



Magazine

Online

Little Ilford School News & Events Winter 2020 Issue 29

In this edition:

- Black History Month
- Jack Petchey Award winners
- Inter-form Sports Cup Winners
- Students' Art Gallery
- Library News
- and much more

Courage
Commitment
Compassion

Dear Parents,

What a year it has been! Covid has swept through our nation leaving havoc in its wake. The effect of the disease on Newham was so devastating in March that I wrote six condolence cards in one week to staff who had lost family members.

The word 'lockdown' was described as the 'word of the year' by the Collins Dictionary company. We had to move to online learning, with all the challenges of ensuring that technology was available for everyone who needed it. Parents became teachers, supporting their children in completing the tasks that were set. We salute you for your resilience in making this happen.

There were so many issues to overcome around reopening the school in June that we had to rewrite the staff handbook completely. Practical lessons and extra-curricular activities fell prey to the new strictures around risk assessments. Difficult decisions had to be made around sending home large numbers of students when safety was at stake.

At the time of writing cases are on the rise again. We may be heading for another wave of cases over the festive season. Hopefully all of you will manage to keep yourselves from harm this Christmas. Please do read the various infographics that we've sent out. The situation is changing constantly, so it's vital to make sure that all of us understand the latest guidance.

The Department for Education have shared their plans for making sure that this year's GCSE exams are as fair as possible. By the end of January we will know the topics that will come up in the exams. Papers will be marked more leniently, and the results will be pegged to last year's grades, rather than those of 2019, which will help our students. If another wave hits during the exam season there will be further papers to grade. Failing that, we will be back to Centre Assessed Grades.

Our school library has done a fantastic job in creating a Covid-safe online system for students to reserve library books. Please do encourage your children to use this system to broaden their reading experiences as this is one of the biggest predictors for success at GCSE. [Library Book Request Form](#)

There has been concern expressed around the school expansion. Unlike the rebuild that was finished in 2016, we have had much more of an input into the plans for the new buildings. The school is funded per pupil, so our larger roll will improve our flexibility in being able to meet the challenges of 21st Century education. A new building called the SEN hub has been created in the playground to support students with special needs in the school. The dining hall will be half as large again as it is now, and an extra serving point will be created to ensure that hot food is available for all students. We are continuing to work with the borough to get the best possible facilities for the students at Little Ilford, whilst ensuring that all of our local children manage to gain a place at a Newham school.

It only remains for us to thank you for all of your support during the past year and to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a (hopefully more manageable) New Year!

Mr Ian Wilson
Headteacher

Our Vision:

- We take ownership of our learning and aspirations so that we fulfil our unique potential;
- We promote equality and respect so that we feel safe, looked after and valued;
- We embrace challenge and change so that we have the confidence to broaden our horizons;
- We improve and achieve through resilience and self-reflection so that we are role models within the local community and the wider world.

Little Ilford alumni is a leader in the Arts

Abdul Shayek attended Little Ilford School between 1995 and 2000 and has recently been appointed Artistic Director of Tara Arts, an award-winning theatre in Wandsworth which was the first Asian, Black and ethnically diverse led theatre company in the UK. He is also the founding artistic director of Fio, an international theatre company based in Cardiff and has worked on projects with Channel 4, the National Theatre Wales and many more, across Europe, India, South Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

Ms Chadwick, head of drama, says she is so proud to say he was one of her students, and recently some Little Ilford Year 9 students were lucky enough to take part in a Zoom meeting with Abdul and found out all about his career path, his life at Little Ilford School and how he would like to inspire and encourage students to take up a career in the arts.



Black History Month

The aim of Black History Month is to deepen our understanding of black identity and lives, and in past years Little Ilford staff and students have marked it with visiting speakers and a celebratory performances. This year it wasn't possible so teachers came up with other initiatives to mark October 2020.

