



# Oyin wants the best of both worlds for her twins, and Heathlands School provides just that

## On the move

Oyin was so committed to finding the very best education for her twins that she sold her house in Kent and moved the entire family to live near Heathlands School.

“Toni and Tosin are both profoundly deaf and had cochlear implants at the age of two,” says Oyin. “The boys could already sign, and I knew that implants would never be a cure for deafness but I wanted them to have access to sound so that in later life they could choose whether they wanted to use the implants or communicate by signing.

Oyin Kalejaiye lives in St. Albans with son Seni, age nine and twins Toni and Tosin, age six.



Heathlands School

Nursery, Primary & Secondary Provision, Day & Residential



"At the time we were living in Kent and I began to research educational facilities where the twins could begin to develop the sounds they now had access to. I felt this was a better option than sending them to a school that only used British Sign Language (BSL), or a mainstream school. I was looking for the best of both worlds and when I found Heathlands School it ticked all the boxes, so we sold our house in Kent and moved to St. Albans."

## Role models

Oyin was keen to find a school that would inspire her sons and provide them with the skills that they would need in later life.

"Education is not just about academics," explains Oyin. "It is about so much more, such as the opportunity to socialise and feel included. I feel that Heathlands School provides deaf children with everything they need to survive as adults in a hearing world. This includes the provision of BSL and the opportunity to grow in confidence, and interact and socialise with other children."

"Some of the teachers and learning support assistants at Heathlands School are deaf and I liked the fact that they are all such good role models. My boys are learning that nothing will prevent them from doing what they want to do with their lives."

## Making learning fun

Oyin is a parent governor at the school and delighted with the progress her boys have made.

"Toni and Tosin are doing really well," she says. "Prior to attending Heathlands School they went to a mainstream nursery, but hated it

because they weren't engaged with what was happening. Everything changed at Heathlands School and they are now flourishing, signing beautifully, speaking well, interacting with everyone and growing in confidence. Even better, they think that going to school is fun!"

## Fantastic facilities

As a parent governor Oyin often visits Heathlands School and is very impressed with the school's continuous review of its systems and facilities.

"The facilities at Heathlands School are excellent," says Oyin. "There is no complacency because the staff are always looking at ways to improve how the children engage with the lessons they are learning. The ICT equipment is up to date and the children have interactive white boards. There is also a wonderful new all-weather sports pitch, and a new dance studio and D & T workshop."

## Language skills

Heathlands School has an on-site Speech and Language Department and expert therapists develop teaching programmes to match the individual needs of every child.

"The school's Speech and Language department is outstanding," says Oyin. "Children have access to expert Speech and Language therapists, which is invaluable in helping them to develop their communication skills. This is important for all deaf children, whether they have implants or not."

"I think all the staff are fantastic because they are well trained, passionate about the children and supportive of the parents. They know the visual techniques that will make learning fun and interactive and the children don't get bored or frustrated. They are also incredibly helpful and supportive. Heathlands School is fantastic and I recommend it 100%!"



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