



Magazine



IN LINE

Little Ilford News & Events Winter 2014 - Issue 15

In this edition:

News from Science, Study Plus, PE and some of the great events happening at Little Ilford School this term...

**Learning Together
Achieving Together
Succeeding Together**



Students and Staff meet Sir Ian McKellen. Full story on page 3

Welcome to the winter edition of IN LINE Magazine. I am delighted to inform you that we are one of the few schools in the area whose results have risen this year. Nationally, the headline figure of 5 A*-C including English and maths has fallen from 59.2% to 52.6%, a drop of 6.6%. By contrast, our results have risen from 61% to 63%. The maths results were particularly strong, with 81% of the students achieving A*-C grades. Our history results went up by 22% to 79% A*-C. Additional science results were also impressive, with 85% of students achieving A*-C. Our options subjects continued to perform strongly: art achieved 82%, ICT GCSE 83%, media studies 86%, RE 82% and sociology 96%.

As I write, we have completed our first term with the new timetable. The vast majority of the feedback has been extremely positive. The split lunches and breaks have made for a calmer atmosphere round the school. Most students prefer the 50 minute lessons and the year 7s and 8s are thoroughly enjoying Careers School.

Of course, the main reason for instigating the changes was to accommodate the building process for our new school. Due to delays resulting from alterations demanded by the planners, construction will now start in April 2015. The new building will be built on the existing playground and we are scheduled to move into it during October half term in 2016. After that, the old building will be knocked down and we will be able to use the whole site from May 2017.

The next two years will be exciting and challenging as we seek to manage the transition. Playground space will be limited and we are looking at ways to ensure that the students have a positive environment in which to work and enjoy themselves.

As we approach Christmas, I hope that you will continue to encourage your child to read regularly. We recommend at least 40 minutes per day for years 7-8 and 20 minutes per day for years 9-11. The school makes sure that the students always have a book to read. Fostering a habit of reading brings benefits to all areas of the curriculum.

As ever, thank you all so much for your support during the year.

Ian Wilson, Headteacher





LIS Student Competes for Olympics 2016

The Commonwealth Championships were held on the 15th/16th November in Edinburgh with around 200 fighters who were competing for the 33 A Class (Weight Division) which would determine their involvement in the Olympics 2016.

Kishur in Year 8 has been doing Taekwondo for 5 years with the Gurumu Taekwondo School and he trains every Monday, Wednesday and Sunday in elite training for advanced students. He is a blue belt, which means he has 3 more belts to do before he becomes a black belt.

In September he won a gold medal at the National Taekwondo Championships in Manchester and went to Scotland in November for the Commonwealth Championships hoping to win gold again! He said: "Being part of the Gurumu Taekwondo School means everything to me. I am so thankful for their support and the training that I have received. I have learnt to be motivated and disciplined, which has also affected my school work as I am gaining top grades too!"

On this occasion Kishur wasn't able to achieve gold but came a close second which is an incredible achievement. Kishur said: "I am disappointed but I know where I need to improve so I will be a stronger competitor in future."

He was able to meet Olympic heroes such as Jade Jones and Sarah Stevenson and spoke with Steve Jennings, the GBR coach, who said: "Keep up the good work and it will lead to a bright future."

12th Annual Tea Dance

It was yet another successful Tea Dance at Little Ilford School, where over one-hundred over-sixties from our local community were entertained by our students, who greeted our guests with tea and cakes. The event included music and dance performances, a free raffle and a dance workshop from the East London Dance group, Leap of Faith. One guest said: "The students were the stars. They looked after us with food, drink and courtesy."





Sir Ian McKellen visits Little Ilford School

It was a monumental day in the history of Little Ilford School as the legendary actor of stage and screen, Sir Ian McKellen, was welcomed through its doors. The acclaimed actor visited Little Ilford School in Manor Park to talk with students as part of the School Champions programme. Sir Ian has visited a number of schools around the country to talk about the impact of homophobic bullying and language and to answer questions from students about homophobia and also about his career.

Students were thrilled by the visit from the X-Men and Lord of the Rings star, who spoke to different year groups and had a more intimate talk with a select group of students. Our Head Girl, Monalisa, said: "I think it is important that we learn that you can take pride in accepting who you are and what Sir Ian McKellen has taught us today is so beautiful and we are so grateful."

He is the co-founder of Stonewall, a lesbian, gay and bisexual rights charity, which is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary. Stonewall was formed by a small group of men and women to oppose barriers to equality, such as Section 28 of the Local Government Act which stated: 'A local authority shall not promote the teaching of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship'. Section 28 was made law in the UK in May 1988 and was repealed in 2003. Headteacher Ian Wilson said: "Having Sir Ian McKellen in our school to talk about homophobic bullying was an inspirational experience for us all."

Ms Chadwick, the Equality and Diversity Coordinator at Little Ilford School said: "The visit of the global star Sir Ian McKellen to a school like Little Ilford demonstrates how important equality and diversity is in informing our shared humanity. Little Ilford's continued commitment to tackling all forms of prejudice continues to explicitly tackle homophobic bullying and we strive to reflect our community through making gay role models part of our curriculum." Little Ilford School takes a strong stance against all forms of discrimination and would gladly welcome any request to consult in educational and non-educational institutions.

Sir Ian was drawn to the school in Manor Park. The Hollywood star was overwhelmed by the support for his cause and described it as 'a haven' for the students. He said: "This is an experience I will never forget." More information about the charity can be found at www.stonewall.org.uk.



