# **Leytonstone School Newsletter**

Half Term 2 - December 2022



#### Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that the end of term is in sight already— it has certainly been a busy but very productive one! Year 11 pupils have prepared for, and sat, their mock exams in a very mature and professional manner. Prior to that they had the opportunity to meet prospective post-16 providers at our College Roadshow and also experienced a mock interview day where they presented CVs and underwent a rigorous 'interview' process—they were all dressed very smartly and really looked the part!

We held a very well attended Open Evening for prospective Year 6 pupils in October. Pupils across the school have also enjoyed a more regular programme of trips and enrichment activities than has been on offer over the past few years you can see a flavour of this in the enrichment timetable at the end of this newsletter so please do encourage your child (ren) to make the most of those opportunities. It has also been pleasing to see a variety of sporting activities take place including our KS4 girls participating in a newly created football league.

We wish you all a happy holiday season and look forward to welcoming pupils back on Wednesday 4th January, 2023.

B:M2022

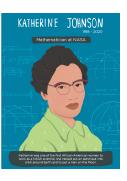
#### DIG DEEP, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Throughout lessons in the month of October, departments adapted lessons to include the Black specialist of the week, highlighting black specialists in each subject area. In Maths students have learned about Katherine Johnson who was the first Afro-American to work as a Mathematician at NASA, she was part of a team



who put an astronaut into orbit around the

earth and a man on the moon. DT celebrated the work of Sir David Frank Adjaye, Ghanaian-British architect who was knighted in 2017 for his services to architecture.



#### Forthcoming Dates—2023

3rd January - INSET day
4th January - Pupils return to school
12th January - PTSA meeting 6pm
19th January - Year 11 parents' evening
20th January - Family coffee morning 9:30—10:30
27th January - Year 9 options interviews
27th January - Staff vs Parents curry and quiz
30th January - Year 11 families event 5pm—6.30pm
9th February - Year 9 parents' evening
13-17th February - Half term
6th - 24th February - Year 9 options window
17th March - Family coffee morning 9:30—10:30
30th March - Year 10 parents' evening
31st March - Easter break

The month ended with a fantastic celebration of Black History Month with our BHM 'What Is Your Story?' event. During the evening pupils and staff celebrated their stories videos of individuals presenting their

black heritage. There was food to enjoy from a variety of cultures and music and dancing to celebrate the black heritage throughout our school community. A number of Leytonstone alumni returned to take part in a panel, they were questioned by two of our Year 11 pupils about their time at Leytonstone and their journeys to the careers they are now in. The evening finished with the Sturdy Dance, dance off (you might have to Google that) - a top end to a super evening.



Many pupils and staff participated in an exhibition of 'My Story' in which they spoke about what it meant to be black—some of these can be read on the next page.

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### WHAT BEING BLACK MEANS TO ME





One of my favourite memories during my Leytonstone journey, is winning my sports awards with my BLACK friends, the stereotypes for young black males in today's society are too be underachieving, leading to gang involvement. But to see not just one or two but numerous of young black males being nominated for the sports award, gave me a sense of togetherness. Another stereotype is that black males dominate the world of sport (which is not entirely wrong) so us achieving sports awards would be considered the norm, but the school gives us a chance to also celebrate our academic successes at the end of every term, for example most progress or highest attainment. This makes me proud to see so many black males in my year achieving their targets, we share ideas to help each other meet our grades or goals, this is all a positive memory because it emphasises how supportive our community is, it should really put a smile on people's faces.

