

# Welcome to Heron Hall Academy

Stronger  
Together

Find out  
more about our  
**Academy  
PLUS**  
programme



## School Prospectus





### **Settling in, safe, making friends**

“My daughter was so nervous about starting secondary school, but she settled in quickly. She felt safe, made friends straight away, and now looks forward to coming in every day.”

- Amina, parent of a Year 7 student

### **Behaviour, well-run school**

“The behaviour at Heron Hall is taken seriously. It feels like a well-run school where children can learn in a calm and respectful environment.”

- David, parent of a Year 9 student

### **Support when starting**

“The school put in so much effort to support my child when she joined. She went from saying she’d never get over leaving primary to telling me she absolutely loves Heron Hall.”

- Sophia, parent of a Year 7 student

**BOOK A  
MORNING  
TOUR**

*Want to see more? Book a tour  
Email [heron@northstartrust.org.uk](mailto:heron@northstartrust.org.uk)*

# Welcome to Heron Hall Academy

Heron Hall is a place of care, respect and high ambition - a home away from home for your children, where they will be safe, supported and encouraged to succeed.

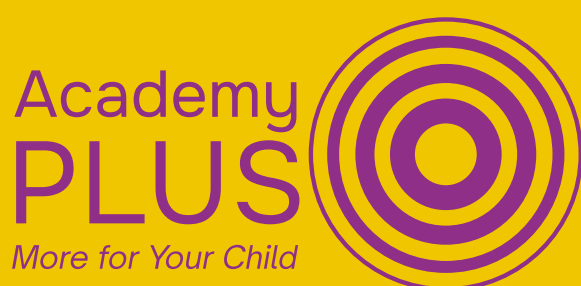
The modern building, excellent facilities, and a dedicated team of staff create an environment where young people can grow in confidence and stretch themselves academically and personally. Each student is provided with access to a laptop to support their learning, ensuring they are equipped to succeed. Lessons stretch students to think critically and solve problems.



## Award winning

Heron Hall is part of North Star Community Trust and is based on the former Middlesex University site in Ponders End.

The school has been recognised nationally for its achievements. The prestigious Pearson Teaching Awards have acknowledged excellence in education at Heron, and I was named The Times UK Headteacher of the Year 2022-23.



## Academy PLUS - More for your child every day

Our brilliant, new Academy PLUS programme ensures every student can take part in opportunities that go beyond the everyday curriculum - from sport, creative arts and subject masterclasses to trips, clubs and leadership activities. It's about giving young people the "extra" that builds confidence, skills and experiences for life, and delivering on our promise of "More for your child every day."

## A supportive school community

Wellbeing is central to school life, with pupils given regular opportunities to share their views during form time and in wider activities.

We make every effort to ensure that children joining us feel safe, supported and ready to succeed from the very start of their journey at Heron Hall.

## Check-ins

This year we are also introducing our new Check-ins initiative. Once a term, students who joined us from our Trust primaries meet with their former headteachers and teachers for a supportive catch-up, helping them feel connected and reassured. We are also looking to extend this model to pupils who come to us from other schools.

## Equality and diversity

Heron Hall has a long-standing commitment to equality and diversity. We embrace our local community and celebrate the many cultures and languages represented in our school. Our broad curriculum and enrichment activities are designed to ensure that every student, whatever their background, can succeed.

We also focus on building character and preparing students for life beyond school. Alongside academic learning, we place importance on teamwork, leadership and social responsibility - qualities that help our young people thrive in the wider world.

I have worked in Enfield and North London for over 25 years, and my commitment to this community remains at the heart of everything I do.

To sum up our daily mission, we look to our values of STRIVE - Supportive, Tolerant, Resilient, Integrity, Visionary and Excellence - which guide everything we do at Heron Hall. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time with questions or queries.

**Arthur Barzey**  
**Headteacher**

*Times UK Headteacher of the Year 2022-23*

“Before my child joined Heron Hall, I had heard people say the school and area might not feel safe. But my experience has been completely different. Every day I see staff outside in their jackets, teachers and leaders making sure the children arrive and leave safely. That’s exactly what you’d expect from a really well-run school. My child feels secure here - and so do I.”

## Making a real difference

Heron Hall is an inspiring school where students are encouraged to aim high and shape their futures. It is a place where young people can grow, achieve and succeed. With a proud tradition of academic ambition and diversity, we are committed to empowering every student.

Our mission is to provide a nurturing environment that helps students develop the skills they need and make a positive contribution to society. We invite you to be part of our supportive community and to begin an exciting educational journey with us at Heron Hall Academy.

You can watch a short film about our wonderful school.

## Keeping students safe

The safety and wellbeing of our students is our highest priority. We want every parent to feel confident that their child is cared for and protected throughout the school day.

