

THE OLD WOLVERNIAN

ISSUE 3

JULY 2025



HK Award

Resilience, independence, and teamwork are not just words to us at Heathfield Knoll School and this year we have launched our bespoke co-curricular award that has put these key skills front and centre in its focus. The HK 'YET' Award is created for our Years 5 to 8 that encourages our pupils to be more active members of our school community.

The word 'YET' was chosen due to the transformational power this word holds over any sentence it is added to. By simply adding the word yet to the end of a sentence such as: 'I can't do that' it gives it a power that encourages a growth mindset. Coupled to this the word 'YET' also acts as an acronym that breaks down into the 3 main parts of the award.

You encourages personal participation in activities both on and off the school site.

Everyone encourages pupils to volunteer and give something back to the school and local community.

Team encourages pupils to develop their teamwork skills in school events and trips.

All of these sections are designed to be worked on throughout the school year, fostering resilience through the power of 'delayed gratification.' With participation and engagement pupils are then invited to participate in an end of award expedition that challenges them physically and mentally and brings the whole year's award program to an exciting close. There will be 4 levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum and the successful pupils will receive blazer badges to and a marathon-style medal if they also complete the end of award expedition. Our Year 8 pupils have been working on a trial run for the Platinum award this year and have had great fun taking part, especially in the local area litter pick and the Malvern Ridge walk expedition.

Welcome



Mr Chris Rawles
Assistant Headteacher

Pupil Parliament: One Year On

Last summer, following the success of our inaugural Parliament Week events, we launched our very first whole-school Heathfield Knoll Pupil Parliament. One year on, I am delighted to share how this pupil voice initiative has had a wide-reaching impact across our school community.



Our Members of Pupil Parliament (MPPs) have met regularly, voiced the concerns of their peers and worked with school leaders to make tangible changes. From early discussions about having paninis available every day (a request they quickly learned wasn't quite so straightforward) to successfully securing funding from the Parents' Association for new sports and playground equipment, the MPPs have made a real difference. The new football table, for example, has already become the centrepiece of a recent house competition.

Our MPPs have supported further developments around the school site, including the redecoration of the PE changing rooms (improvements are pending), enhancements to safety around the Astro Turf, and the installation of additional water fountains.

Perhaps their greatest success came during our recent whole-school Charity Day, which was planned and led by the MPPs. After a democratic vote, the MPPs chose to support Simply Limitless, a local charity based in Kidderminster that provides vital support to communities across the Wyre Forest. The day was packed with fun activities: crazy hair, tuck shops, bracelet stalls, 'Soak the Teacher,' and film nights for both Juniors and Seniors. Together, we raised an impressive £627.03, a donation that was gratefully received by Simply Limitless. As a small charity, they rely heavily on such contributions, which make a real difference to those they help.



This June marked our second Parliament Week and enthusiastic pupil participation was evident all around the school. From the Early Years to Sixth Form, students learned about democracy, representation and leadership in their PSHE lessons. We also had some special visiting speakers during the week, including Mark Garner MP, Baroness Sue Gardner and Marcus Hart, the leader of Wyre Forest District Council. Pupils who wanted to stand for election to be part of next year's Pupil Parliament wrote their manifestos and engaged in campaigning, and Parliament Week once again culminated with our whole-school General Election. Congratulations to our newly elected 2025/26 cohort of MPPs - we're looking forward to seeing what you do next.

Having completed the DfE's UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador programme and earned the Gold Ambassador accreditation, I'm incredibly proud the accomplishments in our first year and I'm looking forward to the future. I will be returning to Parliament later this month to help train the next group of Teacher Ambassadors, gaining fresh insights that I hope to bring back to school.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to our outgoing MPPs: Oscar, Imogen, Evie, Ella, Harrison, Rafe, Iris, Willow, Rocky, Mya and Luke. As founding members, you have built strong foundations for the future of pupil voice in our school - well done.



Little Cedars Nursery



Work has continued in earnest on the development of our new nursery, 'Little Cedars'. There is an open morning event on Saturday, 16th August, and we look forward to sharing our new spaces with current and future parents.

Our new furniture is on the way from Community Playthings, a specialist Early Years provider. The company, whose motto is 'children come first', are world leaders in designing, building and creating solid wood furniture and play equipment. Mrs Swain and Mr Collins visited the factory in Sussex and were left impressed by the attention to detail - such as the use of sustainable wood and non-chemical treatment of the wood (the only UK company that does not use toxins in this process).

You may have noticed (and it really cannot be missed), that the old 'mobile' classroom adjacent to the Haven (former Preschool building) has been demolished. In July, Pentagon will be installing a new purpose-built play space for Early Years. This will include appropriate child-friendly play surfaces and new fixed play equipment. Early Years consultants from the company have helped us to design and create an outdoor area that will offer challenge, promote safe risk taking and encourage a fun, healthy and active lifestyle.

