

# Welcome to Heron Hall Academy

# Stronger Together



## School Prospectus



Member of  
North Star  
Community  
Trust





**With our Headteacher, Mr Arthur Barzey, winner of the UK's top national teaching award - for the Times Headteacher of the Year 2022 - and a school that in 2021 was a Bronze Award winner for UK Secondary School of the Year, it is no surprise that Heron Hall Academy is becoming one of the most popular schools in the borough.**



# Welcome to Heron Hall Academy

**Heron Hall is a place of love, respect and tolerance, a home away from home for your children, somewhere they will be safe and cared for.**

As you walk into Heron Hall Academy, I believe you get a feeling of pride, of being somewhere everyone matters, where no one is left behind and where every single student can reach their full potential. The magnificent building and facilities, added to the attitude and high aspirations of our staff, inspires our children to work hard and stretch themselves. We bridge the digital divide by ensuring every student a laptop computer to use at home, upon enrolment in Year 7.

## Award winning



We are part of North Star Community Trust and based on the former Middlesex University site in Ponders End. In 2023, we will be extending our provision to include a Sixth Form.

The school has celebrated another set of very successful exam results. The prestigious Pearson Teaching Awards have acknowledged excellence in education for 25 years and we were honoured to be given their Bronze Award last year. I was also very humbled to be named the Times UK Headteacher of the Year for 2022-23. The whole team at Heron puts itself above the call of duty and we are a real family in every sense of the word. This recognition is a testament to teachers relentless dedication to students' success. This award is for the Heron Hall family.

## Pushing the boundaries

We believe in every child and the opportunity for them to succeed. We have a team that is passionate about academic excellence and results. This is also a school with a culture of pushing the boundaries and creating opportunities for students to develop their understanding of the world outside of Edmonton. We achieve this through enriching experiences such as theatre, museum and gallery visits in London. We provide opportunities such as working on a farm for a week, local volunteering and fund raising, and going to concerts. We have extensive extracurricular

provision from academic (STEM & Debating Club) to leisure (Sports, Drama & Music clubs), providing students with opportunities to develop their potential with something that they will enjoy.

## A family within the school

We pride ourselves in creating a family type culture at Heron Hall, making it a special place where staff and pupils genuinely care and support one another. Student wellbeing is at the forefront of what the school does every day. Students get lots of opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas in form time and each year group focuses on key areas of wellbeing in their studies. Our teachers take the time to talk to every student during the week and to offer any support they may need. This is especially important for an 11-year-old child starting in Secondary school.

## Equality and diversity

At Heron Hall, there is a sustained focus on equality and diversity. The school has embraced the local community in developing a rich and diverse curriculum with books studied, for example, from authors from a wide variety of ethnic origins. We have a truly ethnically diverse teaching and learning team. The school also has a laser like focus on developing character and self-belief. We aim to be an outstanding school recognised for its excellent academic standards, with strong pastoral care and support for our families at the heart of what we do, producing confident, well rounded students who can be successful in any social sphere.

I have worked and lived in North London for over 25 years. That commitment to the community is at the heart of my leadership and the work of the school.