Our teachers are on duty in high-visibility jackets every morning and afternoon, greeting students in large numbers to make sure they arrive and leave safely. Senior leaders also take an active role, walking the surrounding streets at the beginning and end of the day, so that children are seen safely on their way home.

Inside the school, we work hard to create a calm and secure environment where students can focus on their learning without distraction. Clear routines, visible staff presence and our strong pastoral system all help to make Heron Hall a safe and supportive place to be. Many parents have told us how much they value this, noticing the calm atmosphere and the reassurance it gives their children.

## A school for all

Heron Hall has always placed equality and diversity at the heart of its work. From the outset we have worked with our local community to develop a curriculum that reflects the richness of our students’ backgrounds and experiences. In English, for example, students study literature from a wide range of authors, including many from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. In History, students explore units that highlight under-represented stories, including African history, alongside opportunities to reflect the heritage of our large Turkish community. Our aim is that all young people can see their own identities and histories reflected in what they learn.

## A promise of respect

Every student at Heron signs a diversity pledge, committing to ensure that everyone - regardless of background, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation - is respected and treated equally.



## Raising aspirations and career opportunities

Many of our students join us without a clear sense of the opportunities open to them. Some may feel that competitive universities or careers are out of reach. Our careers programme is designed to challenge those perceptions and raise aspirations.

Students take part in workshops, receive guidance from external careers advisers, and are supported with Sixth Form and university applications. They also benefit from meeting top employers and industry professionals who share their experiences.

### The sky's the limit

At Heron Hall we celebrate the rich diversity of our community. With large Turkish, Afro-Caribbean and many other communities represented in our school, we make sure our students meet role models who reflect both their own backgrounds and the wider world they are growing into.

Through our partnerships with community organisations, including the Enfield Caribbean Association, our students take part in annual careers fairs and workshops that open their eyes to the opportunities ahead. They see how people like them have gone on to become pilots in the Royal Air Force, neurosurgeons, veterinarians, entrepreneurs, jewellery designers, and creative artists. These encounters show our students that with hard work and belief in themselves, they too can follow a path into these professions.

We also bring inspirational visitors into school - from High Court judges and leading speechwriters to digital creators and local business owners - so that every child can see that ambition can take many forms, and that with determination, every pathway is open to them.

## Take a tour of the school

We are very proud of Heron Hall and would love to welcome you for a tour. Visiting us is the best way to see what we can offer your child.

As a large, modern school we benefit from bright classrooms, a spacious canteen with outdoor eating areas, a well-stocked library and extensive sports facilities, including a full-sized astro-turf pitch. Our facilities are among the best in the area.



You can also watch a short film about life at Heron Hall

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJyU\\_FzS8aw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJyU_FzS8aw)

## Working in partnership with families

We know that parents and carers have the greatest influence on a child's education. That's why we work hard to build strong relationships with families and give you every opportunity to be involved in school life.

Research shows that when parents are engaged, children do better - in confidence, behaviour and achievement. We are committed to supporting you in this role, providing clear communication, practical advice and meaningful opportunities to take part. Together we can ensure every child at Heron Hall has the best chance to thrive.

## Transition - moving up to secondary school

Starting secondary school is a big step for every child - and for parents too. It brings excitement, new friends and opportunities, but also some natural worries about change.

At Heron Hall we have a dedicated programme to make sure every child feels ready and supported. From the first visits in Year 6 through to the opening weeks in Year 7, we help students settle in, find their way around, and build confidence in their new environment. Parents are also supported, with clear communication and opportunities to ask questions at every stage.

You can read more about our transition programme on page 13 of this prospectus, or visit our website: <https://www.heronhallacademy.org.uk/Transition>

“Being part of the PTA has shown me how committed the school is to listening to parents. We always feel involved and able to make a difference.”

- Fatima, parent and PTA member

## How we help children settle in

### Check-ins

#### Familiar faces -

visits from our primary headteachers and staff so children see people they already know.

#### A strong start -

induction days, tours and buddy systems to help every child feel at home.

#### Ongoing support -

regular check-ins during the first year to make sure students are happy and confident.

### Support

## How we support families

#### Clear information -

guidance sent to parents so you know exactly what to expect.

#### Open communication -

meetings and Q&A sessions to answer your questions.

#### Partnership approach -

working with you to ensure your child feels safe, settled and ready to succeed.



## Celebrating exam success together



At Heron Hall Academy, every exam season is a chance to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our students. Their determination, effort and ambition continue to inspire us all.

In summer 2025 we marked an important milestone - the first ever set of A-Level and BTEC results at Heron Hall Sixth Form. Our pioneering cohort set a fantastic standard, securing places at top universities, colleges, and apprenticeships, and showing what the next generation of Heron Hall students can achieve.