Being Black means "Working twice as hard as the people you know you're better than, cause you need to do double what they do so you can level them" written by Santan Dave. Black means being a part of something bigger than just a community, even within my friendship group it is easy to relate to each

other because sometimes we do face the same struggles even though all of us could not be anymore different. I am privileged to have faster twitch muscles than the average human, darker skin, different hair, a unique style passed down from generation to generation and the TOP TIER food, being black allows me to express myself in a number of ways, music, sports, arts. As time moves forward, they're more black role models we can look up to, some of mine are Giannis Antetokounmpo, Malcom X, Usain Bolt, Stormzy and even our very own Mrs McQuaid and Mr Leitch. Black History Month should not just be singled down to a month but should be looked upon throughout the year, embracing the culture and its people, "black" may seem like just a word but the history reflects a deeper meaning, from being looked down on from most nations to being many people's inspiration. "Black is all I know, there ain't a thing that I would change in it".

Malek Carmicheal Gillespie-Rowe 11T



A significant memory of mine was visiting Ghana. I love everything about Ghana, particularly family, food, site seeing and the weather.

Being Black means being beautiful and having inner pride.

Ms Essel, Kitchen Assistant

A significant memory for me would be going to Jamaica at 18 for the second time and being able to discover my country of heritage for myself. Experience the real Jamaica and the beautiful culture and not the preconceived ideas or stereotypes of it. It gave me an even clearer and bigger essence of who I am.

Being black is very simple to me. It is whatever I want and define it to be. Often we are put into boxes as black people. For example to be black is to be 'loud', 'like dancehall' or speak in slang. I must meet certain societal expectations to fit the narrative. To be black is an honour, it



is to be proud of my Jamaican heritage, to love my beautiful brown skin, to love the kinks and curls in my hair, to love my full lips. It's to love every part of my history and legacy that runs through my veins. To be myself and not shrink in spaces that I was once taught to be small in. Blackness indeed forms and plays a big part in who I am but I am also allowed to just be me.

Ms Middleton, KS3 English Coordinator





The Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge! gives free communication skills training to Year 10 pupils in every state school in London and Essex. The aim is to amplify challenge young people's voices by creating a platform for young people to share their stories and ideas to empower not only themselves but each other.



In October 60 pupils in Year 10 were given the opportunity to develop their public speaking skills in a full day's workshop. Pupils played games to boost their confidence before drafting and performing a speech to their small group. Two pupils were selected, Nia Anthony and Eva Trayler, to repre-

sent Leytonstone School at the Waltham Forest Regional Final, hosted by Leytonstone School. It was an incredible evening filled with so many talented young pupils sharing their stories. We opened our doors to over 150 people from the local community as well as The Mayor and speakers from 16 local schools.



The event was MC'd by Maya Redley in Year 11 who did a fantastic job of exercising her public speaking skills. Maya placed 4th at the 2022 Grand Final - check out her speech on Rapunzel, Race and Representation here: https://youtu.be/7kpPvP9IxVk). Matthew Davey showcased his musical talents by performing two pieces on the Piano.



We heard speeches about the dangers of global consumerism, one girl's experience of a brain tumour, as well as Nia's speech on women in sport and Eva's compelling speech on unconscious bias which landed her in the runner up spot! (Watch her performance on YouTube: https://youtu.be/RCbVYZwZQ-4) As a result of Eva's outstanding performance, she will have the privilege of judging at next year's regional final! All in all, it was a fantastic evening which made us incredibly proud of the talent at Leytonstone School. We are very much looking forward to seeing what next year's Year 10s can do!

#### **Royal College of Pathologists Trip**

What better way to start the year than with a science trip!

The trip to the Royal College of Pathologists was greatly enjoyed by our pupils and an eye opening experience for some of them. In celebration of the college's Diamond Jubilee, a number of workshops and activities were organised for pupils to learn about pathology and the different career pathways. Some of the workshops included; a live autopsy demonstration, neuropathology and 3D printing. This was also our pupils' first time meeting a royal, The Duchess of Gloucester, who was there for the College's Diamond Jubilee celebration.



#### Leytonstone in the Blitz

Our Year 9 SEND students have being working hard, with the help of Ms. Cole, to create a Blitz display. The display features detailed facts, historical pictures of Leytonstone and even some well thought out questions that the pupils want





you to find the answer to. We are super impressed with the time and effort these pupils have put into understanding the impact of the Blitz on Leytonstone! Well done!

