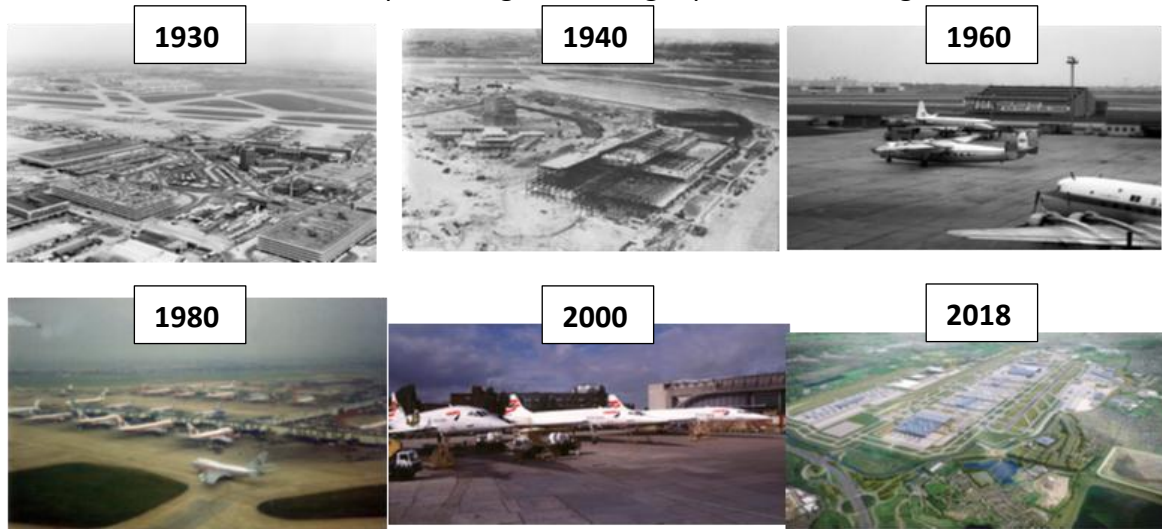




This half term we are going to be learning about **Heathrow Airport**! This week and next week we are going to write a **diary entry** about the history of Heathrow Airport!

Heathrow Airport has gone through quite a few changes.



Lets recap the history we learnt last week...

- Heathrow village was a **hamlet** with **lands and farms** around it.
- Between 1930 and 1939, **Sir Richard Fairey**, owner of Fairey Aviation, purchased 150-acres from the church in Harmondsworth.
- He developed it as a **flying field** (known as the **Great West Aerodrome**) under the control of the vicar of Harmondsworth.
- **In WWII it was purchased by the crown** (it was compulsory), and today forms the south-eastern part of the Heathrow Airport, London.
- By 1943 another **230 acres of land was purchased** by Fairey Aviation **from the local landowners** as the company planned to move its company from Hayes to the Aerodrome.
- During WWII the airfield was used to **display and develop model aircrafts** and sometimes used for aircraft fighters to divert or land safely.
- By 1944 the plans were revealed to use the airfield as a military airfield so more **surrounding farms and roads were needed.**
- In 1945 several bombers including Lancasters and Halifax were diverted there. No RAF aircraft became based there, although the facilities often found on RAF bases had been built.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1946, the military airfield became part of **civil aviation**. The airport buildings were **Army marquees, caravans and prefabricated RAF huts.**
- 31 May 1946 the newly named London Airport was **officially opened** and named Heathrow.
- Between 1946 and 2001 **many roads, houses and farms were demolished** and used to expand Heathrow Airport, creating more jobs and becoming one of the largest airports in the world.

Let's think about reasons/how people felt about having Great West Aerodrome turned into a civilian airport...

For	Against
Today I felt excited when I heard that the GW Aerodrome is becoming a civilian airport.	I am so worried because I heard on the radio that the GW Aerodrome is becoming a civilian airport.
I can't wait to witness the first airplane landing near our land.	I have lots of land, I am worried I will be made to sell if the airport gets bigger.
There will so many more jobs.	I work on a farm. This is my livelihood so this could cause me to lose my job.
I can't wait to be able to fly to and discover other countries.	I am happy living here. I don't want to go anywhere else.

## Activity

Imagine...you are an 87 year old healthy pensioner. You were born in 1930. You lived all of your life around Heathrow, in Harmondsworth Village. You kept your diaries about your life in this area.

Write a diary entry about the changes of your area. Your father owned land which he had to sell to the Fairey Aviation. Talk about your family, their feelings and opinions about all of this.

Here are some tools to help you...