At GCSE, our students gained success stories across a wide range of subjects - from English and Maths to Sciences, History, Geography, the Arts and more. Many achieved results they and their families are rightly proud of, opening doors to the next stages of their education.

What matters most to us is not just the grades, but the journeys behind them - the stories of effort, character, and growth. Whether moving into our thriving Sixth Form or onto other pathways, our young people leave Heron Hall with the confidence and skills to take the next step in their lives.





# Joe's journey - from Year 6 to GCSE success

## Year 6 -

"Nervous but excited to join Heron Hall."

## Year 7 -

"Made friends quickly and found confidence."

## Year 8 -

"Covid, a tough year but brilliant support from the teachers and school."

## Year 9 -

"Studied hard and tried new opportunities - different sports, cooking, performing."

## Year 10 -

"Chose GCSE options, discovered favourite subjects."

## Year 11 -

"Hard work, support, and success at my GCSEs."

## Laura (Joe's mum)

"When Joe first started at Heron Hall, like every parent I worried about how he would settle in. The school gave him the support and reassurance he needed, and he quickly found his place. Seeing him grow into a confident young man has made us incredibly proud."





# Voices from the journey

Joe:

“Starting at a big new school felt scary at first, but Heron Hall made me feel welcome straight away. That support stayed with me and helped me grow in confidence year after year. Results day was a moment I’ll never forget.”

George, Joe’s dad:

“On results day I was so proud of Joe. It felt like all the hard work from him and the school had really paid off, and I could see how far he’d come.”

Anna Marangi, Head of Year:

“Joe’s journey shows what’s possible when students work hard and are supported. He developed resilience, found new interests and achieved success at GCSEs. We are proud of the progress he made and excited for what comes next.”

## Watch Joe’s films

Joe’s journey has been captured on film from his final year at primary school through to collecting his GCSE results.

Watch Joe’s films here: [\[INSERT LINK\]](#)

## Joe’s top tips for starting at Heron Hall

- Don’t worry - you’ll make friends quickly.
- Ask your teachers for help - they always listen.
- Try something new, whether it’s a sport or a club.
- Stay organised with homework early on.
- Enjoy it - you’ll be surprised how fast the years go!

## What Joe’s friends say

“Joe always encouraged us to try new things in PE.” - Daniel

“He made me laugh every day in form time.” - Aisha

“We all looked out for each other - that’s what I’ll remember most.”  
- Reuben

# Making a difference beyond the classroom

**At Heron Hall we believe education is about more than just exam results. We want our students to grow into responsible, considerate young people who contribute positively to the community around them.**

Our ECO Committee leads regular projects such as litter-picking in the local area. These activities not only help improve the environment but also teach our students the importance of respect, teamwork and pride in where they live.

In recognition of this work, Heron Hall has been officially accredited as an Eco-School. This award celebrates the efforts of our students and staff to make sustainability part of everyday life, and it gives our young people the confidence that their actions can have a real impact.

We also work closely with local businesses, who regularly comment on the maturity and responsibility

shown by our students. These partnerships help us to strengthen community ties and give our young people a real sense of belonging.

Our commitment to the environment goes further. Last year the school secured funding to landscape our grounds, with new trees, shrubs and green spaces designed to create a welcoming setting for students and families. The judging panel praised the way our students had been involved in shaping the project and the pride they took in their school.

Heron Hall also has one of the largest solar-panelled roofs in the borough. Students actively monitor the energy being produced and learn how renewable energy supports a more sustainable future. This hands-on involvement helps them understand how their choices can make a difference, both locally and globally.

Beyond environmental projects, our students also take part in:

**Charity fundraising** - from food bank collections to non-uniform days supporting local causes.

**Student leadership roles** - such as prefects and peer mentors, helping younger pupils feel supported and safe.

**Community volunteering** - including helping at local events and visiting care homes to spend time with older residents.

All of these opportunities help our students grow into confident young citizens who understand that responsibility, respect and care for others are at the heart of a successful community.





# What others say about our students



“As one of the school’s neighbours, we see the students out supporting the local area and taking responsibility. It makes a difference to the community and shows that the young people are learning to take pride in their environment.”

- Mehmet, local business owner

“I wasn’t sure at first about living so close to a school, but I’ve found Heron Hall to be a really good neighbour. The students are nearly always well behaved and respectful. On the one occasion I had a small concern, I went to the school and it was dealt with straight away. I’ve been impressed with how responsible the school is.”

- Aylin, local resident



“Dear Mr Barzey, I wanted to compliment your students recently on a train from Southbury into Liverpool Street. On three separate occasions young people from Heron Hall have offered me their seat. It was a thoughtful gesture and not something you always see from students of every school.”