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#### **PE Newsletter**

During Half term 2 we have had lots of teams competing in Basketball and Football Leagues. We have increased our basketball teams to 8 and next Year we will be aiming to have a team for each year for both boys and girls. There have been lots of successes in the games played most notably in the Year 11 boys team who will also be representing Waltham Forest in the London Youth Games as reigning borough champions.

The Year 7 and 8 girls football teams have also represented the school very well with lots of effort and some great performances each week during the 7-a-side league. the stand out performer has to be Lucy Ince for her goals in the Year 8 team who will hopefully qualify for the semi finals to be played this week. The Year 8 team also per-



formed very well in the Unica Cup run by Leyton Orient which featured 16 schools for east London but they were unlucky to be eliminated in the group stage on goal difference.

> Next half term we look forward to the conclusion of the Basketball season with some of our teams, hopefully reaching the finals and also the Year 97-a-side football league.

Mr Davis Head of PE





#### **Stubbers Trip**

The Year 11 trip at the start of the year to Stubbers Adventure Centre certainly was a fabulous experience for all involved. The weekend was packed full of activities ranging from canoeing, paddle boarding and laser tag team to abseiling, archery and the leap of faith! It gave them opportunities to team build, push their boundaries and stretch themselves to build relationships and make memories.



#### Careers in football trip to The Emirates

In November, a group of lucky Year 10 pupils were taken to the Emirates Stadium for a special event organised by the Professional Footballers' Association, called 'South Asian Pathways in the Professional Game.' The event, in collaboration with Arsenal FC, was delivered by key members and founders of the Asian Inclusion Mentoring Scheme (AIMS) and involved students hearing from a wide range of professionals in the football industry, e.g. sports psychologists, physiotherapists, as well as the CEO of Arsenal FC. We received some lovely feedback about our students from Mr Rehman, the Player Inclusion Executive, who was very impressed with them and said they were a credit to the school. Well done Year 10! We are excited to say that Mr Rehman will be coming into school next term to talk to any Year 10s



and Year 11s who are interested in pursuing a career in the football industry.

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#### TCS Mini London Marathon 22

Congratulations to the following students who took part in the Mini Marathon the day before the London Marathon. They ran 2.6km and were rewarded with a feast in the VIP tent! All will be receiving a certificate in assembly.

> Esteban Oya Daniel Palmer Esteban Oya Alfred Homberger Nelly Mariana de Sousa Pereira Bernardo Miguel de Sousa Pereira Samuel Mason-Carroll Luca Frodsham Alexander Lee Nylen Placide





#### The Year 7 Family's Fabulous First Term

It's never easy joining a new school and in September, 210 wonderful young people took that leap into a new secondary school and what giant leaps they have made since they arrived!

The Year 7 motto focuses on the 'we are family' part of our school ethos and that is exactly what they have shown in their first term. Demonstrating their emotional intelligence by supporting and celebrating each other along the way. Year 7 have done so much in such a short space of time. Some of the highlights have been their first days of meeting their new form friends and tutors, sup-

porting, raising awareness of mental health by celebrating Hello Yellow Day, working together with

local artists in the Bow Arts project and screen print workshop and jumped straight into our extra curricular programme, with multiple sports events and Panto in a Hurry

The highlight of the term has to be the Year 7 'family day out' to Kidzania. We travelled in convoy to Shepherd's Bush to the wonderful makebelieve world of Kidzania. All pupils got to interactively experience a range of different careers with the hope of giving them some inspiration to start dreaming of their future aspirations. Now what is left for

them to do is channel that inspiration into their educational development and work to ensure they fulfill their dreams in becoming whatever they wish to be.

Year 7, you have made an amazing start to your Leytonstone School career, we are all so proud of you and can't wait to see what you do next term. To you and all your families, have a wonderful break this holiday. See you in 2023!