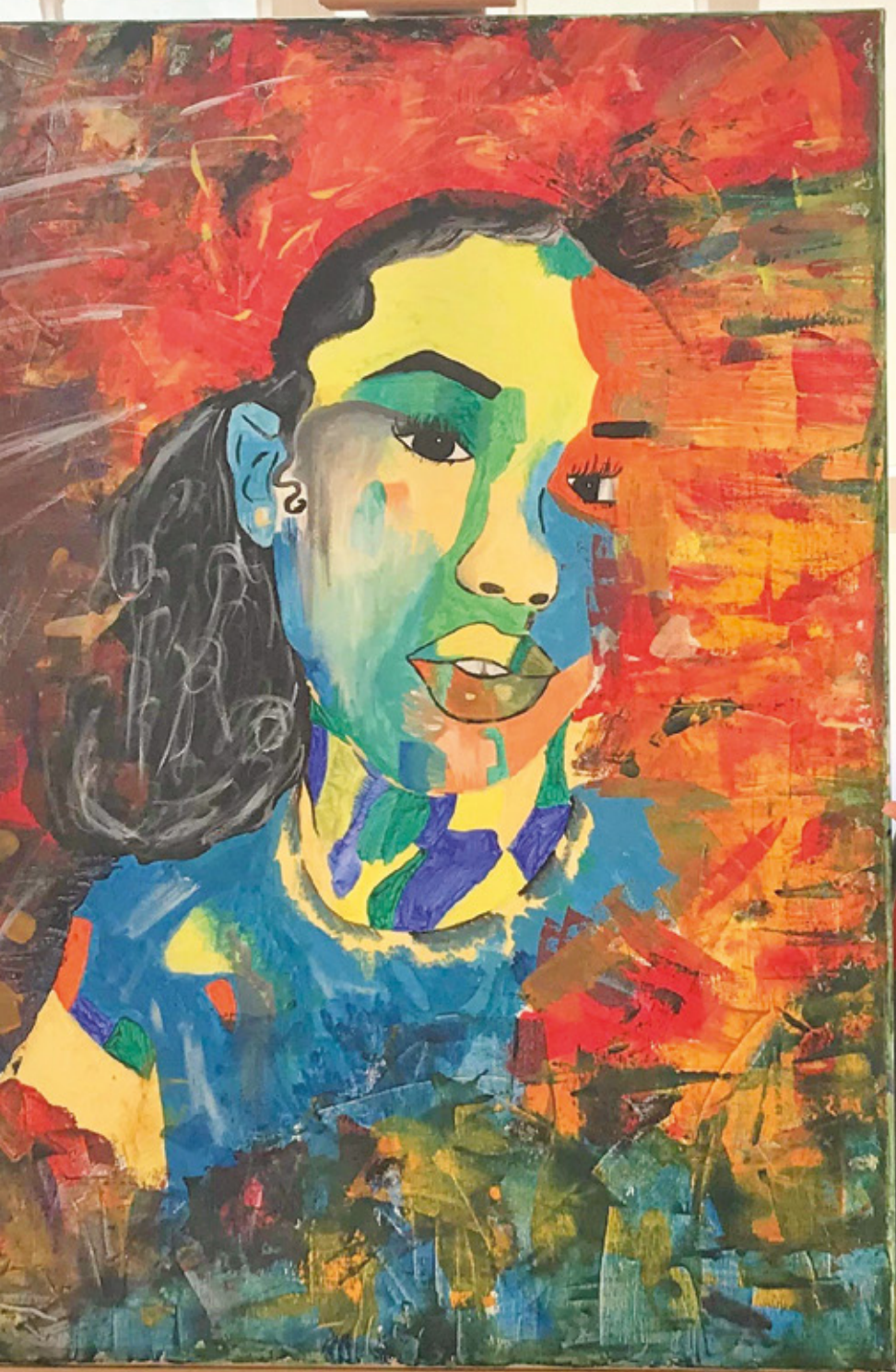
Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time with any questions or queries.

## Arthur Barzey

Headteacher

Times UK Headteacher of the Year 2022





Niah Abrahams  
Year 10



# Coming to Heron Hall Academy

## **Making a real difference**

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Heron Hall has not just literally arisen physically through its buildings at the heart of the Ponders End community but we also believe it has risen symbolically as a place of hope - acting as an inclusive bridge to opportunity, enabling young people to follow their dreams to wherever their talents and abilities can take them. Our children are not defined by their ethnic background or their postcode in order to be happy and successful in life.

## **Keeping students safe**

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We ensure our students feel safe at all times. Our teachers, in high vis jackets, are always on hand in numbers in the morning and the afternoon to see that our students arrive and leave safely. Our senior leaders also walk around the areas near the school.

## **Equality and diversity, a school for all**

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Led by one of the few black headteachers in the UK, there has been a sustained focus on equality and diversity since the school began. We have embraced the local community in developing a rich and diverse curriculum with books studied, for example, from authors from a wide variety of ethnic origins. Departments such as English incorporate literature from BAME authors into their KS3 units whilst History incorporates whole units on BAME, and specifically African history, to help our students see their own stories represented in what we teach.

Through links with many organisations we have been able to put in place numerous opportunities for students from BAME backgrounds in areas such as: workshops on identity, social media and relationships; role model workshops for boys; and inspirational BAME speakers for examinations and careers events. All students are expected to sign a diversity pledge, which focuses on ensuring that students no matter their background, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation are treated the same at Heron.

## **Raising aspirations, career opportunities**

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Many of our students are unfamiliar with the opportunities available to them when they first start with us. Some will hold the belief that they are going to be unable to obtain places within competitive institutions or careers. Our careers programme helps to eradicate these views, with chances to attend workshops, seek advice from external careers advisors, and support with Sixth Form applications, as well as interacting with top employers and industry professionals. We have a particularly strong partnership with the Enfield Caribbean Association who organise an annual careers fair with BAME role models, from the Royal Air force to neurosurgeons. External speakers who have come to the school have included a High Court judge, one of the world's top speech writers and YouTube entrepreneurs.



