

Gracias. Merci. Tack.
Asante sana. Thank you.

How we show appreciation to others is important in every language and in every culture. Choosing the right language is, of course, important, but so too is the timing and context. I have a personal habit of signing off my emails with 'thank you' - am I equally sincere with each response? I caught a taxi to work this morning. Typically, I sit in the front passenger seat and chat with the driver; there is always some common ground to find. I like to think that I give a little back, a sense of gratitude, in the conversation, rather than just a transactional relationship.

By some chance, and it is quite long odds, a parent at my school attended the same secondary school as me at the same time (it's 150 miles away in West Yorkshire, so some coincidence that we share this). Periodically, we chat about 'our school' from the 1980s and 90s and share memories. It was therefore a delight when she brought in photographs of our teachers taken recently from a social media post. We could name all of them as if it were yesterday; moreover, we started sharing stories of our schooldays and the difference these teachers made. I realised then that I had never thanked these teachers for helping shape me into who I am today. At least, not gratitude that has been shared in a meaningful way. We can all name at least one teacher from our school days - probably many more - and their name and memories don't fade with time. By contrast, I can remember only a handful of children's names in my class.

At each staff briefing, I always start with thank-yous. However, arguably of greater importance are the post-it 'shout-outs' that staff write anonymously about their peers. These are read out by a staff member each week. This week, it was a thank-you to 'Rob' for always smiling and welcoming the staff each day as they walk into school. The appreciation was heartfelt and shared by all in the room.

National Thank a Teacher Day is on Wednesday, 17th June. It is an annual celebration of teachers and support staff across early years settings, schools and colleges. Last year, you may have been one of over 100,000 people to receive a Thank a Teacher Day personalised e-card. Of course, context is relevant - does it mean that the other 1.7 million people who work in education don't deserve a thank you? And how sincere is an e-card, rather than one which is handwritten and delivered in person? These are questions for another time. For my part, I think the occasion is wonderful and should be marked by every school, college, nursery and education setting. A thank-you goes a long way toward making anyone feel appreciated. My school, Heathfield Knoll, celebrates the occasion with food (with all dietary needs catered for!) This year, there are some rather large personalised cookies.

So... thank you, Mr Ball and Mr Wilkinson, the geography teachers at North Halifax High School. You inspired my love of geography that has lasted a lifetime and led me to a 30-year-plus career in (geography) teaching. And P.S. - I probably should have thanked you much sooner.

THE OLD WOLVERNIAN

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Welcome



Mr Lawrence Collins
Headteacher





Exciting Summer Holiday Camps Coming to Heathfield Knoll School

Elevate Performance Academy

This summer, Heathfield Knoll School is partnering with Elevate Performance Academy to deliver six weeks of exciting holiday provision for children and young people aged 4–15.

Families can choose between two fantastic camp experiences designed to keep children active, engaged and inspired throughout the summer holidays.

Our Sports & Activity Camp will run across six weeks from 21st July to 27th August and offers much more than just sport. Children can enjoy multi-sports, arts and crafts, STEM activities, mini Olympics, team challenges and themed activity days. Every day brings a fresh adventure, helping young people build confidence, make new friends and create lasting memories.

For those with a passion for creativity and performance, our Performing Arts Camp will run over three weeks in August. Participants will explore drama, dance, music and performance while working towards a live showcase, developing confidence, creativity and teamwork along the way.

Both camps are delivered by experienced staff in a safe, inclusive and engaging environment. We are delighted to be opening the camps to both Heathfield Knoll pupils and the wider community for a summer full of fun, learning and new experiences.

About Elevate Performance Academy

Elevate Performance Academy uses sport, physical activity and mentoring to positively impact the lives of young people. Working with schools, sports clubs and community organisations, we deliver curriculum PE, mentoring, alternative provision, enrichment programmes, holiday camps and specialist sports coaching.

Our mission is to create engaging opportunities that help young people develop confidence, resilience, well-being, and essential life skills while encouraging active and healthy lifestyles.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

HEATHFIELD KNOLL SCHOOL · POWERED BY ELEVATE

SUMMER CAMP

Way more than just sport. Arts & crafts, STEM, mini Olympics, team challenges and a fresh adventure every single day.

AGE 4–15

Multi-Sports

Arts & Crafts

STEM & Discovery

Mini Olympics

Team Challenges

& Loads More

6 WEEKS
21 Jul to 27 Aug
3 days each week · book any

TIMES
9:00am to 3:00pm
Drop-off 8am · Pick-up 4pm

WHERE
Heathfield Knoll School, Wolverley, Kidderminster DY10 3QE

£40 PER DAY

£100 PER WEEK

15% OFF FOR HEATHFIELD PUPILS · 20% OFF FOR STAFF
CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR YOUR DISCOUNT CODE

BOOK YOUR PLACE
elevate-performance.uk · early drop-off / late pick-up £7

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

HEATHFIELD KNOLL · STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

Drama, dance, music and performance. Three weeks building towards a live show, and the confidence to take centre stage.