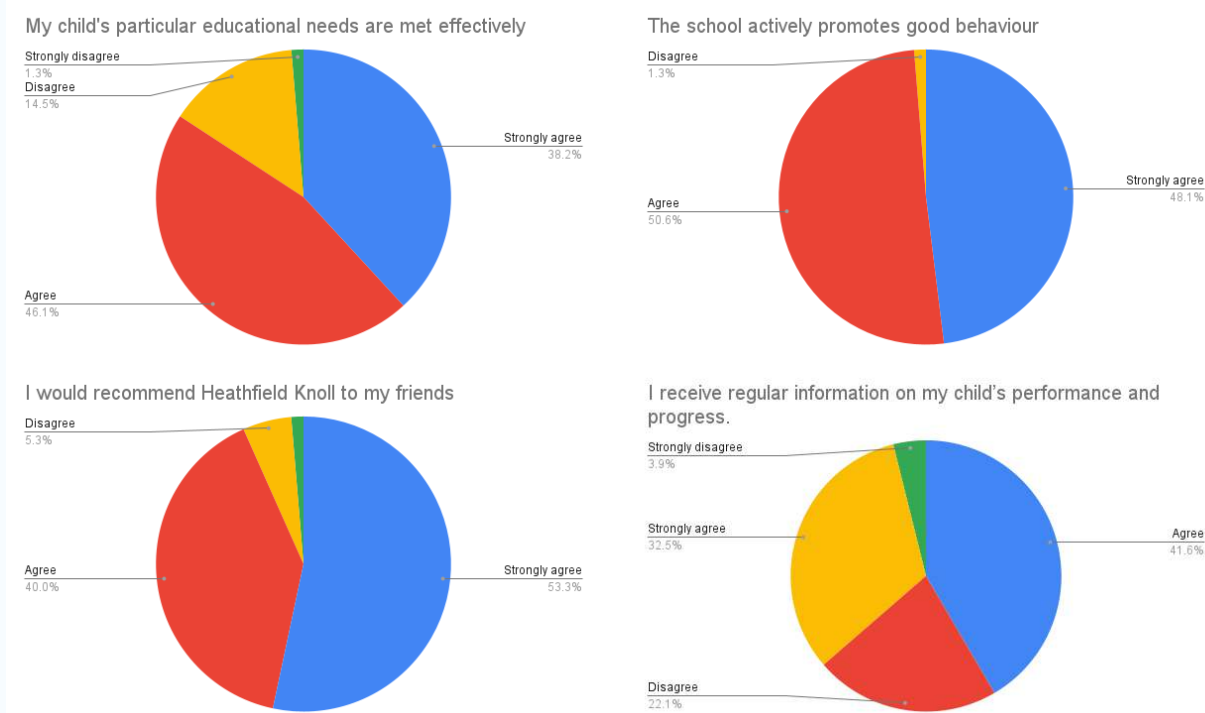
We have received a high volume of interest in Little Cedars and we are encouraged by the feedback received from our school community and further afield. Please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Swain or Mrs Jaunzems if you are an existing parent and wish to increase your child's attendance; places are filling up very quickly.

We welcome you to our Open Morning on **Saturday 16th August, from 10 am to 12 noon**, for the unveiling of our new provision.

Parental Survey

Thank you to everyone who found time to complete the parent survey.

There were 81 responses (around 35% of our parent body). The details, and the school response, will be shared in an updated School Improvement Plan (this is from January 2025). In the space afforded here, are some of the key findings:



Discussions have started on how to better communicate pupil progress data (both frequency of reporting and, importantly, the meaningfulness of the data to your child(ren)). We are a mixed ability school and accept boys and girls from as young as 3 months to 19 years of age. As a school inspector, Mr Collins is sharing his experience and understanding of inspection with the teaching staff. A full school review over several weeks has recently taken place. This included quality assurance activities such as pupil interviews, work share and analysis of data. This found that pupil progress is good. Those interested in this area will note from our school improvement plan that this is an area of focus currently.

Connect

It is wonderful to see the excited hustle and bustle each week, as Connect pupils and staff prepare for their weekly PE Carousel activities. The PE Carousel has been designed to promote an active, healthy lifestyle through a diverse range of inclusive physical activities. Each half term, pupils take part in a different sport or outdoor experience, which this year has included golf, parkour, CrossFit, mixed netball, Worcestershire County Cricket sessions, and local park visits packed with team games and outdoor challenges.

The PE Carousel emphasises participation, enjoyment, and personal growth. Many of the chosen activities, such as golf and parkour, allow for individual progress and self-paced learning, helping pupils build confidence without the pressure of competition. We hope to encourage a long-term commitment to physical wellbeing by choosing great examples of 'sports for life' - activities that can be enjoyed into adulthood. Pupils can also explore different environments and challenges, from indoor gym spaces to open green areas, supporting both physical and mental health. The summer half term of park visits not only provides fresh air and exercise, but also opportunities for social interaction, with pupils and staff working together to develop communication, cooperation, and teamwork.



Crucially, the initiative also supports the 'Preparation for Adulthood' programme; learning how to access and engage in local sporting and leisure activities in public settings, building confidence and providing practical experience of healthy living outside of school.

We are developing relationships with a number of providers including Crossfit Wyre Forest, Worcestershire County Cricket, Wyre Forest Parkour and Kidderminster Golf Club, whose staff have all worked brilliantly with our pupils throughout the year.

Here are some quotes from our pupils, which say it all!

"The PE carousel is great to experience new places out of school."

"It's helped me to try new things."

"My favourite activities were Crossfit and Parkour."

"I like the PE Carousel ... it is lots of fun!"

"... it has allowed us to have lots of fun with our peers and teachers"

Key Dates

Date	Information	Date	Information
3/9/25	Autumn Term Starts	14/11/25	Children in Need - non-uniform day
8/9/25	Meet the Teacher Evening	1/12/25	Year 11 Parents' Evening
20/9/25	Whole School Open Event	3/12/25	EYFS to Key Stage 1 Nativity
9/10/25	Parent Breakfast Meeting	5/12/25	Christmas Fayre
13/10/25	Year 10 Parents' Evening	9/12/25	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
	Sixth Form Parents' Evening		Key Stage 2 Nativity
	Connect Parents' Evening	10/12/25	Key Stage 2 Nativity
15/10/25	Harvest Festival - Parents welcome	11/12/25	Key Stage 2 Nativity
20/10/25 - 31/10/25	Half term	12/12/25	Carol Service - Parents welcome
3/11/25	Autumn Term 2 Starts		Autumn Term Ends
10/11/25	Reception to Year 7 Parents' Evening	6/1/26	Spring Term Starts