'Drop Everything and Read' was devised by Ms Appiah; for 20 minutes during period 2 during the week of 16th November students and teachers were asked to read a variety of text written by black authors, which explored and celebrated black identity, life and adversities. Students were then given the opportunity to discuss key ideas, themes and concepts which arose from the text.



December drop-ins to keep children safe online over Christmas

Children have spent more time than ever on devices in 2020 - for schoolwork, online tutoring or during leisure time. Parents of Little Ilford School students can access top tips and advice before they gift wrap new devices or let their children loose on their holiday games and apps. London Grid for Learning (LGfL) have created live drop-in sessions for parents on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at <https://www.facebook.com/lgfldigisafe/>. The event will be run by experts in the DigiSafe team at LGfL and give advice on what to watch out for, how to stay safe, what to talk about and parental controls for new and existing devices, as well as the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.



If you need general help and support over the holidays, you can call the NSPCC/02 parent online safety helpline on 0808 800 5002 for general advice or help with parental control settings for your home internet or devices.

Inter-form Sports Cup winners

The PE department ran whole school inter-form sports cup this term made up of competitions in handball, football and basketball.

The winners for each year group are:

Year 7: First place: **7.6**, Second Place: **7.5**, Third place: **7.8**

Year 8: First place: **8.1**, Second Place **8.9**, Third place: **8.4**

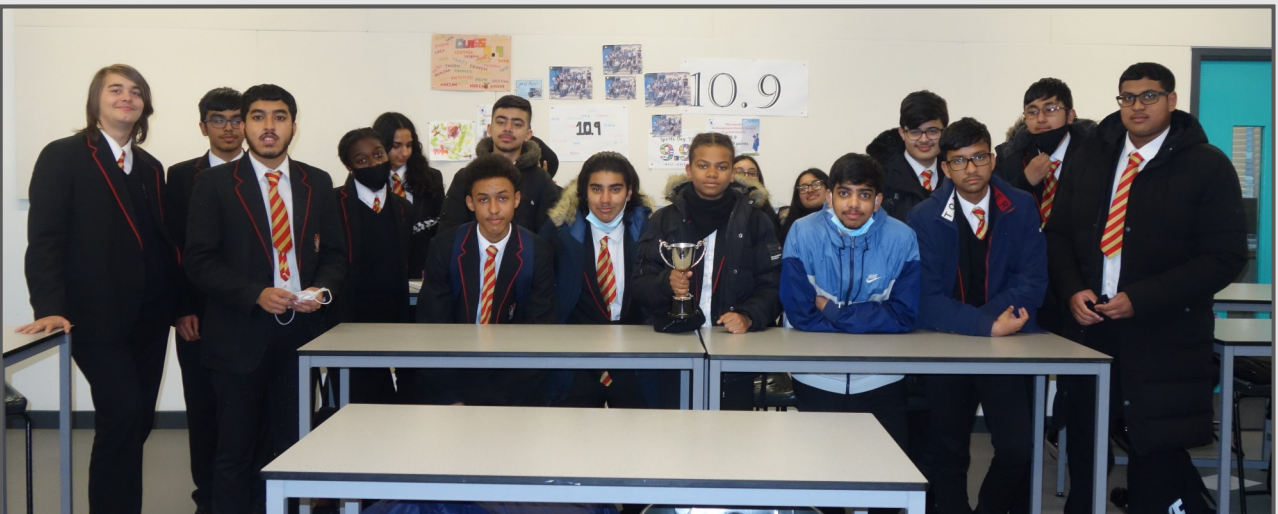
Year 9: First place: **9.6**, Second Place **9.7**, Third place **9.8**

