

Heathrow NEWS

News and updates from Heathrow and the local community



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Welcome to the latest edition of Heathrow News

I'm Becky Coffin, Heathrow's Director of Communities and Residential Property, and I am delighted to be back sharing more exciting news from in and around the UK's only hub airport. It has been a busy year so far: Heathrow celebrated 80 years since its first flight, Heathrow Community Trust marked its 30th anniversary, and both our Heathrow Rangers and the Heathrow Academy have been hard at work helping to support in improving the local area and creating opportunities for residents. All this, and more, can be found in this edition.

Heathrow offers something for everyone, and we are passionate about constantly finding new ways to support our local communities. To find out more about the role Heathrow plays in your community, scan this QR code or visit:

www.heathrow.com/company/local-community



Heathrow CEO goes back to school

Heathrow's CEO Thomas Woldbye visited Heathrow Primary School this summer to support pupils in Year 6 as they prepared for one of the most important milestones in their education: the transition to secondary school.

The "Be Ready for Secondary School" workshop saw Thomas and Heathrow colleagues engage pupils in a series of interactive activities focused on building confidence and independence. Students were given the chance to ask questions and hear different perspectives on how to approach change with a positive mindset and form new friendships, helping to dispel common worries.

Heathrow Primary is one of Heathrow's partner schools within the Giving Back Programme. The Programme allows Heathrow colleagues to stay closely connected with local communities, ensuring they are providing the right support with the largest possible impact.



Heathrow expansion consultation update

Heathrow has been in dialogue with local communities about proposals for expansion for over two decades. Through conversations, community events and consultations, local feedback has helped shape Heathrow's plans. On the 27th of October, Heathrow is launching a public consultation to gather feedback on its latest plans before an application for a Development Consent Order is submitted. This is an opportunity for community members to shape the application that Heathrow submits. To receive updates and details of in-person and online events, subscribe to the Heathrow expansion newsletter: www.heathrow.com/expansion/subscribe

"Since the Government announced its backing of Heathrow expansion last year, significant steps have been taken toward realising this nationally significant infrastructure project. The Government have spent the summer consulting on the Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement, and now it is Heathrow's turn to hear your views. We want as many people as possible to take part to make sure our latest proposals are the best they can be.

Local residents have always played a central role in the conversation about Heathrow's future. Our communities are the heart of Heathrow, and we take our responsibilities seriously. We are focused on minimising the impacts of expansion while ensuring we take advantage of this once in a generation opportunity to invest in our local supply chain, drive skills and create jobs in the local area."

Helen Elsby,
Chief Development Officer at Heathrow

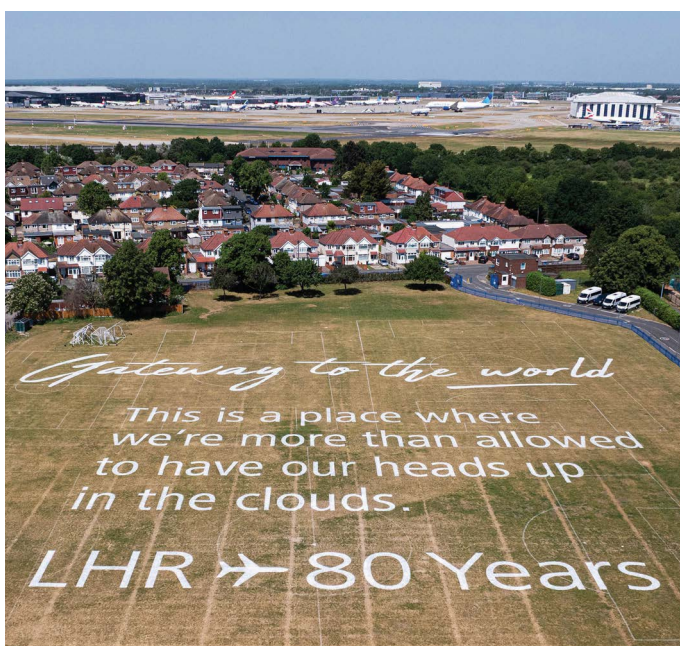
Great British Spring Clean with the Heathrow Community Rangers

Heathrow Community Rangers and Heathrow colleagues took part in the Great British Spring Clean earlier this year as part of a mission to keep shared neighbourhood spaces clean and welcoming for local communities.

The Spring Clean began with a community litter pick in Stanwell Moor, followed by a series of clean-up days across Bedfont, Sipson, Bath Road, Heston, Cranford, Avenue Park, Berkeley Meadow, Harmondsworth, Hayes and Colnbrook. Across 10 days, 100 volunteers from Heathrow and Team Heathrow collected 329 bags of litter!



Bedfont Primary helps Heathrow celebrate its 80th birthday



It's been 80 years since the first flight took off from Heathrow and began connecting millions of passengers with the world. To celebrate, Heathrow named Sunday Times best-selling author and TikTok star David Larbi as its first-ever Poet-in-Residence, commissioning him to write a special tribute to mark the milestone. The poem, *Gateway to the World*, was etched in giant letters into Bedfont Primary's playing field - one of Heathrow's new partner schools - where it was visible to passengers flying overhead.

Larbi was given full access to the airport and spoke to more than 30 colleagues before putting pen to paper. The result captures the wonder held in a place where 80 years' worth of journeys have begun and families have reunited, and it is an ode to the people who work hard to keep it all moving. Larbi said: "The best thing about poetry, for me, is bringing people joy and connection — something Heathrow has done in its own way for the past eight decades."

