

# Heathrow

# NEWS



News and updates from Heathrow and the local community



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## Welcome to your local Heathrow newspaper

Welcome to the first 2026 edition of Heathrow News. I'm Becky Coffin, Heathrow's Director of Communities. As Heathrow celebrates its 80th birthday this year, there is so much happening in and around the UK's only hub airport, which we want to share with our local communities through this newspaper.

In this edition, find out how we are training the next generation of aviation superstars, supporting local businesses, volunteering in the community and planning for expansion. To find out more about the role Heathrow plays locally, scan this QR code or visit <http://www.heathrow.com/company/local-community>



## Heathrow partners with two new primary schools

Heathrow is newly partnering with two primary schools – Bedfont Primary School in Hounslow, and Stanwell Fields Primary School in Spelthorne. The schools benefit from dedicated year-round support, including playground improvements and Heathrow colleagues volunteering in the classroom to help provide activities such as one-to-one guided reading, training to build self-esteem and Apprentice-style business challenges to launch their own sweet shop!

Bedfont's Headteacher, Gemma Donnelly, said: "We are excited about the variety of initiatives this partnership will bring, including workshops for our children, visits to the airport, and support for key projects within our school. It is wonderful to see Heathrow's commitment to giving back to the community, and we look forward to the positive impact this partnership will have for our pupils."

The new partners join five other local schools – Colnbrook CofE Primary School, Harmondsworth Primary School, Heathrow Primary School, Pippins Primary School and William Byrd Primary School. Over 1,660 students benefit and over 280 volunteers are involved.

Heathrow's Community Rangers also undertake landscaping and woodwork to improve school facilities. Heathrow has pledged to expand the programme to include up to ten partner schools by 2030 as part of its wider Giving Back Programme.



*Heathrow is partnering with two new primary schools.*



*Partner schools benefit from one-to-one guided reading sessions, workshops, and fun business challenges.*

## Did you know?



As the UK's largest 'port' by value, Heathrow is responsible for transporting cargo around the world. Last year, planes flying into and out of Heathrow carried £200bn worth of goods, including the world's fastest car, capable of reaching speeds over 300 mph.



Small businesses continue to play a major role in Heathrow's daily operations, making up 75% of Heathrow's local suppliers. Heathrow spends more than £100m a year with local small businesses.

## Recognising the quietest and greenest airlines

Heathrow's Fly Quieter and Greener programme, launched more than a decade ago in 2013, encourages airlines to use quieter, cleaner and more considerate flying practices, which Heathrow knows is important for local communities. In the 2025 Q4 league table, the top five airlines leading the way in quieter and greener operations were Scandinavian Airlines, Austrian Airlines, Lufthansa, KM Malta Airlines, and LOT Polish Airlines. Nigel Milton, Chief Communications & Sustainability Officer at Heathrow, said, "Heathrow has a proven track record of growing while reducing our noise footprint and improving air quality. Fly Quieter and Greener is one of our most powerful tools to keep that progress on track, demonstrating what is possible when airports and airlines work together with a shared commitment to being a good neighbour."



## 'Runway Cycling' for a healthier, more active community

Heathrow is proud to continue working in partnership with 'Runway Cycling', Heathrow's dedicated cycle hub in Hounslow. The hub offers affordable bike servicing, discounted accessories, and guidance for anyone looking to switch to pedal power.

Find out more at: [www.runwaycycling.com](http://www.runwaycycling.com)



## An update on Heathrow expansion: creating an airport fit for the future

"Following the Government's backing of Heathrow expansion in January last year, Heathrow has confirmed our intention to move forward with seeking planning permission for expansion. We take our responsibilities to the local community seriously and there will be opportunity for local people to understand more about our plans and feed back views in a consultation later this year. We are focused on minimising the impact on local communities and ensuring Heathrow expansion translates into investment in the local supply chain, and increased education and employment opportunities."

Helen Elsby, Chief Development Officer at Heathrow

## New night buses

Being able to get to and from Heathrow by public transport, night or day, is important to passengers who are checking in for early-morning flights or heading home after landing in the evening. It also matters to Team Heathrow colleagues who work hard to keep the airport running smoothly each day. Heathrow has worked with bus and coach operators to provide overnight services from several new locations, including outside Greater London.

Service	Locations served	Operating hours
<b>703</b>	Slough, Langley, Brands Hill, Colnbrook, Poyle	24 hours a day
<b>A4</b>	Cippenham, Slough, Langley, Brands Hill, Colnbrook By-Pass	24 hours a day
<b>N30</b>	Acton, South Ealing, Boston Manor, Osterley, Hatton Cross	Overnight*
<b>N40</b>	Ealing Broadway, West Ealing, Hanwell, Southall, Hayes	Overnight
<b>N555</b>	Walton-on-Thames, Shepperton, Sunbury, Ashford, Stanwell	Overnight

\*Does not operate when the Night Tube is operating

## Last year...



3,762 young people across 22 secondary schools took part in Heathrow's STEM generation programme



17,000 young people took part in Heathrow's virtual work experience programme



31 young people at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) completed the pathway pilot programme to build employability skills and explore careers in the aviation industry

## Report Nuisance Parking

Heathrow is committed to working with residents and local councils to tackle the issue of airport-related parking in residential areas and the anti-social behaviour that sometimes accompanies it.



Scan the QR code to report nuisance parking

**Heathrow**

## INTERVIEW: We spoke to Heathrow Ranger, Georgie Mechan

### How did you become a Heathrow Ranger?

I used to carry out maintenance in the airfield at Heathrow and was actually on maternity leave when they asked if I would be interested in the exciting project and I said of course!