Year 10: First place: **10.10**, Second Place: **10.4**, Third place: **10.6**

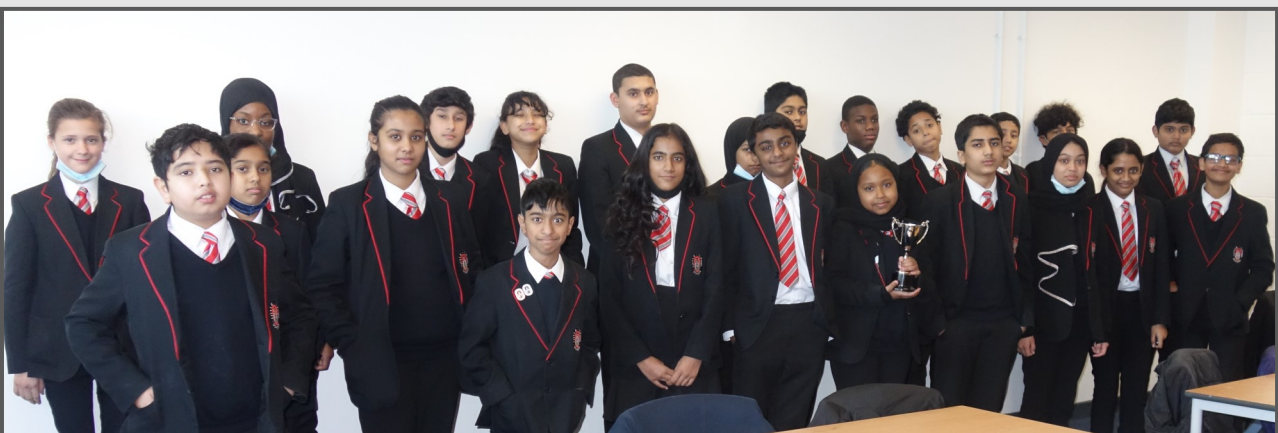
Year 11: First place: **11.9**, Second place: **11.8**, Third place: **11.4**



Year 10 winners 10.10



Year 11 winners 11.9



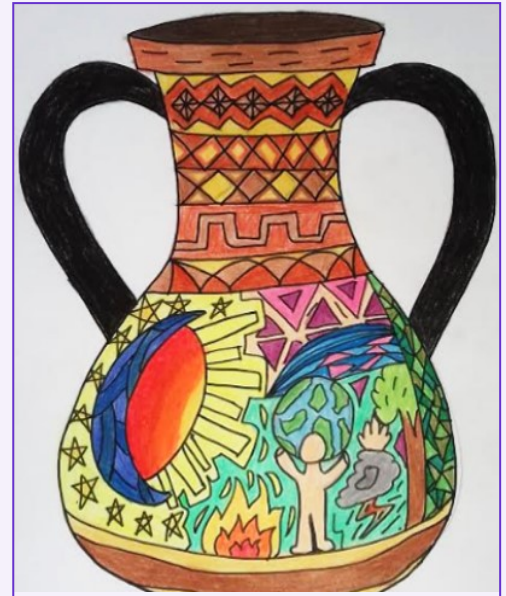
Year 8 winners 8.1

Students' Art Gallery

The Art Department have created an online gallery to display students' artwork. Here are some examples of the incredible artwork created by Little Ilford's talented students.



Madalina, 10.10



Alpona, 9.6



Sharina, 9.8



Madalina, 10.10

Students were also challenged during lockdown to create artwork from loo rolls. These are some of their results.

Year 8 Loo Roll Challenge



Jayden, Mohammed, Alif

Year 7 Loo Roll Challenge



Rida, Mahima, Dua

Scholars' Club

Scholars' Club is a prestigious programme of scholarly workshops, activities and tasks led by Ms Hickling-Moore, designed to support students in building a profile of high academic achievement and excellence. The award helps students in their academic achievement, but also exposes them to new ideas and fields beyond what they would ordinarily learn at school. Students who graduate from the programme are rewarded and attend an official graduation ceremony.



In the run up to Christmas, scholars and aspiring scholars were invited to attend a launch via Google classroom, where they learned more about the programme and the changes made for the year 2020-21. This year, scholars need to write an application letter, detailing why they would like to participate and listing their 'scholarly' qualities.



For 2020-21, instead of participating in workshops, scholars will complete a range of high order activities from a booklet. These will be discussed at Google Meets seminars led by Ms. Moore and guest speakers on a monthly basis and will inform an independent research project to be completed in the summer term.