### SENTENCE STARTERS:

*Dear Diary,  
Today has been an interesting day. I have to say that ever since the war has ended, our area has remarkably changed....*

*Dear Diary,  
Today has been a day full of surprises...  
I have to say today has been a shocking day...  
What a day it has been!*

### THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU:

Let's use these questions to help us write the diary:

- What was life and Heathrow like before the airport was built?
- What changed when the airport was built? When was it built? Why was it built?
- What do you like/dislike about the changes that happened?
- What happened after the airport was built? Did you move away or did you stay?

## **WAGOLL (What A Good One Looks Like)**

Dear Diary,

Today has been an interesting day. I have to say that ever since the war has ended, our area has remarkably changed. My grandad had already told me about the British Engineer Sir Richard Fairy who bought 150 acres from the vicar of Harmondsworth Parish to build an aerodrome for his aircrafts. Then, when I heard the news about using the G.W Aerodrome as a military field, I didn't mind. In fact, I thought it was a great decision. After all, we needed to fight for our country. But now that the war has ended, I don't see why we need a civilian airport. I really don't understand what all the fuss is about.

This morning, on my way to the factory, I saw the men from my village gathering together. They looked so excited. Even my best friend Charley howled at me when he saw me approaching on my bike. I almost fell over. I have to admit; I was getting a bit too curious. I knew I couldn't be late for work but I really wanted to know the reason for his excitement. To my surprise, I discovered that everyone was so overjoyed because it had been announced that the government and the RAF (Royal Air Force) had handed G.W Aerodrome to the civil aviation; there seem to be some plans for its airfield to be expanded in to a large civilian airport!

What an absurd idea. Who needs a civilian airport? Surely these people must realise that soon or later their farms would be taken from them. A civilian airport will need more space to expand the airfield. Do they really want to lose their lands? I can't understand how some young men in the factory were so delighted with the idea and reckon that they would travel the world from this airport. Who wants to see another country when we are living in Great Britain?

Later on, I heard that the airport would be named Heathrow Airport, and the first flight to land on its ground is coming from Argentina. My grand dad is already moaning about it. I can only expect the worse to happen now that everyone seems to be happy with these changes.

### **Other examples:**

Dear Diary,

Today is my first day working in the Royal Air Force at Harmondsworth Aerodrome! I am so nervous. Even though I have always wanted to work in the airlines I can't help but worry that the government will ask to use the aerodrome base because of the war. I have heard people talking about the base being used as a long-range troop-carrying aircraft bound for the Far East. My friend Billy says that will never happen, but I am still worried. I don't want to go to war.

Dear Diary,

The government has officially requested to use the land as a military base. We have now been called The Great West Aerodrome, but I don't think a change of name is going to help my sick stomach. I am still so nervous about going to war. I hope that one day I can fly planes and go to beautiful places like Buenos Aires. Billy says that the war will be over soon and they will be able to create a new civil airport. I don't know if that is true but I am excited.

Dear Diary,

THE WAR IS OVER! Celebrations have been happening here at Heathrow Aerodrome all week. Not only is the war over but soon it will be New Years. Billy says that the Royal Airforce has turned over the aerodrome to the Air Ministry and it will now be a civilian airport. Although many of the first passengers will be from the army I cannot wait to see where the flights will go.

Use ONE of these checklists to check your diary entry contains everything it needs to!

### CHALLENGE \*

Tick the box if you think you have included these features of a diary:

Describes the places where the events happened.

Is written in the past tense.

Talks about the most important events

Uses some personal pronouns: I, we, my, me.

Talks about feelings.

Uses time conjunctions (e.g. before, next, after) to show when things happened.

### STRETCH CHALLENGE \*\*

Tick the box if you think you have included these features of a diary:

Has an introduction to set the scene.

Describes the places where the events happened

Is written in the past tense.

Tells the story of an episode in the writer's life.

Is written as if talking to someone.

Uses some personal pronouns: I, we, my, me.

Talks about feelings, reactions and opinions.

Uses time conjunctions to show when things happened.

Writes about events that are important to the writer.

Uses paragraphs to organise the events.

### SUPER STRETCH \*\*\*

Tick the box if you think you have included these features of a diary:

Has an introduction to set the scene and create atmosphere.

Uses adventurous vocabulary to describe the places where the events happen.

Is written in the past tense.

Tells the story of an episode in the writer's life.

Is written as if talking to someone (using an informal tone.)

Uses some personal pronouns: I, we, my, me.

Talks about feelings, reactions and opinions from the writer's point of view.

Uses time conjunctions to show when things happened.

Writes about events that are important to the writer.

Uses paragraphs to organise the events.

Uses inverted commas to quote direct speech from the events.