### What does a day in the life of a ranger look like?

It's so varied – no two days are the same. We could be out litter picking for a few hours with volunteers in the community, or doing a project like last week down in Poyle thinning out a vast vegetation area that hadn't been pruned or touched in I don't know how many years. We got really stuck in and the feedback was phenomenal from residents, making people feel safer using the pedestrian footpath and improving their quality of life. The things we take for granted like a walk to work or a stroll at lunchtime – those are the things we impact. Next week we're painting a school!

### What project are you most proud to have worked on?



I loved working at Oriel Academy primary school in Hanworth to transform their concrete outdoor space into a vegetable garden they could use for gardening club.

### What skills do you need to be a ranger?

A natural passion for the environment, working in the community and dealing with people's everyday lives. Crucially, be yourself! We live in the local community, and we understand the impact better than anyone because we live with it too.



“

We understand the impact better than anyone because we live with it too

”



*Heathrow Rangers have created a new path and planted trees in Iver, boosting local wildlife and community wellbeing.*

## On the ground with Heathrow's Rangers

Communities near St Leonard's Walk in Iver will soon see more flourishing wildlife, thanks to the work of the Heathrow Rangers. In January, the Rangers teamed up with Kier Places, a construction and property management company partnering with Heathrow to help improve the wellbeing of neighbouring communities. Together they created a new 38 metre mulched bark footpath, running from the edge of the wildflower meadow through bramble beds towards a bug hotel. The team also planted young tree whips along the boundary of the site, which will eventually be hedge-laid to form a flourishing wildlife hedge for the community to enjoy in years to come.

## Calling all future aviation superstars



*Connie, 5, visits Heathrow to see what it's like working on the airfield.*

From firefighters and security officers to engineers and airside safety, there are plenty of opportunities for a rewarding career in the aviation industry. The Heathrow Employment and Skills Academy, which turned 20 last year, connects local students and jobseekers with opportunities to learn and work at Heathrow.

We spoke to colleagues who have children that could be part of the next generation of aviation superstars. Saira Samiy and Aqeel Ahmed, from Hayes, both work in airport security and want to see opportunities for their children Laiba, 12, and Zuraib, 8.

They said: "Living so close and having their mum and dad work at the airport, Heathrow is a big part of our family's life. It's a busy and exciting place, and having an even bigger airport next door with more jobs to choose from would be great for our children."

Aidan O'Connell, Airside Operations Officer, from Bracknell, wanted to give his daughter Connie, 5, a chance to see what he does at work.

He said: "Aviation really is unique and working out on the airfield at one of the world's busiest airports is a special thing. So many doors get opened when you land a career."

## Could you pitch to 'Dragon's Den'?

Does your local business have what it takes to pitch in front of Heathrow's 'Dragon's Den' panel? Heathrow's Lift Off scheme holds pitching events where small businesses can showcase their products and business to Heathrow and its partners. Local innovators like powerQuad and Onwave used Lift Off to win trials and expand into new areas. Elsewhere, Heathrow's SME Academy helps small businesses gain the skills and confidence they need to bid for work with large organisations. The next Lift Off event takes place on 15th June 2026. Find out more about Lift Off:

[www.competefor.com/heathrow/lift-off/](http://www.competefor.com/heathrow/lift-off/)  
and the SME Academy: [www.heathrow.com/company/doing-business-with-heathrow/procurement/sme-academy](http://www.heathrow.com/company/doing-business-with-heathrow/procurement/sme-academy)



## Security just got faster: say goodbye to liquids security stress



On your next flight from Heathrow, you will no longer need to remove liquids or electronics from your hand luggage at security. That means less time preparing for security and more time enjoying your journey. This follows Heathrow's £1bn upgrade to install next-generation CT security scanners, providing clearer images and helping Heathrow cut down on single-use plastic bags.



College students tour Heathrow.

## Heathrow delivers skills masterclass

Through its World of Work programme, Heathrow has delivered skills masterclasses for students at Windsor Forest Group, Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge College (HRUC), and West Thames Colleges, helping to build confidence and prepare young people for life beyond the classroom. In groups, learners completed a series of business challenges based on real-life Heathrow scenarios. Supported by Heathrow colleague volunteers, participants learnt about the essential skills needed to succeed in work and life, and how those skills are applied across Heathrow's operations.

## Where will Heathrow take you this year?

Heathrow is celebrating being named the World's Most Connected Airport for three years running – a proud moment that highlights the vast number of destinations passengers can fly to. This year, new destinations for travellers directly from Heathrow include, Cancún, Mexico; Dammam, Saudi Arabia; and St Louis, United States.

Departures			
Flight	Time	Destination	Gate
CA 36	09:34	Cancún, Mexico	A27
DA 64	10:23	Dammam, Saudi Arabia	C18
SL 58	11:30	St Louis, United States	B09

If you would like to find out more about Heathrow and the local community, please visit [www.heathrow.com/company/local-community](http://www.heathrow.com/company/local-community). For further information, or if you do not want to receive this newsletter, you can contact us at [communityrelations@heathrow.com](mailto:communityrelations@heathrow.com) or call 0800 307 7996.

## Applications for funding are open for local community organisations

Heathrow Community Trust (HCT) offers funding to community groups, charities and organisations making a difference across the areas surrounding Heathrow (including Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Richmond, Ruislip, Slough, South Buckinghamshire, Spelthorne, and Windsor & Maidenhead). Applications are open for grants to help strengthen community connections, support young people and protect the local environment. Last year, HCT awarded £817,033 across 73 grants. Applications for the next round of grants close on 9 April.

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