

A Safe and Successful Return to School

Welcome Back

Jason Fletcher

It feels like a small triumph that we have made it through our first half-term without needing to close any part of the school. What a strange measure of success! Having wholesome weekly routines and just being together day by day engaged in purposeful activity is indeed a cause for celebration.

Thanks is due to parents, pupils and staff for adjusting so well to the new protocols. We need to remain vigilant with winter approaching and cases rising. Always adhering to our 'never, not long, no worries' social distancing rules is the greatest challenge. With the introduction of screens to protect specialist teachers, and with changes to playtimes and games lessons, I am confident that our system is as robust as it could be.

Within these unwelcome constraints the overall feel within the school is one of happy normality. Infants and Juniors recited their poems this week in assemblies. Beautiful singing can be heard in the building, with Year 10 deserving special mention. Sport has returned to normal, including restarting swimming lessons for Year 2 to Year 6. Forest School has been a highlight. Other highlights include a successful Sixth Form Transitions evening, presentations from our Head Boy and Head Girl about our Senior School via Zoom to Year 5 and Year 6 parents, and an Open Morning with more visitors than ever.

We look forward to getting started again after the break and to connecting more with parents next half-term via information evenings, HCA coffee chats, and, hopefully, some live-streaming of assemblies.

Film Recommendation: The Social Dilemma

Looking for a film to watch over half term? We encourage all parents to watch the Netflix documentary 'The Social Dilemma.' This film explores the rise of social media and the impact it has had upon society, including its effect on the mental health of young people. It provides an eye-opening perspective for any parent who would like to learn more about how these technologies affect us and our children. In the next half-term, Heritage will be offering talks for students and parents about this topic and how we can stay safe when we are spending more time online than ever. Stay tuned for more.



From the film:

'We've created a world in which online connection has become primary. Especially for younger generations. And yet, in that world, anytime two people connect, the only way it's financed is through a sneaky third person who's paying to manipulate those two people.'

'When we were making the like button, our entire motivation was "can we spread positivity and love in the world?" The idea that... teens would be getting depressed when they don't have enough likes... was nowhere on our radar.'

A Word from our Head Boy and Head Girl

Holly Webb, Head Girl



Since the day I began at Heritage almost eleven years ago, I have enjoyed so many aspects of school life. Now, in my final year of Heritage, I am excited to have the opportunity to be Head Girl, and hope I can use what Heritage has taught me to serve the school. Although we are restricted somewhat in what clubs we can run, I am determined to make the most of the current situation and work within COVID restrictions to try and make this year enjoyable for all. Along with the help of the Prefect Team and Student Council I would love to organise some more fundraising events for charities struggling at this time, and also raise money for Iona's charity. If possible I would also hope to run a duathlon club, as I have always enjoyed triathlon from the age of seven. I look forward to creating some playground challenges run by different year groups to encourage inclusivity and teamwork. I am very excited about the next year and am looking forward to seeing how I can make a difference.

Maxwell Buchanan, Head Boy

Having attended Heritage School from Lower Prep, I am delighted to have the opportunity as Head Boy to give back to the community that has given me so much. I hope, if situations allow, to establish a running club for those who wish to improve their physical fitness. I also would like to help organise fundraising events for charities that are of particular interest to Heritage pupils, for instance the charity set up in memory of Iona Sclater. I'm keen to implement ideas put forward by the student council. I am looking forward, I hope, to become an engineer in the sports industry and one day to race at the Ironman World Championships.



Greetings from the Heritage Community Association (HCA)

Rachel Bruins and Ellie Stoneley, co-chairs

Some schools have a PTA, but Heritage has the HCA, which basically means all of us! The HCA is run by a small committee of volunteers, this year co-chaired by Rachel Bruins and Ellie Stoneley. Our aim is to build the school community, welcome new parents, and support the school with fundraising and social events. Every year group has a parent class rep, who can answer parents' questions about school life and pass on messages from the teacher. Class reps also organise socials to help us all get to know each other a little better (these days online). We work alongside the Second Hand Uniform shop to help

provide access to lower cost, good quality uniform items. In a more normal time, we organise whole school events like coffee mornings, BBQs and picnics, and support class cake sales. This year, we'll be holding virtual events like monthly online get togethers and a Q&A with Mr Fletcher. We are currently working on fundraising ideas to support Heritage and the work of Amazing Grace school in Uganda. Please contact your class rep, or email us at hca@heritageschool.org.uk with any questions or comments. You can also access the HCA pages on the school portal for more information.