Spoken word piece by Keyan

Keyan in 8.1 wrote an unbelievable spoken word piece to mark Black History Month. It was so powerful we have printed it below. You can listen to it at this link and we think you will agree, she is an outstanding writer and performer: [Black History Month/Keyan](#).

Black history is more than just the slaves, its more than just a topic we need learn to pass a grade, black history is more than history because not much has changed the stigma that caused slavery is still prevalent today yes they abolished the slave trade in 1807 but left us with no hope in a system that wants us away. Yet you would think after Tamir Rice's death the public would realize that what they called history is happening right before their eyes.

No chance because the system just wants us to hide that's why they trapped the kids in a system which is rigged for their despise.

They hid us away they have caged us and when we managed escape they make us feel misplaced they stop us in our cars accusing us of a crime just because they think we look like the other guy. And when were proven innocent by law they don't even apologize they simply look in astonishment by the fact were still alive because a lot of the time we don't even make it past the front door. Black is being named the defendant 3 times when you're the lawyer trying to fight for what you got. Black is girls being treated like they're 20 when they are only 15. Black is people identifying you only by the colour of your skin or by the spring in your hair. Dads, brothers, uncles they have all been lost. Kids having to step up because their father's gone, studying for days hoping they can escape just being knocked down by a GCSE grade.

Walking down the street with your head down just to keep safe hearing names behind your back they will never show their face because black people are still portrayed as barbaric 'and if you see one you better run away especially if he's wearing a hoodie'. How does an item of clothing make you any more of a threat and to find a job is twice as hard you just want a pay to feed your family.

Black is single mother skipping meals because the bills are more important for her kids' sake than finding out your son's been killed because he tried to get money the wrong way. Black is putting on a smile when inside you wanna frown because if he's black he's either funny or armed all we see in lessons is people surfing animated clips of broken limbs to admit I cried because for them its history for me its family.

I'll never know who they were because they erased all the history, black is watching George Floyd's death and thinking about your uncle. black is bigger than the slave trade bigger than African American black is not wanting to tan because the darker you are the meaner the system now you have heard it we ask of you don't just post a black square but fight for justice we don't want black supremacy we just want equality and justice for the hundreds thousands lost black history couldn't fit in a month you can't summarise our suffering because there is a lot even I cant bear to document all the pain it's too vast to fit in one drive.

Winter Holiday Programme

As schools close for the end of the year, Newham Council have developed a programme for children, young people and families. It includes important information and contact details about staying safe and how young people and families can access support, if required during the holiday period. Support information includes: Health, Food & Funding, Crisis & Counselling, Housing and other support. The information can be found on the Newham website via the following link <https://www.newham.gov.uk/children-families/activities-young-people-newham/1>

The programme also includes holiday ideas and activities for everyone. [Click here to visit the winter activities programme](#)

In addition, they have also provided the HeadStart [All About Me Journal](#) which is filled with information and ideas to support young people's wellbeing.

Jack Petchey Awards

In spite of being in lock down for some of the year, seven of our Little Ilford students have been awarded Jack Petchey Achievement awards. These awards are not about being 'the best', but about 'doing your best'; being a good role model, coping with adversity or perhaps just trying really hard.

Our award winners are:

Masum in 11.8: Masum has overcome and coped with personal circumstances impacting on his life. Throughout all of this he remained optimistic, buoyant, and empathetic, helping his fellow students to cope when things went wrong. Masum donated his £250 prize to the Newham Food Bank.

Shaika in 10.1: Shaika has had to overcome difficult circumstances at home, but has managed to continue to work hard and help others. She is always willing to help out at school events and is an active member of the school council. Shaika spent her prize money on buying a lap top for the school to allow students to do their school work from home when necessary.

Laiba in 11.2: Laiba has progressed so well in her school work in spite of difficult circumstances, and is always willing to help at school events. She donated her prize money to the charity Reengage, which exists to provide social activities for older people. She particularly wanted to make her donation during this period when elderly people may be isolated.

