

SPRING TERM 1 2024

Welcome to our first ever edition of The Heights Academy Newsletter!

We have had a fantastic return to school after the winter break. Everyone has settled in well and we have thoroughly enjoyed the topics covered this half term.

It has been great to work with people within our local community such as Sam from Warwickshire Cricket and Ryan from Aston Villa Foundation. We have also had our first football match, well done year 7's for a terrific game!

I want to thank all of The Heights team, our pupils and their families for their continued support and wish you all an amazing break. We look forward to welcoming all the pupils back on Monday 19th February.

Nicola Redhead, Headteacher

IN THE NEWS THIS MONTH...

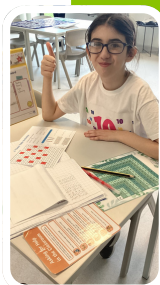
- Number Day - raising money
- STEM day with Aston Villa
- Wellbeing Creative Arts
- Soft Ball with Sam
- Wellbeing Life skills walk
- Curriculum overview for KS2
- Curriculum overview for KS3
- Year 7 football match
- Safeguarding - internet safety
- Assembly themes from this half term

NUMBER DAY

We had a great time fundraising for NSPCC's Number Day on 2nd February.

We dressed up in numbers, designed maths t-shirts and played maths games! Year 7 catering even made brownies that looked like dominoes.

Thank you to all families that donated to this important charity, all proceeds go to help keep children safe.



STEM DAY WITH ASTON VILLA

On 15th January, Ryan from Aston Villa Foundation, held a taster session to “unlock potential through a play-based learning approach that provides opportunities to develop skills of the future”

Children learnt to create and play their own educational games whilst learning how to code through a variety of hands on play activities.

It was a great way for them to explore coding and have a go at using Kubo and Sphero Sports technology.



KS2 WELLBEING - CREATIVE ARTS

Year 3, 4 and 6 have been making erupting volcanoes as part of their Well-being afternoon on a Tuesday.

They created their volcanoes using Paper Mache and have painted them in their own way. The children have really enjoyed creating their volcanoes and couldn't wait to add the vinegar to watch it erupt!



SOFT BALL WITH SAM

Sam from Warwickshire Cricket ran a soft ball session with pupils on a Tuesday wellbeing afternoon.

The children had a fantastic time playing games:

- Continuous Cricket
- Timed Cricket
- Bowling Relays
- Catching Relays
- Rapid Fire



WELLBEING LIFE SKILLS WALK

Year 7's went on their walk for Life skills in their wellbeing session this half term.

They crossed roads, negotiated traffic and pedestrians, identified hazards, and walked around the local community. The children showed great resilience as the rain could have impacted their walk.



Pupils demonstrated our 3 values perfectly:

- **Confident Individuals**
- **Respect Citizens**
- **Successful Learners.**

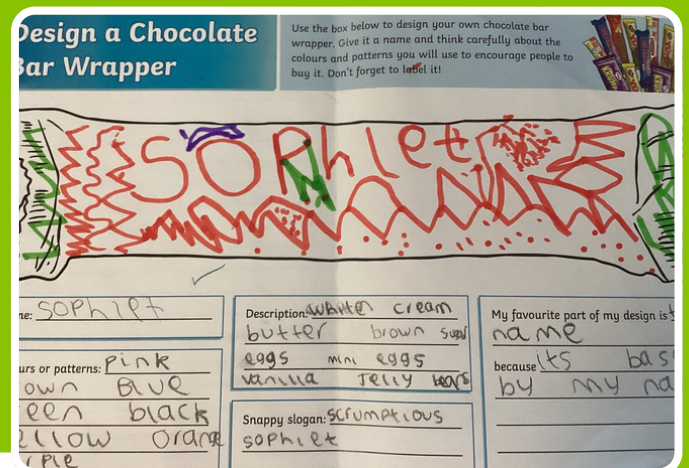
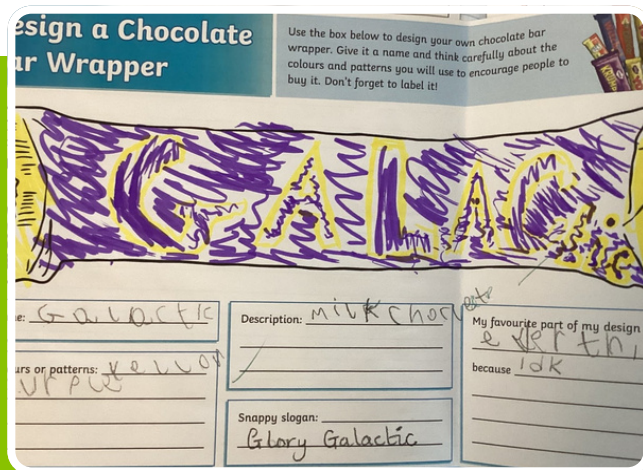
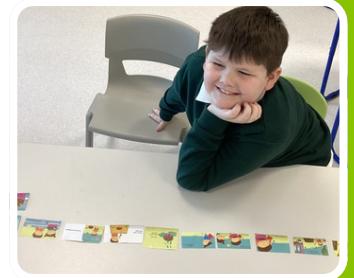
Well done everyone!