- Maria, train passenger

“I was asked recently about the students from Heron Hall who travel on my routes, the 279 and the 349. I can honestly say they’re a good group of youngsters. They are very polite and respectful, which makes my job easier and leaves a positive impression on other passengers.”

- Joe, local bus driver





# Academy PLUS

More for your child. Every day

Academy PLUS is the name we give to all the extra opportunities and experiences open to students at Heron Hall. It's about giving them more - more chances, more confidence, more joy.

These are opportunities that go beyond the everyday curriculum - designed to inspire, stretch and build ambition.

Depending on their interests, your child will be able to explore opportunities such as:

- Theatre trips and cultural visits
- Professional sports coaching
- Cookery or film clubs
- Debating, public speaking and leadership events
- Masterclasses, workshops and award pathways
- Eco projects and opportunities to travel

Around 95% of Academy PLUS activities are free, so every child can take part in something that excites them.

**Academy PLUS** makes Heron Hall stand out. It's how we give **more for your child every day**.



# Strong starts for students and parents

## 6 steps for a smooth and confident transition

Our Year 7 'Head Start' programme gives every child an early advantage, helping them adapt quickly, make friends and feel ready for learning at Heron Hall.

- 1. Free Summer School** - A week of subjects and activities to build confidence before September, plus a transition evening for families.
- 2. Free Breakfast Club** - All Year 7s receive a free breakfast every day until they graduate.
- 3. Tailored support** - Pastoral care and a special transition group, including SEND support, to help students settle in.
- 4. Literacy & numeracy catch-up** - Extra support in the autumn term to close gaps in reading, writing and maths.
- 5. 1-to-1 mentoring** - Selected students paired with trained mentors for guidance and confidence-building.
- 6. Visionaries & Scholars Programme** - Extra challenges such as debating, workshops, trips and masterclasses.

## 10 steps to success for parents

**Free support programme for families starting secondary school**

The move to secondary school is a big step for children - and for parents too. Our free '10 Steps to Success for Parents' programme helps you feel informed, connected and supported.

It is designed to:

- **Guide you in supporting your child's learning and wellbeing**
- **Provide practical tips for the transition period**
- **Strengthen your own skills and networks as a parent**

**You can pick and choose the parts that suit you best. Sessions run both in person and online, making the programme flexible and easy to access.**



# “What Ofsted say about us”

## Leadership and vision

“The leadership team has consistently maintained the high standard of education in the school since the last inspection.”

“The headteacher has re-established and strengthened a culture of high expectations.”

“Leaders have a strong understanding of the areas needing improvement, which has led to a number of initiatives.”

“Students and staff appreciate the stability and sense of direction that the school provides.”

## Teaching and learning

“Inspectors observed teaching that was typically strong in English and Maths.”

“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.”

## Safety and wellbeing

“The leadership team has ensured that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose.”

“Leaders have implemented systems that allow more rigorous tracking of students’ progress.”

## What our parents say

“I’ve been really impressed with how quickly my child has settled in — the school feels safe and welcoming.”

- Aylin, Year 7 parent

“The teachers go out of their way to support the children. I feel confident my son is being stretched to do his best.”

- Kwame, Year 8 parent

“Heron Hall has given my daughter so many opportunities outside the classroom. She’s grown in confidence this year.”

- Sarah, Year 9 parent



# Excellence at Heron Hall

## High-quality leadership across the school

### Strong leadership

Our leadership team has a proven track record and a passion for providing every student with an enriching education. Many of our leaders live and work in North London and are deeply committed to serving the local community.

### High-quality teaching

Excellent teaching leads to excellent behaviour and outcomes. At Heron Hall, lessons are built on clear routines and high expectations. We invest in our teachers and support staff with regular training based on national best practice and feedback from students and parents.

### Supporting every child

Students learn best when they feel safe, supported and confident. We know that some young people face challenges, and our commitment to safeguarding, wellbeing and mental health helps ensure they can flourish.

### Outstanding facilities

Our students benefit from excellent facilities, including:

- Modern classrooms with the latest learning technology
- Specialist science laboratories
- A fully equipped sports hall and fitness suite
- Creative arts and design technology spaces
- A dedicated drama studio
- Extensive ICT provision

## Our 5 pledges to students

We promise every student:

1. A curriculum and outcomes that reflect the highest academic standards.
2. A learning experience that is creative, outward-looking and connected to the wider world.
3. A school at the heart of the community, where lasting friendships are built on care and respect.
4. A community of role models - teachers and governors who are caring and inspirational.
5. An environment that is inclusive, respectful and inspirational for all.

