



Lyndon and Georgia have high academic expectations for their daughters, which Heathlands helps them to fulfill

Great expectations

Lyndon and Georgia were determined to find a school that allowed their daughters to achieve their maximum potential.

“As deaf parents we felt that a deaf school where our girls would not feel different from other children would be much better for them than a mainstream unit,” says Georgia, “Class numbers and language development were also big issues.

“Our academic expectations are high and at Heathlands we felt that parental and school expectations matched each other. The girls have attended since they were two and have never looked back.”

Lyndon Borrow and Georgia Dimopoulou live in Chiswick with daughters Chloe, eight and Thalia, seven.



Heathlands School

Nursery, Primary & Secondary Provision, Day & Residential

An individual approach

All children are unique and Heathlands adopts an individual approach to providing effective resources.

"Chloe is more of a visual person and doesn't listen to sounds from hearing aids," says Georgia. "She relies more on signing language, gestures and reading notes to help with her English and maths. Thalia, who has some hearing, uses a hearing aid.

"Thalia likes music and the school provides her with a special clip that enables her headphones to plug into an iPad, which is great. Chloe is more into vibration and drumming, so it is a very individual approach. At home we use 100% BSL, whereas the school uses a variety of communication methods."

Valuing opinions

The school works closely with parents to help develop student potential.

"Parental involvement is encouraged and the staff value our opinions," says Lyndon.

"Communication is excellent. The head teacher has a very busy, responsible job, but always has time for the children and will drop everything to talk to parents if necessary."

Staff:pupil ratio

Children at Heathlands can benefit from very small class sizes.

"One of the main reasons we chose Heathlands Primary was the staff:pupil ratio," says Georgia. "Class sizes are so small that the teachers have much more time for individual attention and the children never have to wait long for their turn to read or answer questions. Any achievements are rewarded very quickly."

Excellent role models

The staff at Heathlands provide excellent role models for students.

"We think the children really benefit from the fact that some of the teachers, who have high academic achievements, are deaf. All of the staff sign and can adapt between English word order and BSL word order. They are excellent deaf role models."

Developing strengths

Lyndon and Georgia are delighted with the progress of their daughters.

"The children are always keen to tell me about things they have learned," says Georgia.

"The school helps to stretch them in areas that they have strengths and develop areas of weakness.

"Heathlands Primary operates an accelerated reading programme and since my girls have participated in this they have become more interested in reading and books. The programme involves them logging on to a computer and answering questions about stories they have read, which has really helped them."

Inclusive approach

Heathlands also provides opportunities for students to regularly interact with hearing children.

"The school believes strongly in inclusive education," says Georgia. "Each week my daughters' classes go to a local hearing school to do PE and art classes, which helps them to make friends with hearing children."

Equal opportunities

Georgia and Lyndon are keen to recommend Heathlands.

"We wanted a school that was not patronizing, which would enable our girls to achieve a high academic standard," explains Georgia. "Heathlands uses the same curriculum as mainstream schools. The only difference is that there are smaller class sizes and the teachers can sign. Our girls are so happy here, they absolutely love it."

Children say

When asked what she likes about Heathlands Primary Chloe says: "everything!" whilst Thalia adds: "I like science, reading and all my friends." Both girls enjoy participating in Christmas plays, school projects and going on school trips.



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