KS2 TOPIC - CHOCOLATE

Year 3: Throughout our English lessons, we have been working hard to apply our understanding of phonics! Following the theme of Chocolate, we have read and sequenced stories about chocolate, described chocolate using our 5 senses and followed instructions on how to make a hot chocolate! We have all worked extremely hard with our segmenting and blending and practised our letter formation!

Year 4: We made a drinking vessel for an Aztec Chocolate God. We used clay tools to create patterns and thought carefully about the colours that would suit an ancient God.

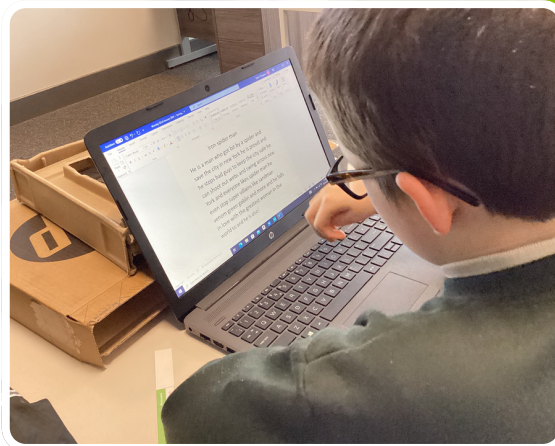
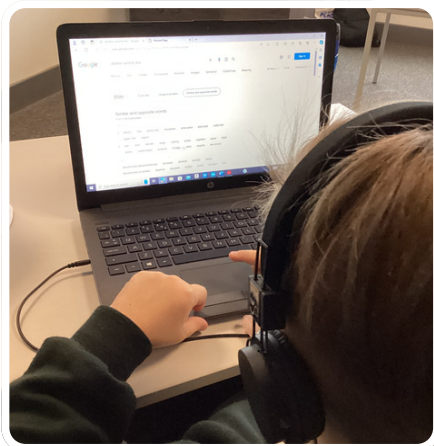
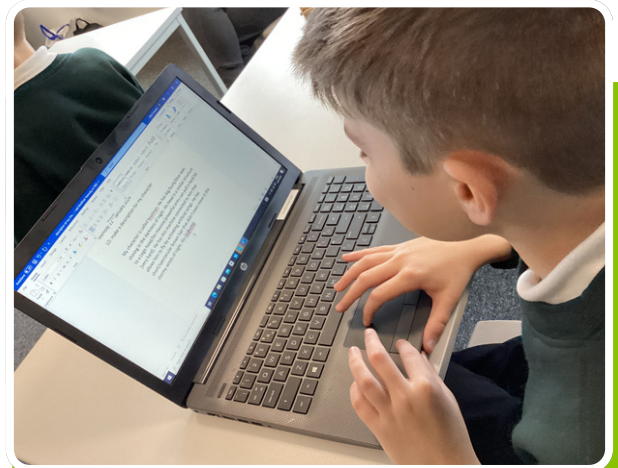
Year 6: We have been looking at local geography. Including landmarks, music and famous people from Birmingham as well as Cadbury's chocolate. We had out our chocolate bars and created our own package and advertisement.



KS3 ENGLISH

In English this half-term the pupils have been looking at Greek Myths and Legends.

Amongst other things they have looked at the differences between myths and legends, identifying the moral of a myth and have created their own a hero for their own myth or legend that they are going to write about.

