

Inline Magazine

Little Ilford School News & Events Winter 2018 - Issue 25

In this edition: Mexican Day of the Dead
LIS students meet a future king
Black History Month
School Play
Debating

Learning together
Achieving together
Succeeding together

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the latest addition of Inline. We were delighted with our exam results before the summer. Our Progress 8 figure, the main measure by which secondary schools are now measured, rose from 0.22 to 0.41. This means that we are adding almost half a grade above the national figure. There were very pleasing figures in English Literature (where 76% of students gained a Grade 4 or above), maths (70%, with 11 students gaining a grade 9), French (91%, with 43% gaining a grade 7 or above), media studies (77%), among many others. We are clearly heading in the right direction as a school.

LIS continues to offer exciting enrichment activities for our young people. The PE department organise fixtures and clubs for many different sports. Our boys' Year 10 handball team came second in the borough. The drama department mounted a very ambitious production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, a play that is rarely attempted by schools, with phenomenal success. I am so proud of our drama team, and of our students' understanding of the text. Our Youth Travel Ambassadors have secured a Gold Award for our school. The music department continues to go from strength to strength; we have a significant number of students in the Commonwealth Choir, who performed in the Queen's Christmas Message last year. DT are running an exciting comic club that visited Comic Con at the Excel Centre. There are many, many other activities that are featured later in this issue.

Our attendance was a little lower during 2017-18 than the year before, although it is still above 96% and above the national figure. Lots of national research shows that excellent attendance has a direct link to results. Please strive with us to improve this figure. I am frequently asked to approve extended holidays for a variety of reasons. However, the students only have 38 weeks of education in the year and the new GCSEs have exponentially more content than the exams they replaced. Holidays during term time set our young people back as it is impossible to truly recreate a lesson by catching up at home.

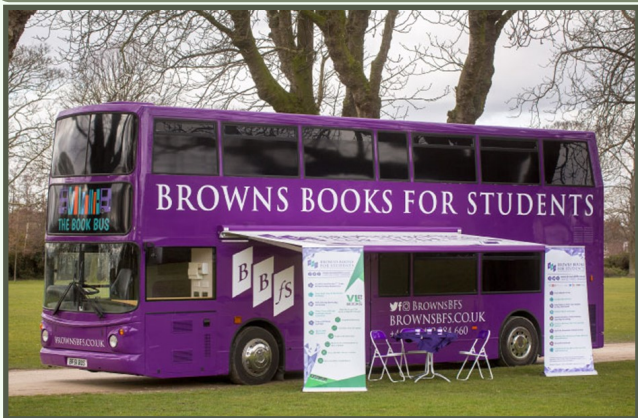
The holidays are a great opportunity to encourage your child to read. Recent research has shown that reading fiction improves intelligence more than non-fiction. As George R.R. Martin famously said, "A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one." We recommend at least 40 minutes per day for years 7-8 and 20 minutes per day for years 9-11.

It only remains for me to thank you for all your support during the past year and to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

Mr Ian Wilson
Headteacher



The Book Bus



The Book Bus is a mobile educational book showroom in a double decker bus, stocked with over 4,000 books for the educational sector.

On the 21st November 2018, the bus visited Little Ilford School and 186 students and staff were invited to step on board to browse the stock and recommend titles for the school library, and even purchase books at a discounted rate. Ms Shaper, the school librarian, said that the behaviour of the students was superb and the Book Bus staff were full of praise for our school. Well done!

Mexican Day of the Dead

In early November, in collaboration with art and MFL, staff and students gathered to celebrate El Día de los Muertos (Mexican Day of the Dead). The tradition of the Dia de los Muertos has links to pre-colonial Latin America and goes back to the Aztecs, Toltec and Nahua people. On the 1st and 2nd of November families gather to remember their lost loved ones and bring flowers to decorate gravestones and food to leave as offerings. They also make an altar with photographs of their loved ones and with things that they liked.

To celebrate, students and staff brought photos, notes and offerings to their loved ones who have passed away, as well as making Mexican prints and painting calaveras (skulls). The kitchen staff also went all-out by painting their faces and making a Mexican feast!



