

Goodbye to Heathfield



If you are reading this article, then more than likely you or someone you know went to Heathfield, be it from its years on College Road in Harrow, or since it relocated to Pinner (in above google snapshot), where it continued to grow and to flourish

A few days after the start of the new term in September 2013, a surprise announcement was made that Heathfield girls would be moved to Northwood College. In spite of a petition, and everyone's best efforts to prevent this merger and keep Heathfield going, the school finally closed its doors in the summer of 2014.

The term 'merger' was being used to describe the school's future, but it seemed to me that the reality is that our school was closing with its pupils relocating to a new school. As far as I'm aware, Heathfield had an outstanding exam record. The school's own web page reported GCSE results with 100% pass - over half of these pupils obtaining seven or more Grade A* and Grade A. The same with A levels results - 100% pass with 13% of the students receiving straight A* and A grades. Over the years, Heathfield's young women have received National and International awards and their successful careers have taken them to all corners of the world.

During its years in Beaulieu Drive, additions to the campus included a new music building, tech lab, and a science lab. There's an indoor swimming pool, a fitness studio and a sixth form centre, plus a new dining room and kitchen. The expense of adding these amazing facilities must have been with the student's bright futures in

mind, so it will continue to be a puzzle to understand why it had been decided to close our school.

There was plenty of speculation about what was going to happen to the site, which lay vacant for many months. The very land it stands on must be very valuable. So mostly it was thought that all the buildings would be razed to make way for an estate of houses or a business park for a huge profit.

It therefore came as quite a surprise to learn that the school buildings have remained intact and a brand new school moved in. Pinner High School opened its doors in September 2016. Starting with year seven students the school will be increasing in size on an annual basis reaching capacity and including the sixth form students in September 2021.

Up until 1937 the land was a working farm called Downs Farm, but this was sold and Pinner County School was built on the site. Over the years the name changed in order to reflect the evolving demographics of the community. Pinner County became Pinner County Grammar School and then Pinner Sixth Form College before Heathfield acquired the premises in 1982. And now, after saying our sad goodbye to Heathfield, and with the new Pinner High opening at the beginning of the autumn term in 2016, it almost feels as if it has gone full circle.

If you Google Beaulieu Drive, for a while at least you will see that the Heathfield School sign (looking a little forlorn and abandoned) still prominently lords it over the entrance to the campus almost as if in defiance! This final vestige that Heathfield ever existed will be gone when the Google Streetview van next drives by.

How very sad.