## Stay, grow, succeed - Sixth Form at Heron Hall

One of the long-term benefits of choosing Heron Hall is the opportunity for your child to stay with us through to Sixth Form, continuing their education until 18. This creates a smooth journey, supported by familiar teachers and a nurturing environment.

In summer 2025, our first A-Level and BTEC students achieved strong results, setting an exciting standard for the future of our Sixth Form.

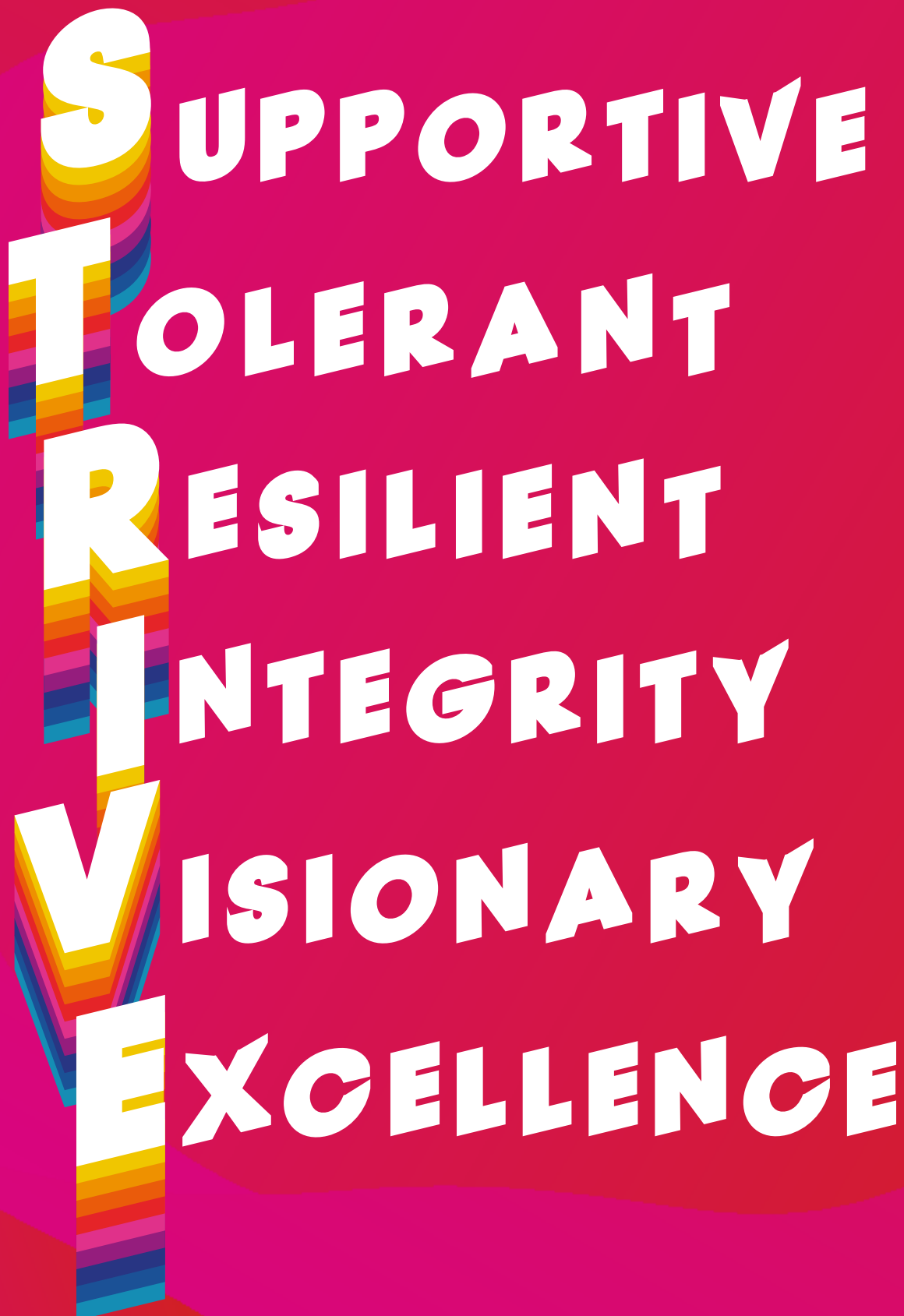
Students here can choose from a growing range of academic and vocational courses, ensuring they can follow their interests and strengths. Our dedicated Sixth Form team works closely with each young person, guiding them towards university, apprenticeships, or employment.

Beyond lessons, the Sixth Form offers opportunities to take on leadership roles, join clubs and societies, and contribute to community projects. These experiences help students develop valuable skills in confidence, teamwork and responsibility.

