

LEYTONSTONE LIVES

WINTER 2020

Message from the Head Teacher

What a strange term! What a strange year...

None of us had any idea in February 2020 that the rest of the year would be unlike any we have ever known.

From saying a hasty goodbye to our much-loved Year 11 to watching our previous online learning platform, MILK, self-combust on Monday 23rd March.

It has been a challenging and tiring journey to where we are now, but this newsletter aims to inspire you with all the wins and gains we have made along the way.

Our wonderful pupils have worked with us each step of the way as we try to do our best by them during a global pandemic.

The exceptional staff at the school have not stopped trying, thinking and supporting even whilst under serious strain.

We are all so lucky to be part of such a special community. These words from our ethos have never been more true

'we dig deep; stick in our heels, and make gains'.

It will take a lot more than Covid to break us apart.

Wishing you all a peaceful and healthy break.

J McQuaid

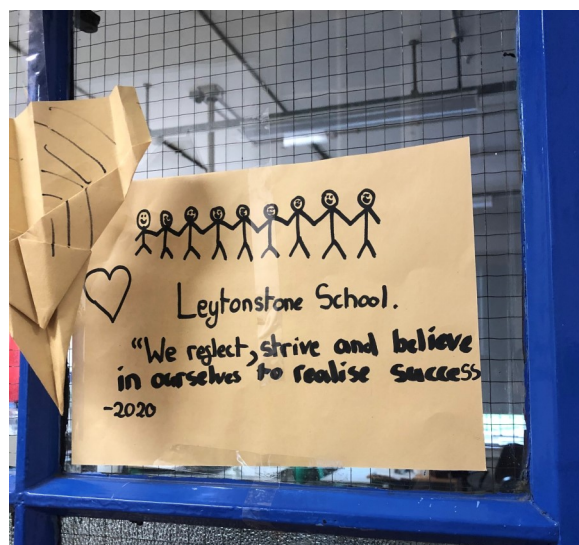


Hello Yellow Leytonstone!

On Friday 9th October, pupils took part in the national #helloyellow mental health event aimed at making sure we are all aware of the ways in which we can improve our own mental health and that of others.

Pupils wore an item of yellow clothing, decorated their form rooms and even baked yellow cakes! It was a good time for the school to discuss how we will support each other over the coming weeks. Pupils learnt how important it is to speak up and ask for help, but also learnt about really listening and looking out for signs that their peers and friends are struggling.

I understand the nut-free cake was delicious!



Year 7 - Welcome to Leytonstone School

We are so proud of the start Year 7 have made to the school - under quite difficult circumstances. One might have thought that the school's risk assessment would have meant an end to any creativity but the 'Year 7 Zone' is now abuzz with activity thanks to the hard work of pupils.

Take a look!

Team-building activities over the Year 7 RESET days

Pupils engaged in two full days of learning and activities focused on what it means to be a Leytonstone School pupil.



What does it mean to be a
Leytonstone School
pupil?...

Year 7 definitely know!

Click here to find out:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mN9GMWitWyQ&feature=emb_lo
go



Friday lunch-time 'Live Lounge' Talented musicians from the year group now play live for their peers and friends every Friday. They always draw a huge crowd!



Year 9 - Who are we now?