Mr Conway Allen and the Year 7 Team









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#### Year 11—preparing for life beyond Leytonstone

This term has been busy for the Year 11s. As their GCSE exams draw nearer and the time to make decisions about life beyond Year 11 is nigh the school has put in place some events to support this important transition. Through tutor sessions students have engaged with Xello, a college and career readiness programme that puts the student at the centre of their future planning—to create CVs and personal statements. The College Roadshow hosted over 45 different institutions offering a huge variety of courses and pathways including apprenticeships opening up avenues students didn't know existed. The highlight of the year was the mock interview day; the school hosted volunteer professionals who gave of their time to give each Year 11 a high quality interview with feedback—this was such a valuable experience which created a huge buzz. As we go into the winter break the year group deserve a well earned rest after a very successful round of Mock exams—well done Year 11!

# Careers Advice



#### Ejaz

I feel that the mock interview gave me a broad idea of how an interview would run. During the mock interview, I really liked how they gave feedback as it alerted me on what I need to improve on. This allows me to work on the skills that I lack and improve on them before my college interviews. For the college roadshow, I noticed how the colleges gave out information on themselves because it allows me to broaden my knowledge on those colleges and whether I think that it may be suitable

for me. Furthermore, they went in depth about their colleges such as the number of students who achieved an A or A\*, this lets me know the expectations of the college and the requirements that I would need to get into that college. As a result, this allows me to improve on the subjects that I aspire to take in college and work on them to meet the requirements for the college to accept me.

#### Elias

Overall I think that the college roadshow was very helpful for me as it expanded my options for college and presented what requirements certain colleges have to offer for me helping me picking out the colleges I want to apply for. The college roadshow offered a large variety of colleges with different places and skills letting me decide which I would pick and showing various A level options allowing me to narrow them through what I find passion towards and truly pick what I enjoy.

In my opinion the mock interview gave me a broad idea of how a actual interview will playout and prepare me towards future interviews that I will have by increasing my confidence, composure and ability to communicate. the feed back given was very useful as it directly informed me what I have to better on and where were my strongest skills and weaknesses which I can improve on.

#### Nirrushan

I felt that the mock interviews were a heads up to what interviews are going to be like. It gave me a real feel of how an interview works, what questions they might ask and what impression I need to give to the interviewer. During the mock interview they gave me some small areas of feedback of what was good and what I would need to improve on. This is very helpful as I now know what i need to work on for the future interviews I would be facing. As a result this interview has prepared me for what the real interviews might be and what I would need to do in future.

For the college road show, it was a much easier way to find out about different colleges and sixth forms. It is especially helpful because you can find out information in school if you cannot go the open evenings. I felt that the roadshow gave me an in depth idea of what courses I can do and what specific grades I would need to achieve. The people presenting their college/ sixth form were welcoming and answered the questions that I asked about their sixth form in a positive manner. It essentially gave me initial ideas of what subjects I would want to take for my a levels.

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20 Year 7 pupils took part in a ceramic workshop in October. They learnt how to hand build using the pinch pot techniques to make clay pumpkins. The sculptures were fired the next week and the students came back to glaze them and take them home. The students enjoyed learning new skills, making new friends and creating their own personal response.

> SOCIA ARR

leiten





This term 20 Year 7s took part in a silk screen printing workshop with Social Fabric. They learnt about screen printing, collaboration and responded to theme from the school and Year 7 ethos. They made a huge banner which with be installed on the stairs up to art in the practical block in the spring.

Connecting through creativity is a positive influence on our social fabric. It can be a force which brings and holds communities together from all different walks of life.'

Social Fabric are experienced in communication and engagement and have a passion for realising creative potential and combining active participation with impressive outcomes; we create powerful visual work that tells a story and explores a theme – we print a social fabric.



A group of 30 Year 9 pupils visited the 'Strange Clay' exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, Southbank this term. The exhibition featured 23 international contemporary ceramic artists and is the first largescale group exhibition in the UK exploring how contemporary artists have used clay in unexpected ways.