To see more recent news, visit www.heritageschool.org.uk

Two Former Pupils Return

Joanna is a former Heritage pupil who left in 2018 to attend Comberton Sixth Form. She is currently back at Heritage, working to help the school with its COVID-19 safety measures.



Since leaving Heritage, I have completed sixth form, where I studied a BTEC in Applied Science. I am grateful for the opportunity to help at Heritage where I spent so many years, and to be filling my time usefully for this first part of my gap year. After my gap year, I plan to study biomedical sciences where I have a confirmed place at university. The thing I miss most about Heritage is the unique community atmosphere, where everyone knows everyone and is treated as an individual. I also think Heritage gave me a better work ethic and taught me the importance of working hard (you reap what you sow) which was especially useful when I went to sixth form and had to be very self-motivated.

Kane Blake is a former Heritage pupil who left in 2018 to attend Hills Road Sixth Form College. He is currently back at Heritage, volunteering with the PE programme.

After leaving Heritage, I studied A level PE, Psychology and Drama at Hills Road Sixth Form, which was a great experience. It was a pretty different environment to Heritage, especially size-wise, but Heritage prepared me well for it. It's great to be back at Heritage helping out with PE. I'm interested in the field of coaching/teaching, and I love being able to help people learn. But more importantly, I'm once again experiencing the sense of community that really is unique to Heritage. My current plan for the near future, after my gap year, is to apply for university to study Sport. The thing I've missed most about Heritage is the attitude to life and the importance of community that is so prevalent. This is definitely something I took for granted whilst here, but it is something that's so important to remember. Although a small school can have its downsides, the emphasis on building one another up is so important and working together to reach success as a community. And I now appreciate the way that lessons aren't just used to teach the subject, but also the vital skills needed for future life. I didn't realise the importance of this until I left. And who doesn't love Mr Fletcher showing us how to tile a wall in assembly!"



Welcome New Staff

Charis Beynon, Compliance Officer

My sons Isaac and Jed benefited so much from their time at Heritage - the relationships with other pupils and teachers, what they learnt, and the environment in which it all took place. I want many other families to gain just like we did. My employment history is in the highly regulated worlds of Medical Devices and then Health Economics consultancy. My role at Heritage is to assist the Trustees and Senior Leadership in ensuring we meet - and can prove that we meet - the evolving regulatory requirements for schools. It might not sound very exciting, but it's the safe structure within which all the joy and life and learning of Heritage can take place.



Meg Lowe, Senior School Music Teacher

I am really excited about returning to the classroom and am particularly thrilled to be doing that at Heritage. Having spent 12 years teaching in a big comprehensive in London, it's wonderful to be in a smaller school, where every child is known well. I'm so looking forward to helping the pupils develop as singers, and introducing them to a range of musical styles. When not in school, I spend most of my time trying to help keep the family 'on the road', as well as being involved in the church my husband pastors. I also love all things French, the wilds of Scotland and North Norfolk, family games, and I'm trying to complete Couch to 5K after I drop off our girls in the morning at Heritage!



Catherine Kang, Marketing Officer

Since moving to the Cambridge area from New York three years ago, I have met so many families whose children attended Heritage or are currently here, so even before I was hired, I had been hearing about what a unique school it is. Managing Heritage's marketing efforts is a welcome opportunity for me after spending several years at home with my two boys. I spent most of my career working on communications for large companies, but being in a small, nurturing educational setting like Heritage feels like just the right place for me now.



Sending off our 2020 Leavers

All of our Year 11 leavers from the 2019-20 academic year achieved the results necessary to be accepted at their sixth form centre of choice. About half of the group headed off to Hills Road Sixth Form College, with the remainder dispersing to Comberton Sixth Form, Oakes College Cambridge, Long Road Sixth Form College, County Upper in Bury St Edmunds, Battle Abbey in Kent, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Parkside Sixth Form, Stephen Perse Foundation and the Perse Upper. We are proud of their achievements in the face of an extremely challenging final year at Heritage. Wherever they are now, we feel confident they are well prepared for whatever comes next.