Since 31st May 1946, Heathrow has grown from a small airfield welcoming 63,000 passengers in its opening year to a global hub serving 84.5 million passengers in 2025 across 230 destinations in more than 80 countries. In total, nearly 3 billion passengers have travelled through the airport on over 22 million flights.

INTERVIEW: We spoke with Careers Manager, Beverly

Could you tell me a bit about your role at the Heathrow Academy?

As the Careers and Employability Manager within the Heathrow Academy, my role involves supporting the local community into roles at the airport and supporting colleagues to grow their career at Heathrow.



What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my role is knowing we have truly made a difference to people's lives, whether it's finding them their first job, supporting them with growing their confidence, developing interview skills or helping them progress to the next level.

Do you have a favourite project you have worked on?

My current favourite project is the Heathrow Academy Launch as it allows me to support both colleagues and the local community. Until recently, our main focus was working with the local community through our Essential Skills and Employability workshop. But we are now expanding our remit and helping colleagues enhance their career progression.

What skills do you think are most valuable for people entering employment today?

Without a doubt, communication skills are essential for people entering employment today. In addition, with the airport being a busy environment, being able to problem solve, adapt and work as part of a team is also very important.

What exciting opportunities are coming up at Heathrow Academy?

We have just recently launched a refreshed offering for Heathrow Academy, so watch this space as there is plenty more to come!

The opportunities of expansion: Have your say

To help ensure that Heathrow's expansion delivers lasting economic benefits for local communities, Heathrow has developed an Economic Development Framework.

As part of the Autumn 2026 public consultation, the Framework sets out Heathrow's vision for turning the opportunities created by expansion into real benefits for people, businesses and communities across the region. Heathrow is asking the public to share their views on the types of initiatives being considered and to suggest where further action may be needed, across the areas of education, employment and skills, apprenticeships, and skills partnerships and collaborations. This will help shape the final Economic Growth Strategy, to be submitted with Heathrow's Development Consent Order application. To find out more and share your views once the consultation opens visit: www.heathrow.com/expansion

Have you heard of the Heathrow Academy?

Heathrow Academy offers a gateway into dream jobs and extraordinary careers at the airport. Last year, the Academy secured over 800 career offers across a range of roles with Team Heathrow, as well as reaching almost **6,000 young people**.

Did you know?



2,800 in-person experience of work days delivered



31 young people at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) completed the pathway pilot programme



1,000+ people joined the careers and essential skills workshops to help make informed decisions



8 young people with additional learning needs completed their supported internship at the airport, with 7 securing employment

SEND Dragon

Learners from Orchard Hill College were overall winners of the Dragon SEND Entrepreneurship Challenge, an enterprise competition where students with special educational needs create products to support people with hidden disabilities travel through the Heathrow. 13 teams brought forward thoughtful, practical and moving ideas rooted in lived experience that they pitched Dragons' Den style.

Winning ideas included an app designed to support passengers through every stage of their journey and a branded sensory water bottle. The competition was delivered through Heathrow's close partnership with Hillingdon Education Improvement and Partnerships, with Councillor Susan O'Brien joining as a judge.

Big well done to all involved!



Heathrow Community Trust Celebrates its 30th Anniversary of supporting the local community

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Heathrow Community Trust (HCT). HCT is an independent grantmaking charity, set up with the intention to have a positive impact on the lives of people in the nine boroughs surrounding Heathrow Airport by funding, enabling and empowering community organisations. Last year, HCT awarded £817,000 in funding across 73 grants focused on strengthening community connections, supporting young people and protecting the local environment.

Recently, Heathrow colleagues ran the London Marathon in support of HCT!

Bringing generations together through creativity

HCT is helping to forge unlikely friendships between nursing home residents and local schoolchildren. Parkfield Peckers received £4,980 to deliver The Creative Exchange – a series of workshops bringing together residents at Parkfield House Nursing Home, including those living with dementia, and pupils from Glebe Primary School, many of whom are from military families or have additional needs.

Through storytelling, illustration, drama and visual arts, the sessions sparked connections. With their confidence boosted, the children are now finding new ways to engage with older adults in their community. Plans are in motion for future collaborations, including work around dementia awareness.



Community sports support young people's mental wellbeing

Sport in Mind, the leading mental health sports charity in England and Wales, recently received a grant from HCT to bring life-changing physical and mental health support to young people in the local area. Sport in Mind believe in the power of sport to inspire, educate and promote good mental health through community sessions that centre around heart rate, communication, breathing and focus.

With HCT's help, the project reached 510 local children, with 94% of participants reporting improved activity levels. Sport

in Mind is already developing new community partnerships, spurred on by the work that HCT made possible.

"I was shy and in a dark place when I joined Sport in Mind but you have helped me through my anxiety and helped me grow to be the person I want to be. My mum is proud of me. Thank you."

a Sport in Mind participant



Work readiness programme opens doors for young people

A £26,000 grant has been provided to Spark!, a charity delivering a Work Readiness programme to prepare students from three special schools for the world of employment. The programme supports students aged 14-16 who have moderate learning difficulties or autism, as well as Education, Health and Care Plans.

Through industry site visits and in-school employability workshops, delivered with volunteers from local businesses including Heathrow Airport, students gained practical insights into the world of work. Tailored group mentoring sessions on goal-setting, future planning and leadership helped students build confidence in ways that worked for them.

The programme ended with a celebration event attended by teachers, parents and carers, all of whom saw first-hand how far the young people had come, both in their confidence and their outlook on future career opportunities.

Anniversary Mental Health Fund

Heathrow Community Trust has committed £150,000 to a new Anniversary Mental Health Fund. The fund will support preventative, community-led mental health initiatives. For more information, please visit:

www.heathrowcommunitytrust.org/mental-health-fund