The exhibition links the 'Weird and Wonderful' scheme of learning Year 9 are currently being taught in art lessons. The pupils had a brilliant time and had impeccable behaviour; which was complimented by gallery staff and teachers from other school. Well done to all who attended and organised this fun opportunity.

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The Art dept. secured a grant this year to create a permanent public artwork for the front of the school with our pupils. A group of 30 pupils across Years 7-10 took part in a series of workshops with Bow Arts and artist Will Redgrave. Pupils worked to create colourful designs, starting by exploring the school site, sketching and photography. Followed by workshops looking at designs, motifs, repetition and colour. The work was bright, focused and fun, design will be finalised by will this term. The final work will be a series of 6 large planters that will be in situ at the front of the school in the spring.

1010







OW

Well done Year 11 Art who had an incredible Art and Design Mock exam in December. We couldn't be more proud of them and of their focus, creativity and professional conduct in the 10 hours exams. The work produced was personal and exciting; responding to the theme Fantastic and Strange, well done! Bring on the main Art exam season in January – you've got this!



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#### LSPTSA—Leytonstone School Parent, Teacher and Student Association

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTSA for their ongoing support of the school and your support of them! The funds raised very much go directly to having an impact on the learning of all in the school.

The recent 'Panto in a Hurry' was a fabulous evening. Directed by none other than Mr Dean and supported by dedicated staff; Mr Paddon, Mr Gowland, Ms Robbins, Mr Kara and Ms McFarlane. Thanks also go to the staff who showcased their acting skills. The incredible PTSA raffle that evening raised a whooping £2057 - there were so many amazing prizes!

Look out for upcoming PTSA events to brighten up the new year.



Friday 27th January 2023

Come along and test yourself against the teachers! Tickets will be available for this evening event in the new year.





#### Volunteers Needed!!

Last year the PTSA awarded nearly £2000 pounds to the school for various much needed resources. Our ambition is to build on this success with the help of Families, Students and Teachers. We fully appreciate for many these are challenging times and any help offered is welcomed, we need Event Volunteers/cake makers/Raffle prize donations and raffle ticket sellers.

If you'd like to be part of bringing the School and Community together, creating memories and raising much needed funds for Leytonstone Students please get in touch with us PTA@leytonstoneschool.org

Claire Adlam—Chair PTSA

Some of the exciting work the Year 10 GCSE Art and Design groups have been creating this term, we look forward to their next creations!







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#### **Leytonstone Families**

Dear Families,

This winter season has the potential to be incredibly difficult for families with the financial crisis being incredibly draining. As a school we would like to be able, wherever possible, to help out. Whether this being a warm place to be, advice and guidance or support for families.

We would like to express our gratitude for your kind donations of unwanted school uniforms and other items; we welcome more donations as some of our families greatly benefit from them. In addition, a big thank you for your contributions to our Winter Food Bank, which are being distributed to the families of Leytonstone school children.

As part of our continuous effort to improve community engagement and as a response to your feedback, we have created a guestionnaire for parents to fill. We know that we are lucky to have many talented parents and feel privileged to hear that some of you would like to contribute their time/ expertise/skills for the benefit of our school community. Please reply the Google Form specifying your availability and a field of expertise you can share.

https://forms.gle/zGSWDLPnJ9HYJbK18

Here are some of the things that might help. We have recently set up a food bank within the school-please refer to the flyer below. For more information about any of the family support services we offer please contact Ms Mentes at family@leytonstoneschool.org.

Waltham Forest council are offering information on keeping warm,

getting support with winter fuel payments and boosting your immunity which can all help you stay healthy this winter.