Spanish connections

Mr Wilson and Ms Vaquera recently visited Badajoz in western Spain to establish a partnership with Universidad de Extremadura (UEX). They signed an agreement with the university to enable UEx's students to complete their second teaching practice at LIS and undertake CPD courses under the Erasmus+ (QUERCUS) programme.

Ms Vaquera said "We're very excited about this huge step forward in our international expansion programme, which will now extend beyond projects involving pupils, but also assist other institutions with their teaching programmes and help our teachers develop their professional skills beyond the UK.

UEX kindly extended an invitation to all Little Ilford School staff to take up the opportunity to visit their Badajoz and Caceres campus."



Sports Highlights

5-0 victory to LIS



In September the Year 10 boys' football team played against Mayfield in the first round of the Essex Cup. An excellent performance saw the team cruise to a 5-0 victory and progress into the next round. The real highlight however was when the Year 9 students played up a year in an overall united performance between both year groups, which improved the strength of the team. Goals were scored by Tyreece, Alvi (2), Shaquille and Apon. Well done!

Cross-country success

Nine pupils competed admirably at the Newham Cross-Country Championships on Wednesday 10th October. Special mention goes to Sareeta in 10.2 (2nd), Faisolat, 9.8 (6th) and Razat, in 10.2 (7th) in their categories. These pupils did so well that they were invited to participate in the London Youth Games.



Other sporting highlights include a handball competition between 5 other schools where LIS came second, with Yusuf in 10.9 being awarded man of the match for his superb goalkeeping (well done Yusuf!); a visit to Old Trafford to watch Manchester United v Crystal Palace, and a visit to Wembley to watch England v USA.

Football for Peace ambassadors meet the Duke of Cambridge

14 talented Year 8 and Year 11 football students recently attended the Copperbox Arena in the Queen Elizabeth Park to take part in a celebration of the Football for Peace programme. Last summer through the programme year 11 students, Bilal, Ihsaan, Shamir, Jafir, Bruce and Luqman completed the FA recognised Leadership Programme. This taught them skills to help bring communities together through managing and delivering community football tournaments. They put these skills to the test at the Copperbox by organising short matches between players from the various schools that were involved.

Prince William attended the event to watch the matches and to take part in a workshop with the student leaders. The students were thrilled to meet famous footballers such as Louis Saha and former West Ham striker Carlton Cole, and during the workshop with the Prince were able to tell him how much they had gained from the initiative and of their hopes to continue with the programme in the future.



Black History Month

Students and staff at LIS celebrated Black History Month in October with a number of different events. Year 7 students took part in a quiz night; Year 8 were treated to drumming lessons; there was a dance workshop after school and guest speakers. Old friend of Little Ilford, Kwame, came to talk to students about his life journey and the pride we should all feel in our cultural makeup. On the 3rd October the "Big Cook Little Cook" event took place; when students cooked a dish from their cultural background while listening to traditional music to celebrate love and diversity through food. The month culminated in a wonderful celebration event in the auditorium, showcasing the talents and diversity of the Little Ilford family with dance, music and singing. Thank you to Ms Hall-Hinds for all her hard work organising these events and all the staff who helped her and supported the events. It gets better every year!



Tea Dance fun



Little Ilford staff and students hosted the Annual Christmas Tea Dance on the 13th December when we invited our local residents over 60 to come and celebrate Christmas. The generation gap didn't stop everyone getting up to join in with the dancing and carol singing. The students put on two dance displays and tea and cake was served. Our guests left happy and full of compliments for our lovely students and promised to come again next year.



A solid start to the debating year

Seven Year 10 students were invited to Pinsent Masons law firm to take part in a debate competition. The motion that they had to argue in support of was interesting; 'Humanity should fear the advancement of artificial intelligence'. It was the first time that the team members had debated in a competitive environment and they did exceedingly well showing resilience and passion. Ms Hakim said "We are yet to crack the Pinsent Masons debate competition which is a different style of debating to Debate Mate but we are improving every year, so bring on 2019!"