By the time they leave, Heron Hall Sixth Formers are equipped with the knowledge, qualifications and resilience they need to succeed in whichever path they choose.

## 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.





# The Heron Hall Student Recipe Pick 2025

At Heron Hall we have fantastic food technology facilities, and our students love learning to prepare and enjoy great food. This year we asked them to share their favourite recipes - and here's the winning entry.

## Heron Hall Rainbow Pasta Bake

Serves 4 / 30-35 mins

### Ingredients

300 g dried pasta  
1 jar (500 g) tomato pasta sauce or passata  
1 onion (chopped)  
1 red pepper (diced)  
1 courgette (diced)  
1 carrot (grated)  
100 g peas or sweetcorn  
120 g grated cheese

### Steps

Heat oven to 200°C. Cook pasta for 8-9 mins. Drain. Mix pasta with sauce and vegetables in a bowl.  
Tip into an oven dish, scatter over cheese.  
Bake 15-20 mins until bubbling and golden.

**Tip:** add tuna, chickpeas or spinach to make it your own.



**Cooked in our kitchen.  
Chosen by our students**



## Quick Fruit & Yoghurt Parfait

Serves 2 / 5 mins

### Ingredients

200 g natural yoghurt  
1 banana, sliced  
A handful of berries  
2 tbsp oats or granola

### Steps

Spoon yoghurt into two glasses.  
Add fruit, then oats or granola.  
Repeat the layers and serve.



A group of four large, stylized puppets dressed in school uniforms (brown sweaters, white shirts, and ties) are posing dynamically. The puppets have large, expressive faces and are set against a dark background. One puppet in the center has a mischievous grin, while the others have various expressions.

Drama - Finding your voice  
on stage and in life

# Life at He

Confidence, creativity and

A close-up view of an art studio. In the foreground, a clear plastic container holds a variety of colored pencils and pens. In the background, several wooden easels are visible, some with colorful abstract paintings. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a creative and active learning environment.

Art & design -  
Every student  
a creator, not  
just a learner



A close-up photograph of a young person with braided hair and glasses, wearing a school uniform with a grey blazer and a red-trimmed tie. They are focused on playing a silver flute. In the background, a computer monitor and educational posters are visible on a wall.

**Music -  
Musicianship  
that builds  
focus and  
confidence**

# ron Hall

**skills for life**

A photograph of a young person in a black soccer kit with red accents, captured in motion on a green artificial turf field. They are kicking a yellow soccer ball towards a goal. The goal net is visible in the background, along with a green fence and trees.

**Sport - Outstanding facilities,  
teamwork and healthy  
competition**



Writing & literacy -  
From reading to published writing







## Food & nutrition - Practical skills for life, learned in our modern kitchens

## Curriculum

The world is changing fast. While literacy and numeracy remain the essential foundations of every child's education, they are only the beginning.

At Heron Hall, we prepare students not just to succeed in exams, but to thrive in a future where creativity, innovation and STEM subjects - science, technology, engineering and mathematics - will be more important than ever. We also place art and design at the centre of this vision, recognising that creativity is key to innovation. This is the principle behind STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics.

Our curriculum combines strong academic standards with opportunities to develop confidence, curiosity and new skills - equipping students for the world they will step into.

## KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7-9)

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 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)

Following their success in national examinations in Key Stage 4, many of our students decide to join our new Sixth Form to continue their education. Joining Heron Hall Sixth Form is a choice made not only due to the broad academic and vocational courses on offer, but also for the continuing supportive environment our students will enjoy into Year 12 and Year 13. Students in Year 12 and Year 13 benefit from one-to-one careers advice and a Sixth Form Enrichment Programme that aims to support them in making choices about their future. Planned events include university trips, careers fairs as well as workshops delivered by external speakers and providers.



## Homework

Homework is an important part of learning at Heron Hall. It:

- Raises attainment by extending study time beyond the classroom
- Encourages independence and good study habits
- Gives students the chance to practise and reinforce key skills
- Helps teachers check understanding and tailor support
- Strengthens home-school links by keeping parents involved in learning

Regular, well-planned homework supports strong progress and helps students develop the discipline needed for future study and employment.

## Extra-curricular activities

We offer a wide and diverse range of extra-curricular activities to help students become confident, independent and well-rounded individuals. Opportunities include sport, dance, drama, computing, photography, languages and creative clubs.

Students also benefit from educational visits and trips throughout the year. These have included tours of top universities, the Globe Theatre, West End shows, Geneva and Disneyland Paris.

As part of preparing for the future, students are also offered opportunities for work experience. This gives them valuable insight into the world of work, helping them to build confidence and develop the skills they will need later in life.