Winter Wellness: Stay healthy this winter | London Borough of Waltham Forest

#### Parent Sessions

Our parent coffee mornings continue led by Ms Mentes our Family Engagement Partner. Based on parent feedback we are adding a more in depth focus to these sessions, however, you are still welcome to come along and chat about anything school related. The Spring Term sessions will take place on:-

#### Friday 20th January- 9.30am - Literacy focus

Presented by Literacy Coordinator Ms. Deverouax

#### Friday 17th March - 9.30am

Sessions will include:- Edulink, C2C – managing homework, Post 16 how to navigate the transition, curriculum and options, Healthy minds - Supporting the mental health of your child.

For up-to-date information and more photos and details about our events please subscribe to our Twitter account @LeytonstoneSch



Any family interested in accessing our food bank please contact Ms. Mentes at family@leytonstoneschool.org or call 020 8988 7487.

sauces, coffee, tea, long-life milk, fruit juice (long –life), pasta, rice, squash, cereals, jam, other dried for

Toiletries and hygiene products such as deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shamp toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes, sanitary towels and tampons.



To support families through this difficult Winter season we are organising a school food bank. We welcome donations of dry and tinned food items and toiletries

If you would like to donate please drop them off at the school reception during weekdays in December 2022.



Donation suggestion

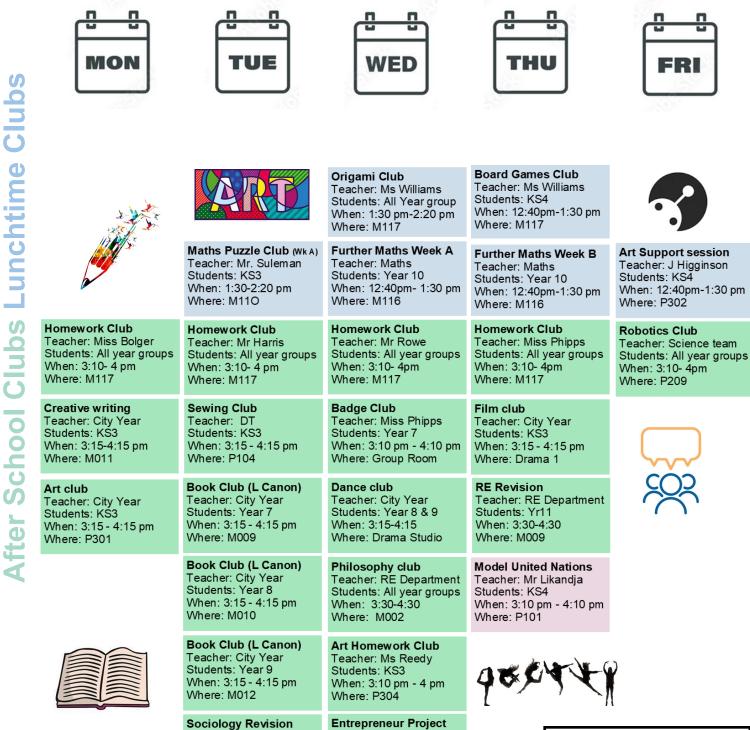
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# Leytonstone School **Enrichment Timetable**



**Duke of Edinburgh Bronze** (wk A) Silver (wk B)

Teacher: A Landowska

Students: Bronze Yr 9 Silver Yr 10

When: 2:30-3:30 (days will rotate)

Where: MB01

**Sociology Revision** Teacher: Ms Casey Students: Yr 11 When: 3:30-4:30 pm Where: M009

Study Space Teacher: Mr Thompson Students: Yr 11 When: 3:15 - 4:15 pm Where: Restaurant

Teacher: Mr. Mafique Students: KS3 When: 3:10 pm - 4 pm Where: MB01

Art Homework Club Teacher: Ms Higginson Students: KS4 When: 3:10 pm - 4 pm Where: P303

Study Space Teacher: Mr Thompson Students: Yr 11 When: 3:15 - 4:15 pm Where: Restaurant

any of the clubs please sign up via

https://forms.gle/

Sign up for clubs in pink will be completed through separate links—information announced in assemblies and on google class-