## Transition

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Transitioning from Primary to Secondary school is a time of excitement and anxiety for both children and parents. New surroundings, new friends, new challenges, and new choices are all on offer as your child opens the door on the first days of school. We have a dedicated programme to help your child transition from primary to secondary education. You can find out more by visiting our website [www.heronhallacademy.org.uk/Transition](http://www.heronhallacademy.org.uk/Transition). You can also follow Joe's journey in 5 short videos on YouTube as he started the school in 2020. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/d8t7aahj>


## Working in partnership with our families

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We want to work closely with our families and offer them the opportunity to be as involved in the life of the school as possible. It is parents and carers who have the greatest influence on children and young people's lives. We know how important it is that they have access to the support, advice and school relationships they need to ensure their child thrives. The association between parental engagement and a student's academic success is well established. When parents are involved in their children's education, children do better on a range of measures. We also know we need to help you to do this.

## Grab a virtual tour of the school

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We are very proud of our school and would love to show you around so you can see for yourself what we have to offer your child. We are a large school with bright, airy classrooms, a lovely canteen and outdoor eating areas, a substantial library, and plenty of spaces for sports, including a full sized astro turf pitch. Our facilities are second to none in the area. You can also watch a film made by our students Edward and Macey <https://bit.ly/heronhalltour>  YouTube





## GCSE results

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We celebrated our fifth set of successful GCSE results this summer. Year on year improvement has remained very good. Our students are in the top 10% in the country in terms of the progress they make with us. Students in Maths and English made particularly outstanding progress. Students also made above expected progress in subjects including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Sociology, Citizenship, History, Art, Drama and several other subjects. 49% of students achieved a grade 5+ in Maths and English and 73% of students achieved a good pass in both English and Maths.

In summary:

- Attainment 8 = 5.0
- English Grade 5+ = 77%, English Grade 4+ = 87%
- Maths at Grade 5+ = 49%, Maths Grade 4+ = 74%
- Two Sciences at Grade 5+ = 41%, Science Grade 4+ = 55%
- 5+ GCSE's at Grade 5+ including English and Maths = 45%









## What Ofsted say about us

- The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection.
- The headteacher has re-established and strengthened a culture of high expectations.
- The leadership team has ensured that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose.
- Inspectors observed teaching that was typically strong in English and Maths.
- Leaders have implemented systems that allow more rigorous tracking of students' progress.
- Students and staff appreciate the stability and sense of direction in the school.
- The school is growing year on year, the school is now oversubscribed.
- Leaders have a strong understanding of the areas needing improvement and this has led to a number of initiatives.
- The school's new teaching and learning policy has introduced a greater level of challenge and support for all students in their lessons.
- Newly introduced strategies are now evident in much of the teaching, with some skilful use of questioning to extend and deepen the understanding of the ablest students.

# Excellence at Heron Hall

## High-quality leadership across the school

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The most important influence on the success of a school, after the quality of teaching and learning, is leadership. Securing high-quality teaching and learning depends on excellent leaders.

All our leadership team have a strong track record and a deep passion for providing all students with an enriching and inspiring education. They also have a deep commitment to our communities in North London, with many having lived and worked here for a number of years.

## Outstanding teaching across the school

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Outstanding lessons lead to outstanding behaviour. Our aim is to deliver outstanding lessons all the time. Teachers create set routines within lessons and have high expectations for the students in our care.

At Heron Hall Academy, we pride ourselves in developing outstanding teaching and support staff to ensure the best possible academic and pastoral support for your child. We provide training for staff throughout the year based on national trends and feedback from students and parents.

## Ensuring students are ready to learn

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To be able to learn and seize the opportunities that education brings, students must feel safe, secure and able to overcome any worries and anxieties they may have. Some of our children live challenging lives, and it is important that we help them in managing the pressures and uncertainties so that they too may flourish.

One of the defining features of our school is our commitment to high quality safeguarding and mental health services.