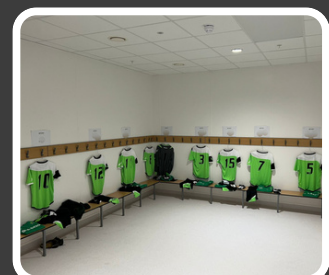


YEAR 7 FOOTBALL MATCH

The Heights Academy's first Year 7 football fixture was against a strong Park Hall Academy School team.

Both teams played some excellent football and The Heights Academy scored a fantastic goal which was celebrated by all the team and members of staff who came to watch.

It was also great to see the whole team display our school values and we look forward to the return fixture in the future.



SAFEGUARDING - INTERNET SAFETY

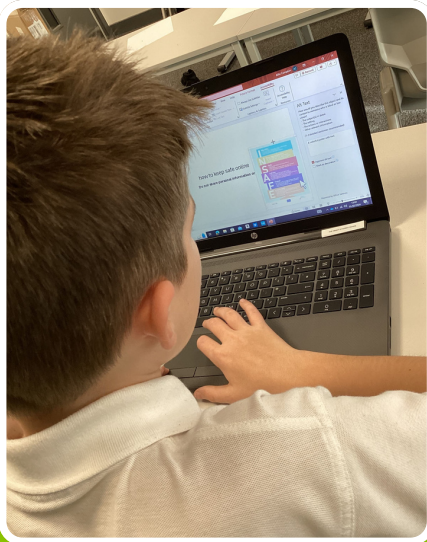
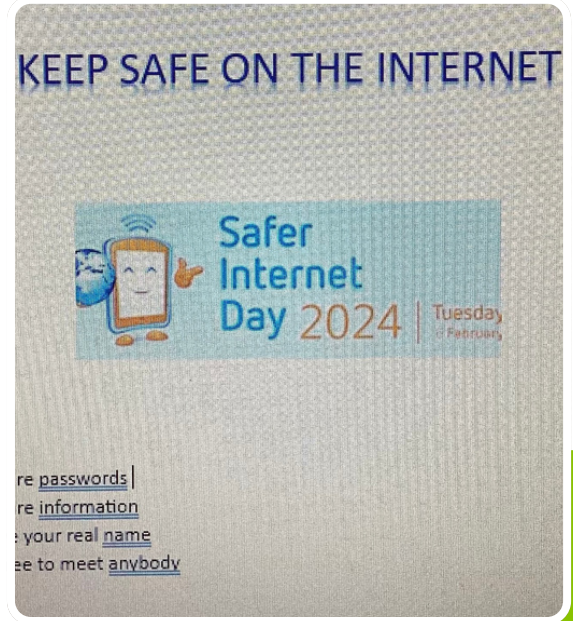
Our safeguarding topic this term was internet safety.

Pupils heard about the importance of staying safe online and how to protect themselves in our Monday Assembly.

They have also been creating posters which inform others how to stay safe on the internet.

You can learn more at home on the following website:

<https://www.saferinternetday.org/resources>



Internet safety

In order to be safe online don't share your passcode name face or location or address



POLICE MESSAGE FOR PUPILS

The Police have requested we pass on this important message to our pupils about Hate speech. Please see the flyer below:

What Children & Young People Need to Know about

FREE VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL EQUALITY COLLECTIVE

The National College

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.equalitycollective.org.uk/uk/pgs/2010/15/collective>
<https://www.equalitycollective.org.uk/pgs/1916/42/collective> | <https://www.equalitycollective.org.uk/uk/pgs/2010/15/collective>

SPRING TERM 1 ASSEMBLY THEMES

WORLD RELIGION DAY - 15TH JANUARY

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY - 22ND JANUARY

LGBT+ AND HISTORY MONTH - 29TH JANUARY

SAFER INTERNET DAY - 5TH FEBRUARY



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Has your child had a great experience at our school recently that you'd like to tell us about? Or maybe one of our teachers has gone above and beyond to help them?

Our pupils parents and families are an integral part of our school community and your opinion of us matters! If you have some feedback on our school we'd like to hear from you!

Please email with your name and comments to:
info@heights.fet.ac



For regular updates on what is happening at our school you can find us on X(Twitter): "[@TheHeights23](https://twitter.com/TheHeights23)"

- www.heights.fet.ac
- T: 0121 269 6000 • E: info@heights.fet.ac