Fuhadul in last year's 11.2. Despite having numerous medical appointments Fuhadul attended school at every opportunity and even did school work from hospital in order to keep up with his studies. Fuhadul has given his prize money to the English department to buy a trophy to present to a students every term who have shown resilience in English.

Nilema in last year's 11.7 had to be very inventive in order to maintain and continue her learning as she had to travel from Plaistow and back every day to attend school. She is going to donate the money to the school to buy laptops to enable students to work from home who may not otherwise have the resources.

Kaiya (10.4) and her sister Keyan (8.1) were both given awards for starting a podcast with the Headstart youth panel, which is offering support to students who are worried about the impact Covid is having on their wellbeing and education. Kaiya and Keyan are very passionate about raising awareness about mental health in young people and looking for ways to support those students who are struggling.

Kaiya and her sister both addressed a wellbeing conference for professionals where they shared their views on how professionals can support young people during this period. They are going to use their prize money to put together "Teen Calm" goodie boxes to present to fellow students who may be feeling worried or sad. Once restrictions have been lifted, they would also like to invite a speaker to come to the school to talk about mental health issues in teenagers.

Michael Thogo in 9.1 has suffered family bereavement but has shown incredible strength and resilience. He is always polite, courteous and kind and generous to both staff and his peers. He has donated his prize money to Child Bereavement UK, which supports children who have suffered bereavement.

Finally **Naresh Senthil Kumar in 10.3** managed to complete his Duke of Edinburgh award sections, inspite of being in lockdown for much of the year. He is going to spend his prize money on buying equipment for the school to use on D of E Exhibitions.



Library News

We marked 'Nonfiction November 2020' by reading factual books and learning about the planet (Earth) that we share with other living creatures.

Mr. Bobby Seagull, Little Ilford maths teacher and UK Libraries Champion, author of the nonfiction books 'The Life-Changing Magic of Numbers' and 'The Monkman And Seagull Quiz Book' made a short video sharing his love of books. He also created a maths quiz for students and the winners of that quiz were Ragavi in 7.1 and Ayman in 7.6.

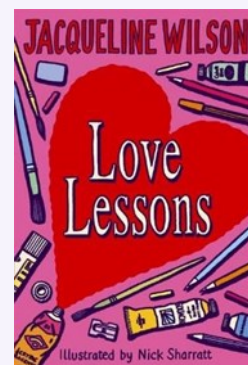
The winner of the students' nonfiction quiz was Ragavi in 7.1.

Summer Reading Challenge

In collaboration with Newham Libraries, over the summer holidays all Year 7 students were invited to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge, and were tasked with reading more than 6 books. Iqra in 8.4 and Mohammed in 8.6 managed to achieve this and enjoyed every book in the process. They were awarded a gold medal and a certificate each from The Reading Agency.



Top Books from the E-Platform



Top Ten Readers of the Month

Ashwaq, 7.2
Amantu, 7.2
Yahya, 7.11
Moeen, 7.2

E Platform Top Borrowers

Sefofo, 8.5
Wasi, 7.3
Harinandh, 7.4

Suggested Books for Winter Reads:

The Snow Sister by Emma Carroll
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
How Winston Delivered Christmas by Alex T. Smith
Hetty Feather's Christmas by Jacqueline Wilson
The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
Eragon by Christopher Paolini

10 Popular book titles from Oliver

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J. K. Rowling
Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made by Stephan Pastis
Together by Julie Cohen
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince by J. K. Rowling
Old School by Jeff Kinney
Girl, Missing by Sophie McKenzie
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J. K. Rowling
Super Good Skills (almost...) by Liz Pichon
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

There are four easy ways to keep in touch!
Download our App via www.myedschoolapp.com
Our website: www.littleilford.newham.sch.uk
Email: info@littleilford.org
Follow us on Twitter @littleilfordsch