AGE 8–15

DATES · 3 WEEKS
Wk 1 · 11, 12, 13 Aug
Wk 2 · 18, 19, 20 Aug
Wk 3 · 25, 26, 27 Aug

AGES
8 to 15 years

TIMES
9am to 3pm
Early / late care 8am & 4pm

LOCATION
Heathfield Knoll School, Wolverley, Kidderminster DY10 3QE

£40 / DAY

£100 / WEEK

15% OFF PUPILS · 20% OFF STAFF
Early / late care £7
Contact the school for your discount code

SCAN TO BOOK



Building Character Through Adventure: The HK Outdoor Learning & HK 'YET' Awards

"There is more in us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less." – Kurt Hahn



At Heathfield Knoll, we believe education should be about far more than academic success alone. Inspired by the philosophy of Kurt Hahn, founder of Outward Bound and one of the driving forces behind the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, we have developed a bespoke pathway that helps pupils build confidence, character and resilience through challenge and adventure.

In a world increasingly dominated by screens and instant gratification, our HK Outdoor Learning and HK 'YET' Awards encourage pupils to embrace five key values: **Resilience, Teamwork, Determination, Playfulness and Delayed Gratification.**

From Reception to Year 4, pupils work towards our HK Outdoor Learning Awards, making use of our unique woodland areas, green spaces and extensive grounds to develop a love of the outdoors, exploration and perseverance.

From Year 5 onwards, pupils progress to the HK 'YET' Award, built around three simple pillars: **You, Everyone and Team.** Pupils earn points through participation in After School Activities, completing challenges at home that encourage outdoor exploration, kindness and gratitude, volunteering within school and the wider community, and becoming active contributors to school life through sport, productions, Pupil Parliament and many other opportunities.

The impact has been significant. Participation across school activities has increased, pupils have contributed hundreds of hours of service to the community, and many have embraced challenges they may previously have avoided. Most importantly, pupils have begun to understand that some of the most rewarding experiences in life are earned through sustained effort and commitment.



The culmination of the award is a celebratory expedition walk. This year, Bronze and Silver Award pupils explored the Clent Hills and Wenlock Edge's historic Major's Leap, Gold pupils completed the demanding Two Towers challenge over Bredon Hill and Broadway Tower, while our Platinum Award group tackled the spectacular Malvern Hills Ridge.

Next year, we will build on the success of the programme through three dedicated HK 'YET' Days. Beginning on **7th September**, pupils will take part in a **YOU Day** at the University of Worcester's Top Barn facility, tackling high ropes and outdoor challenges focused on confidence and facing fears. Later in the year, an **EVERYONE Day** will focus on community action and service, before a **TEAM Day** in the Summer Term celebrates collaboration, teamwork and participation.

The HK Outdoor Learning and HK 'YET' Awards have quickly become a defining part of the Heathfield Knoll experience. They help pupils discover strengths they did not know they possessed, contribute positively to their communities and develop the confidence to embrace challenge.

Because perhaps the most important lesson we can teach young people is to replace the words: **"I can't do it."** with **"I can't do it... yet."**





Art at Heathfield Knoll School

By Mrs Sterry, Art teacher



It has been another successful and exciting year in Art and Design at Heathfield Knoll, with pupils continuing to demonstrate exceptional creativity, commitment, and individuality in their work.

One of the highlights of the year was the ISA Midlands Art Competition, where former Year 11 pupil Ava, alongside current pupils Indiana and Bella, achieved Highly Commended awards. We were especially delighted that Iris was awarded First Place, a fantastic achievement and testament to her artistic talent and dedication.

It was also a pleasure to welcome back one of our previous competition winners recently, for a work experience in the Art Cabin. Having completed A Levels, a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, and now preparing to begin the second year of a university degree, Peter was able to share his artistic journey since leaving Heathfield Knoll and provide inspiration for our current pupils - while experiencing what it is like to be a busy teacher of Art and Design!



The annual GCSE Art Exhibition was a wonderful celebration of the creativity and individuality of this year's GCSE artists. Visitors enjoyed an impressive range of personal themes, including identity, mental health, neurodivergence and 'the hidden 20%', vehicles, and many others. Pupils worked to their own strengths and interests, producing highly personal outcomes across a wide variety of media, including watercolour and acrylic painting, tonal drawing, mixed media, digital artwork, 3D design/printing and printmaking.

Photographs of the work will be shared in October when JCQ rules permit.

As always, it has been a privilege to see our pupils grow in confidence as artists, explore new techniques, and express themselves creatively. We look forward to another inspiring year ahead.

Parents' Association Summer Fayre

Parents Association

Our school Summer Fayre was a fantastic success, bringing together pupils, families and staff for an afternoon of fun, laughter, and celebration.

The event featured a wide variety of pupil-led attractions, including games, raffles, craft stalls and refreshments. The atmosphere throughout was welcoming, with everyone enjoying the opportunity to come together and support the school.

Thank you to all the volunteers, staff members, parents and local businesses whose generosity and hard work helped make the event such a memorable occasion. Special thanks also go to everyone who attended and supported the fayre.

The funds raised will contribute towards additional play resources and opportunities for our pupils.