## Our 5 pledges to students

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- 1** A curriculum and educational outcomes that reflect the highest academic standards;
- 2** A curriculum and learning experience that is open to the wider world and encourages creativity - reflecting the changing nature of the world of work and the evolving opportunities brought about by technology and globalisation;
- 3** A school that is at the heart of the community, providing young people with a sense of place and an environment for making lasting friendships built on care, respect and trust;
- 4** A school that is full of role models - teachers and governors who care deeply and are inspirational in equal measure;
- 5** A school environment that is inspirational, accessible and respectful for all.



## Our shared STRIVE values

At Heron Hall, we have 6 key values that we feel all students should leave us with. Our STRIVE values run through all areas of our curriculum and are regularly discussed in assemblies, form time, lessons and curriculum days.









## Curriculum

We want the educational experience of all our students to be one that raises aspirations and self-belief, and enthuses children to become life-long learners.

The world is changing and we know that literacy and numeracy, whilst being an essential bedrock of education and learning, and the right of every child, are only the beginning. Children and young people are moving into a world where creativity, innovation and the STEM subjects generally are going to be at a premium. Indeed, the consultants Price Waterhouse Coopers, recently produced important research that showed that in preparing for tomorrow's workforce, schools should be "focusing more on STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), but also exploring how art and design can feature at the heart of innovation (as is being pioneered by the 'STEAM' movement, where 'A' represents 'Art and design')."

### KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7-9)

**We follow the National Curriculum and study:**

English  
Mathematics  
Science  
Technology  
Information Communications Technology  
French or Spanish  
Humanities (Geography, History)  
Art  
Music  
Drama  
Dance  
Physical Education  
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education  
Religious Education

### KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 & 11)

**Students undertake studies to prepare them for their GCSEs. We also prepare students for alternative accreditation. Whatever their path our students follow a core curriculum including:**

Mathematics  
Science (Triple or Combined)  
Physical Education  
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education  
Religious Education

Students can choose from a range of additional GCSEs and vocational qualifications. Option choices include History, Geography, Spanish, French, Resistant Materials, Food Technology, PE, Music, Art, Drama, Citizenship, Statistics, Further Maths, Business Studies and Sociology. Work experience placements are provided for all students to help prepare them for life after school and to give them an idea of the type of careers and work that they might undertake in the future.

### KEY STAGE 5 (YEARS 12 & 13)

**We have recently announced plans to provide our year 11s with a Sixth form option in 2023 to stay at the school.**



## Homework

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Homework is vital for academic success. Specifically, homework:

- raises attainment
- adds a substantial amount of study time to a student's education
- offers opportunities for work which is independent of the teacher
- can exploit materials and sources of information which are not accessible in the classroom
- allows students to complete work started in the school
- allows students to practice skills learnt in the classroom
- checks students have understood classwork
- permits the setting of tasks in accordance with the ability of the students
- strengthens the home-school links and parental involvement by increasing their understanding of what their children are learning in school
- set on a regular basis, encourages good study habits and ensures that work becomes part of the culture.

## Extra-curricular activities

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Being able to offer students a wide range of diverse extra-curricular activities is very important as it encourages them to become independent, confident, and well-rounded individuals. Students can participate in creative activities as well as sport, dance, photography, computing, languages and drama.

The school provides opportunities for students to learn outside of the classroom and runs several educational visits throughout the year. Trips to date include visits to top universities, the Globe Theatre, West End shows, Geneva, Disneyland Paris and many more.



### Sporting activities for all

We are able to offer our students some of the best sporting facilities in London. We have outstanding sporting activities for students to choose from, which also run as clubs at the end of the school day, encouraging physical activity, having fun and competition. Our £500,000 4G Astroturf is used all year round. Your child is sure to find something they will enjoy at Heron Hall.

## A love of literacy

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Literacy is at the core of the school. We have created a culture of literacy that has impacted significantly on the progress of our students' reading ages and more importantly, encourage a life-long love of reading. Year 7 have an average reading age of 10 years 6 months. Year 8 have an average reading age of 11 years 2 months. Year 9 have an average reading age of 11 years 9 months. Interventions accelerate the rate of literacy skills for students significantly below their counterparts. We are very proud to be one of the few schools to employ a full-time, dedicated librarian and a library assistant. To encourage a love of literacy, the following strategies are in place:

- All class rooms have a 'Literacy Wall' display
- A Word of the Week takes place each Monday
- Year 7 and 8 students take part in the Lexia programme - a computer-based approach to improving reading
- Bespoke literacy interventions when needed

## The library

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We are extremely proud of the library – which is one of the hubs within the school most loved by students. Our bright, spacious and busy school library offers a positive, safe, inspiring and vibrant learning space. It encourages all students to develop a lifelong love of reading for pleasure and promotes literacy and research skills.