A full list of current clubs is available on our website: [www.heronhallacademy.org.uk/extra-curricular-clubs](http://www.heronhallacademy.org.uk/extra-curricular-clubs)



### 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

## A love of literacy

Literacy is at the heart of Heron Hall. We have fostered a culture of reading that has raised students' progress and, more importantly, nurtured a lifelong love of books.

- In Year 7, the average reading age is 10 years 6 months.
- In Year 8, it rises to 11 years 2 months.
- By Year 9, it is 11 years 9 months.

Targeted interventions accelerate progress for students who need extra support.

We are proud to be one of the few schools with a full-time, dedicated librarian and a library assistant. Together they lead a wide range of literacy initiatives, including:

- **Literacy Walls** in every classroom
- **Word of the Week** every Monday
- **The Lexia programme** for Year 7 and 8 students
- Bespoke interventions when needed

## The library

Our bright, spacious library is one of the most popular places in the school. It is a safe, inspiring space that encourages every student to enjoy reading for pleasure while developing literacy and research skills.

The library is staffed all day by our librarian and library assistant, and is open before, during and after school for lessons, independent study and group work. Students also have access to a range of IT resources, including desktops, laptops and Chromebooks.

Our collection reflects the diversity of our community, with books for all abilities, interests and languages. Alongside fiction, we provide non-fiction and revision texts to support all curriculum areas.

Literacy is supported across Years 7 and 8 through dedicated library lessons and the Accelerated Reader programme. Achievements are celebrated with certificates, badges, trips, book awards and assemblies.

The library also houses a growing careers section with prospectuses and resources to help students explore their post-16 options.

We are very proud of our library and the enthusiasm our school community shows towards it.

**"If you want to get on in life, get educated. If you want to get truly educated, read."**

*Benjamin Zephaniah*

**"A book is a garden carried in the pocket."**

*Turkish proverb*



## Community Outreach

Our dedicated Community Outreach team provides invaluable support for families all year round. They work with a range of partners to deliver free workshops and courses tailored to parents' needs. These include support with returning to work, preparing for interviews, and help with parenting teenagers.

Parents can also meet and connect at our friendly **Parents Café**, based in the school.

Our partnership with Save the Children is nationally recognised as one of the best in the UK. The team also works with organisations such as Tesco, Farmfoods, Greggs, Waitrose and the Felix Project, who kindly provide weekly food bags for families who need a little extra support.

## Well-being support

At Heron Hall, we want every child to feel safe, supported and able to flourish. Our teachers and staff are trained to spot signs of worry or anxiety, and we provide direct access to professional counsellors for students who need extra help.

We are proud of our partnership with **Place2Be**, the national charity dedicated to improving children's mental health in schools. Additional support is also provided by Trust staff specialising in health and wellbeing, as well as our Education Welfare Officer, who helps families improve attendance and overcome difficulties with lateness.



## Partners with the University of Warwick

We are proud to work in close partnership with the University of Warwick, one of the world's top-ranked universities. Over the past five years, we have run an extensive teacher training programme with them, producing many newly qualified teachers trained by some of the best education professionals in the country. We also benefit from having a senior Professor from Warwick as a Member of our Board of Trustees.

## Visits and careers guidance

Students have the chance to visit colleges and universities in their final two years, helping them raise their aspirations and make informed choices about the future.

We run a very active careers programme, with visits to the school from top national and local employers across a wide range of industries. From as early as Year 8, students begin to explore their options and think about the paths open to them.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of staff. At Heron Hall, we believe prevention is key: knowing our students and families well, building a culture of trust where people can talk, and always being alert to early signs of concern.

We are strongest when we work together to keep our children safe.

## Our commitment to inclusion and equality

At Heron Hall, we believe every child deserves to feel safe, welcome and able to thrive. We are committed to creating a school community where differences are celebrated and every student is treated with dignity and respect.

We are opposed to racism or discrimination in any form. We avoid stereotyping and encourage every child to build a positive self-image while showing respect for others. Children are known by their given names, reinforcing the culture of mutual respect across the school.

The rich variety of cultures in our community is a strength we value highly. Throughout the year we celebrate a wide range of festivals, including Diwali, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Eid and Hanukkah, helping our students develop understanding and appreciation for the traditions of others.

At Heron Hall, inclusion is not an add-on - it is part of who we are. Every child is equal in our care and affection, and we are proud of the diverse, respectful school community we have built together.

