised by the judges for their calm and measured insights, as well as their lovely respectful manners. We hope to progress further next year!

Learn with the Lords

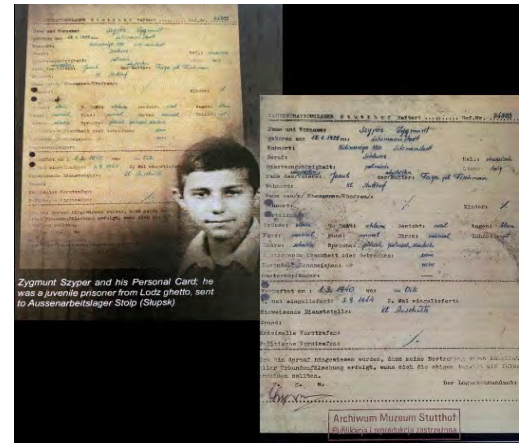
A select group of Year 9 and 10 Citizenship students had the chance to take part in a question and answer session with Lord Balfe. Lord Balfe is a Conservative Peer who sits in the House of Lords but has previously been an MEP and a representative of the Trade Unions. He answered wide ranging questions on the purpose and function of the House of Lords, the role of Government in British Society, the EU referendum and current events in Ukraine. It was great for students to be able to put their questions to a British Politician and they came up with some thoughtful and insightful questions. Arafat Khan in Year 10 asked the best question of the day grilling Lord Balfe on the role of Trade Unions within the Conservative Party.



Holocaust Memorial Day

Back in February the History department organised a highly successful talk with Holocaust Survivor Ziggy Shipper. Although he now suffers from dementia his story was told beautifully and powerfully by his daughter Michelle. The students were able to hear about Ziggy's suffering in the death camp Auschwitz and the horrors that he went through. Having read the Boy in the Striped Pyjamas in Year 7 this helped to bring alive the real pain, anguish and terror that the millions of Jews went through.

We were also meant to have a visit from Arek Hersch on his way back up from the meeting the queen. However, this had to be shortened to a pre-recorded message due to fears over COVID-19 at the beginning of the year.



Sustainability at Heron Hall Eco-Committee

A group of students meet weekly across all year groups meet weekly to discuss issues linked to the environment and work to try and improve sustainability across the School. Each floor of Heron Hall Academy has a team of recyclers who visit each room daily to collect any recycling that is placed into the green recycling bins by staff.

Students also encourage teachers to turn off projectors at the end of lessons to try and reduce bulb loss and energy waste. Students have also written letters to the canteen to try and discourage the use of disposable plastics. As well as monitoring how much energy is being produced by the solar panels on the roof.

Other initiatives to improve the environment has seen students raising the issue of litter around the school and encouraging students to use the bin. Many students have taken part in litter picks around the school grounds with a



Big Christmas Clean at the end of the Christmas Term involving 2 form groups in Year 8 and one in Year 7. Students often help at break and lunch time collecting litter.

Following the Glasgow climate conference students encouraged staff to go green and have a plant in the classroom. The initiative is being called 'Plant Heron'. Resources have been prepared by a student in Year 9 to share with teachers to encourage each teacher to have a plant in their room to help raise environmental awareness and to help with other betters such as well-being, air purification and mindfulness. 42 house plants should absorb the same amount of carbon dioxide as is required to charge 1 mobile phone. Plans are in place for next term to increase the number of plants to capture carbon around the school.

Earlier in the term students planted native wildflower seeds around the school grounds to attract and provide sources of nectar for insects and to help improve the environment. In addition to this student in Year 9 have been designing bird boxes and committee members have helped to build a bug hotel and bird boxes over the next few weeks to support biodiversity.

View from the Pitch: Round up of Sports Stories

Year 8 Boys: Football Success

Well done Year 8 Boys. They made it through to the quarter finals of the London Qualiteach KS3 7 aside football tournament. The boys will go on to play the quarter finals held at Brisbane Road the home stadium of Leyton Orient Football Club.



Boys Year 10 Football Team continue their winning ways – 23rd March 2022

A well-earned and impressive performance from the Year 10 team saw them run out 6-0 winners against a spirited Kingsmead team. From the start the Year 10 team dominated and as the game progressed they went from strength to strength. A powerful and solid defensive line ensured that Heron kept a clean sheet and remained on top of the game. In midfield and forward areas, the combination of one and two touch passing, movement off the ball and ability to dribble past players in 1v1 situations allowed Heron to dominate going forwards. An amazing performance that was a testament to the players and their application on the football pitch.

This sentiment was echoed by Mr Molokwu who coached the team: "I thought all of the lads were fantastic and a real credit to themselves and to the school. They worked hard to showcase the talent and ability that they have. Which ultimately was just far too much for Kingsmead to be able to deal with."

Mr Barzey was interviewed after the game and stated



"I am so proud of the grit, determination and passion shown by all the players. They played the game in fantastic spirit and showcased how talented students at Heron Hall are."

Girls Table Tennis Inter-form competition

Friday 18th of March saw 2 players from each tutor group represented at the First Year 8 Girls Table Tennis Tournament at Heron Hall.

The girls took it very seriously and competed really well. Present at the tournament were also had trained student officials that took charge of the games, and they also did a great job.

- 2 x Bronze places were awarded to Aleyna Kaya 8Q and Shida Emami 8U
- Silver runner up was awarded to Nyasia Regis 8U
- And the Gold Winner was awarded to Rhea Chapman in 8Q

The HOY Madam Marangi will hand medals and a small memento for all participants in the celebration assembly on the last week of term.