The library, which is staffed by a full-time, dedicated librarian and library assistant, is open to all students before, during and after the school day for library lessons, independent study and group work. The students also benefit from a variety of IT resources including desktop computers, laptops, and chrome books for flexible working.

We offer a breadth of titles for students to support all abilities, interests and many languages, books that reflect the diversity of our school community.

This enables students to access a range of titles that encourages curiosity and extends their love of reading. We also offer a range of non-fiction and revision texts for students enhancing their subject knowledge of all curriculum areas and useful information suitable for the whole school community.

In library lessons for years 7 and 8 we carry out a range of activities to support literacy skills and as a whole school we monitor students' reading progress and activity using Accelerated Reader. Students' reading achievements are celebrated with merits, certificates, badges, cinema and book awards, trips and assemblies.

The library also offers a growing and very comprehensive careers section which provides students with a range of information and prospectuses for their post-16 options.

We are very proud of our library and our school community's enthusiasm towards it.



## Community Outreach

Our dedicated Community Outreach team provides invaluable support to our families all year round. They work with a range of partners enabling you to network with other parents and to enjoy a large number of free workshops to suit your needs. Many of our outreach programmes are accredited and provided in partnership with organisations offering courses such as returning to work, preparing for job interviews and help with parenting teenage children. The team also runs a dedicated 'Parents Cafe' within the school.

Our partnership with Save the Children is nationally recognised as one of the best in the UK. During the pandemic the team has liaised with major food companies like Tesco, Farmfoods, Greggs, Waitrose and the Felix Project who kindly provide weekly food bags for families who need a little bit of extra help at this time.



## Well-being support

We strive to know our children well and to be able to spot signs that they are struggling or anxious. Our school benefits from the time and expertise of professional counsellors. This means that our teachers and support staff are able to signpost any student that needs it to a person who can help them. We are proud of our partnership with 'Place To Be', the national charity dedicated to supporting schools to improve mental health provision. Additional support is provided by trust-wide staff who lead on medical and health issues facing our students, and an Education Welfare Officer, who supports schools improving absence and overcoming lateness.

## Partners with the University of Warwick

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We work in close partnership with the University of Warwick, one of the top ranked universities in the World. Over the past five years, we have run an extensive teacher training programme with them, producing a large number of newly qualified teachers, trained by some of the very best education professionals in the country. We also benefited from having a senior Professor of the university sitting as a Member of our Trustees.

## Visits

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Students will get the opportunity to visit colleges and universities in their final two years. We organise a very active careers programme with visits to the school from top employers nationally and locally, across many different industries, allowing our students from Year 8 to begin to think about their future choices.



## Safeguarding

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Safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of staff. We believe that safeguarding our students is about prevention – and this means knowing our students and their families well, building a culture of trust – where people can talk, and always being on the lookout for concerning signs. We are stronger together when it comes to safeguarding our children.

## Equal opportunities

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We work hard to ensure that every child, regardless of race, religion, culture or class has an equal chance to develop fully. We value a child's home language and encourage the use of it in spoken and written forms in our school. All the children are equal in our esteem and affection. We are totally opposed to racism or discrimination in any form. We avoid sexual or racial stereotyping and encourage every child to have a positive image of themselves and respect for others. Children may only call each other by their given names.

We see the rich variety of cultures in our community as a positive asset to your child's education. We celebrate a range of festivals throughout the year, including Diwali, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Eid and Hanukkah.





## Our vision, mission and values

Our vision is to help as many children as possible to succeed at school and in life.

Our mission is to work within disadvantaged communities to make a real and lasting difference in order to give children the very best chances to succeed, academically and socially.

We are inclusive, ambitious, kind and supportive and have integrity.

### Education, Community and Opportunity (ECO)

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To summarise our mission we use three words for everyone to remember on a daily basis:

Education, Community and Opportunity (ECO).

Education: Every child at a North Star Community Trust school will receive an excellent education.

Community: Every child at a North Star Community Trust school will be able to make a difference in their community.

Opportunity: Every child at a North Star Community Trust school will have opportunities to help them develop into well-rounded citizens of the future.

### Stronger Together

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As a Trust, as communities of staff, children and families, we believe we are all Stronger Together.

# STAY IN CONTACT

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ACADEMY

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Heron Hall Academy



Heronhallchat



HeronHallAcademy



North Star Community Trust



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