“

**“When I first saw the video, I couldn't believe this could be my new school. The classrooms and facilities are amazing - but the best part is the atmosphere every day.”**

**- Leila, Year 9 student**





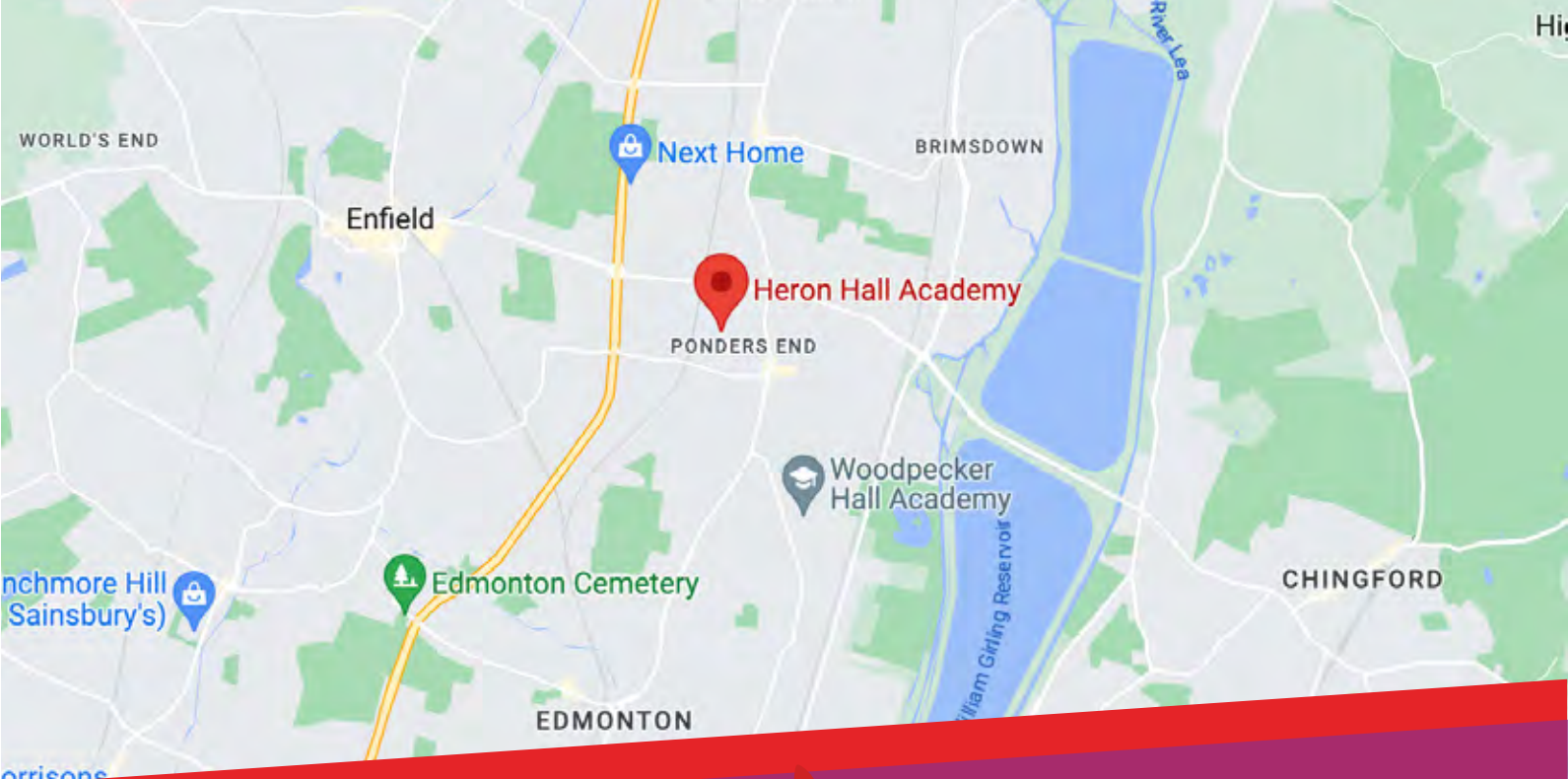
## Our Mission

**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 pupils from 2-years of age to 16.**

**As partners in our community, our vision is to help as many children as possible to succeed at school and in life.**

**To summarise our mission, we use three words for everyone to remember on a daily basis: Education, Community and Opportunity (ECO).**

**By being ‘Stronger Together’ in our educational quality, our parental 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.**



## How to find us

We are located just off Hertford Road in Ponders End. Situated behind the large Tesco superstore.

Getting to our school is easy with multiple transport options available from buses to a local train station (Southbury Road).

Simply take one of the many buses and get off at the Tesco superstore stop, which is a short distance away from our school.

 Heron Hall Academy

 Heronhallchat

 HeronHallAcademy

 North Star Community Trust

 heronhallacademy.org

 heron@northstartrust.org.uk

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Member of  
North Star  
Community  
Trust

  
**NORTH STAR**  
COMMUNITY TRUST