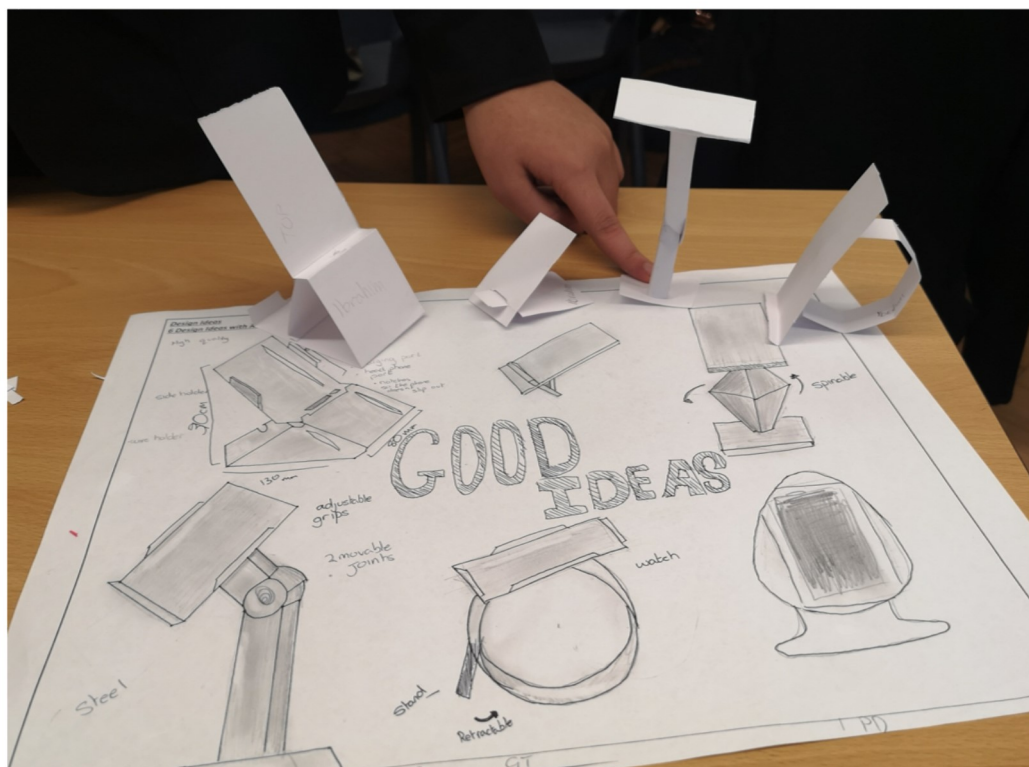
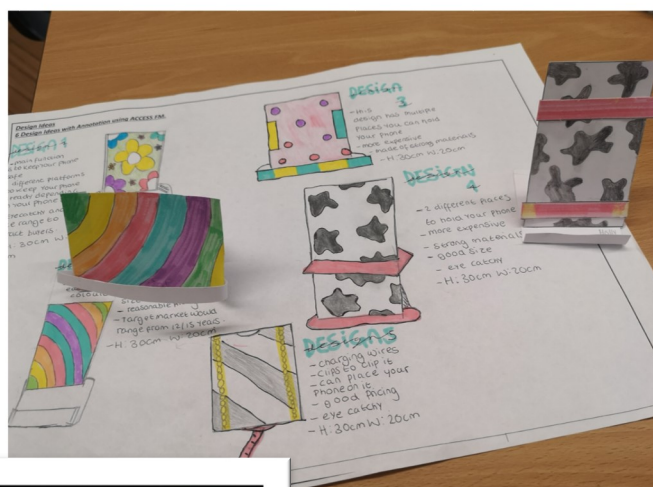
In December, pupils in Year 9 were fortunate enough to spend some time pondering this question with the aid of Humanutopia - a team focused of supporting young people to make positive changes to themselves which then impact powerfully within their community. Pupils pledged to let go of doubts which were acting as barriers to their progress and they committed to making small changes which will improve the experiences of all pupils at the school. Very powerful stuff.

humanutopia

empowering young people to make positive change

Re-designing DT

Pupil zoning has had an impact on the delivery of the practical subjects at the heart of the KS3 curriculum, but Year 9 soldier on! Here are some of their mobile phone holder templates - in stores soon!



Extracurricular

ZONES

7,8,9&KS4

STEM Club

More amazing achievements by the STEM team! In May we received certificates from the Astro Pi team, congratulating our pupils on successfully coding a program which ran on the International Space Station! The certificates even included the location of the International Space Station at the time the program ran.

Well done Otto 8T, Finlay 8T, Joe 8R, Matthew 8T, Luca 9R, Lily 10W, Orie 8L and Orla 8L! We are so proud!



Healthy body, healthy mind

We have been so delighted to welcome over 200 students per week attending the extracurricular clubs in PE that were able to begin after half term. Thanks of course to all members of staff that have contributed to these clubs, in particular to those outside of the PE department. Thank you Mr Riley, Ms Westbrook, Mr Shaharuddin, Mr Imeri and Mr Conway-Allen.

Broadening our perspectives

We now have a partner school in Nepal! We have received funding from the British Council to conduct a Year 8 project on Gender Equality and.... (international travel pending!) a teacher swap between our partner schools. There will also be a paired project with our partner school in Geography around sustainable development.

Huge thanks to Ms Lawrence and Ms Martin!



Ms McQuaid's 'Special mentions'

Joneesha Gage - Year 9

For not being afraid to stand up for what is right. We see you Joneesha, even when you think we're not looking!

Cleo Rich - Year 8

For humbly hiding what an outstanding anime artist she is! We want to see more Cleo!

Rosie Lefevre - Year 10

For being brave enough to engage in some very deep self-reflection. Loving the new you Rosie!

Peter Bellamy - Year 7

For being such a responsible role-model for Year 7. We really appreciate your break time monitor work Peter.

Richard Oteng - Year 11

For persevering and working hard to achieve his dream of becoming a solicitor. Your hard work will pay off Richard, keep going!



Coming up next term:

January - Exploring disciplinary literacy



Teaching and support staff will spend time focusing how we can explicitly teach pupils to be competent writers across the whole of the curriculum.

We will also be introducing the 'Leytonstone Canon'. Very excited about this.

February - Experiencing Beautiful Things



Pupils in Year 7 have not had much of an opportunity to explore all that Leytonstone has to offer and so over a period of five days Year 7 pupils will engage in an Arts exhibition led by GCSE pupils. The exhibition will allow Year 7 access to some of the best Drama, Art and Design Technology work being produced by pupils in older year groups.

February—Year 11 GCSE mock exams



This cohort of pupils have pragmatically handled the disruption of this term and we are looking forward to seeing them perform well in these exams.

January to March - RESET days for pupils in Years 8, 10 and 11



We use RESET days to focus pupils' attention on the 'hidden' curriculum. The days are focused on self-reflection and the building of good character.