Well done to Numair and Hamdan in 10.5, Shriya in 10.3, Esam, 10.6, Moeed in 10.8, Masooma in 10.2 and Shaiina in 10.6.

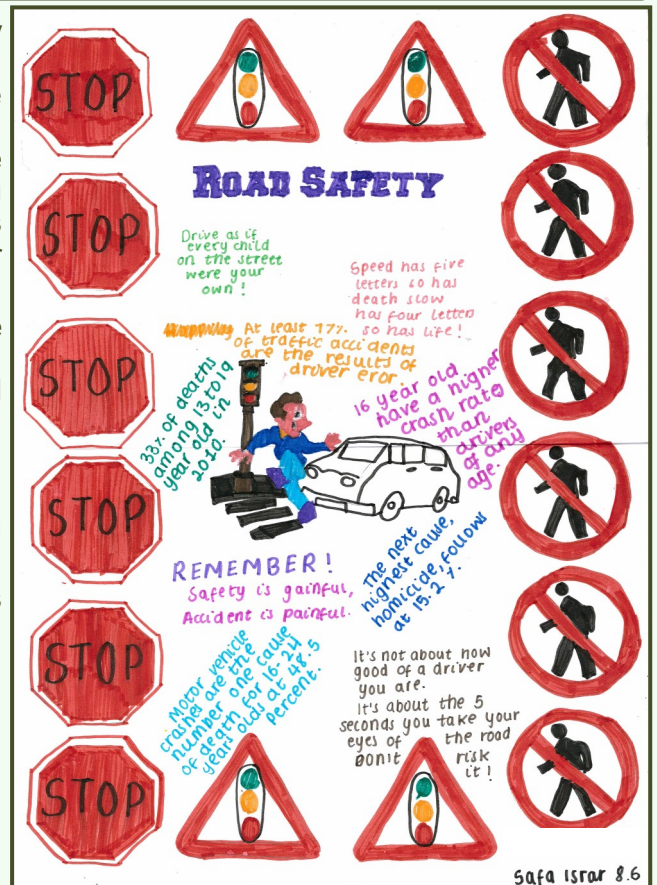
Getting the road safety message across

The week of 19-25 November was Road Safety Week. Our LIS Youth Travel Ambassadors joined forces with Transport for London to help raise awareness of road safety within our school community. They delivered powerful assemblies and launched the Design a Road Safety Poster Competition, encouraging all students in Years 7-10 to take part. Congratulations to Safar in 8.6, who designed the winning poster opposite.

As a result of the Travel Ambassadors' hard work, Little Ilford School has been awarded a Gold award in recognition of achievements in active and safer travel initiatives.

Travel Ambassadors Ayesha in 10.9, Dipeka in 10.8 and Laiqah in 10.3 went to the Kia Oval on Thursday 29th November to receive the TFL Gold level Accreditation and to attend a seminar.

A huge well done to all our Youth Travel Ambassadors and everyone at Little Ilford School!



Much Ado at Little Ilford

At the beginning of the school year the Drama department got together students from across the year groups to start rehearsing for a school production. The cast and crew chose to do a comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing* by Shakespeare.

We rehearsed every Tuesday and Friday and eventually put the performance together from beginning to end. During rehearsals we all became good friends as it was a good opportunity for a different variety of year groups to get to know each other. There were dances in the performance and lots of opportunities for us all to join in. It was similar to a pantomime as everything was over dramatic, even the serious scenes. We as a cast made the scenes more dramatic than they actually were, which was our interpretation of the play.

We performed three times in front of an audience of friends and family. The final performance was our best, as the whole cast gave it all they got. The good thing about Little Ilford school plays is that every single person involved makes the play a success, not just the main characters. After our performances were done on Friday it was a sad moment that we quickly came out of with some cheers and congratulations. I must say I had a lot of fun and I highly recommend doing the play next year no matter what you think your ability is. You will enjoy it!

Soha, 8.8



There are four easy ways to keep in touch!
Our website: www.littleilford.newham.sch.uk
Email: info@littleilford.org
Follow us on Twitter [@littleilfordsch](https://twitter.com/littleilfordsch)