



12 December 2022

Dear families

I wanted to write to wish everyone a peaceful festive holiday as we near the end of another school term. I hope, even if you are working, that you will be able to enjoy a break and a rest of some sort with your families. **The school will close on Thursday, 15 December at 12.30pm.**

I know that this is a very challenging time for many families and I want you all to know that we will continue to do everything we can to support you, including through our dedicated Community Outreach team.

A year of student successes

I am pleased to say that the school has had another extra-ordinary year. In the summer, we celebrated a brilliant set of GCSE results, with some of the best results in some subjects in the Borough. Most of our departments have again achieved outstanding results and we did incredibly well in so many subjects including English, Maths, Physics, Arts, History, and Citizenship, to name a selection of them.

The progress our students make from when they join us to when they leave is now in the top 10% of the whole country. This is one of the reasons we remain an oversubscribed school. With the opening of our first Sixth Form, we want to help our students to continue this level of success.

Award winning

My award as the UK Headteacher of the Year was national recognition not for myself personally but for the whole Heron Hall family and what we have achieved in building up the school, in partnership with our families, over the past 5 years. As our national reputation has grown, we were asked in November by the British Council to do a major presentation about the school to a visiting delegation of top education officials from all over the world. I had no hesitation whatsoever in bringing along some of our students to talk directly about their experiences.

Family and Friends of Heron Hall

I am delighted that we have re-started the group following the pandemic and have held two very successful events since September. Please watch out for lots more activities coming in 2023. You will have the chance to meet new friends and staff, as well as enjoying refreshments and hear guest speakers. If you would like to be informed, or just want to find out more about the group, please email heron@northstartrust.org.uk

Sixth Form applications

Don't miss out on your child continuing their success with us at Heron Hall.

We have a dedicated [webpage with information](#) about the new Sixth Form, including a 60-page colour brochure with course information and a form that can be filled in if your child is interested in a place with us.

Key dates for your diary

- Wednesday 14 December - Christmas lunch for all students.
- Thursday, 15 December - School ends at 12.30pm for all students. Start of Christmas break.
- Wednesday, 4 January - Return to school for all students at all 8.30am.

More communication from the school

Many families have asked me to write more regularly to you with news about the school. I am very happy to do this and will now aim to update you each half term. We will also be publishing a regular, short newsletter through the year. Please do not hesitate to call the school office if there is a query that we can help you with.

We have tried our very best in 2022 to provide a home away from home for your children, as well as making Heron a place of exceptional learning and to give our students a space to develop as young people. I am also very proud of the teaching and learning team at Heron Hall. The staff have worked incredibly hard and are committed to doing everything they can to help your child succeed. Together we are all part of the Heron Hall family.

Arthur Barzey
Headteacher