Stretch and Challenge Project in Science

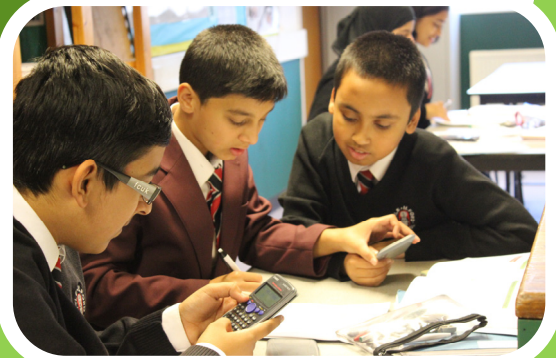
In Science we have partnered with Seven Kings High School and the Institute of Education in the development and implementation of a 'Stretch and Challenge' project. The project aims to address the specific and more rigorous subject knowledge that KS4 Science teachers need in order to support more pupils to achieve A and A* grades.

The core vision of the project is to ensure pupils are encouraged to achieve their potential, ensuring students gain and develop transferable skills that allow them to achieve good grades, but also promote success outside of the classroom.

The anticipated impact of the project includes an improvement in teachers' subject knowledge for KS4 curricula and in supporting teachers to plan sophisticated lessons of increased rigour and challenge for more able pupils. In addition, the project should impact pupils' attainment positively, supporting greater than expected progress towards GCSE target grades. Furthermore the schools involved will benefit from the development of a resource bank of rigorously planned lessons, designed to challenge the most able pupils' subject knowledge.

Through the use of lesson coaching and learning conversations to track, develop and embed changes in practice, supported by regular co-planning and the analysis of progress by an impact team, the Stretch and Challenge project is an exciting strategy the Science department are implementing in order to promote successful learning for all pupils.

Mr Obembe, Science



Thames Water Challenge

On 12th November, ten students from Little Ilford School along with other schools in the Borough took part in the Thames Water Challenge.

Split in to two groups of five, the first task was to come up with a team name and assign roles including project manager, lead engineer, account manager, social manager and design manager. The main task was to think of a water pipe route that would reach all the customers in a designated area, and the route had to be cost efficient and logical.

Zubyr in Year 10 said: "During the task we encountered different hurdles to overcome, such as being told that there had been a report that workers had robbed an elderly lady of her pension, so we had to come up with advice to make the local area feel safe."

After the planning of the route was finished, it was then time to build the water network and calculate how much everything will cost including materials, wages and the land covered. This was a real test of our students' teamwork and creative thinking skills. The winners of the Thames Water Challenge was a group from Little Ilford School, making it the third win in as many years. Ms Noor-Mohamed, Head of Year 10 said: "The students who represented the school should be proud as it was their hard work and dedication which helped them go on to win the for the third year in a row."

Study Plus/EMA students showcase their creative writing

Students in Study Plus are often new to English and work hard to become fluent and accurate. They are currently studying a variety of texts about children who are forced to become soldiers and fight and they have had the opportunity to discuss the ways in which wars past and present affect children and their families. Some students have produced thought provoking poems showing the depth of thought and concern they have discussed in class. Below are a few examples of their fantastic work.

Terrified Every Day by Ayman 8.9

Heartbroken children killing every day,
Suffering from the sound of gunshots every day.

Long lost children already missing their parents,
Terrified children forced to take drugs every day.

Children forced to become child soldiers or their parents will get killed,
Child soldiers being slaves every day.
There is no way you can escape from being a child soldier,
Forced to fight and carry a gun bigger than them.

They should be in school every day,
Instead of being on a killing spree.

It's A Star by Raadiyah 8.6

Locked up, concealed in darkness
Disappeared, covered, a total mess.
Reach out but it seems too far,
Locked up behind a bar.
It's a star.

What if you had a thought?
Realised it couldn't be bought.
Found a sort of motivation
Which led to inspiration.
It's a star.

New thoughts and ideas installed in your mind,
Hope, a bright light, one of a kind.
Like an electric shock, full of power and light,
Imagination is a spark for you to ignite.
It's a star.

Imagination and Life Without by Hamza 8.2

Without imagination there would be nothing to take our minds off what is
Pulling us down, making us frown.
No dreams nor nightmares.
We wouldn't be able to look on the bright side because
That needs imagination.
Life would be thoughtless.

You can't sing, you can't dance,
Can't give it a little prance,
Not a jiggle, not a wiggle
Nothing of the sort
Without imagination.
Life would be thoughtless.

Imagination lets you think out of the box.
It lets you think a little or a lot.
When you claim victory
It makes you shout 'Yay!'
Imagination kills all of life's bugs and pests.
It kills them just like spray.
Without imagination
Life would be thoughtless.

I wouldn't be able to interpret colour.
Without imagination life would be so much duller.
There would be no bright ideas.
Imagination is what clears the conspiracy from your ears.
Without imagination
Life would be thoughtless.

Imagine Me by Atiya 8.5

I'm a fat dump of rubbish,
There's a confession to make
I am a lifeless person with
No imagination inside of me.
I have damaged my memory chip.
What do I do?
Here I lay in the soft
White bed having an operation.
Days later I'll be the
Normal person I used to be.
'Where's my old memory chip doctor?
In a bird?'
Now my memory chip is taken some-
where I don't know
My body is in the past.
My mind is in the present,
But what about my future?
Let's face it body, come to the future
Where you're needed.
Let's remember this for life:
Life needs you, life needs imagination.

LIS Celebrates Black History Month



Throughout October, Little Ilford School celebrated Black History with a variety of events such as workshops and special assemblies where students were able to meet inspirational people from a wide range of professions. The month ended with a Celebration Evening packed with performances showcasing all the great projects in which students were involved in.

Ms Hall-Hinds, the Black History Month Coordinator said: "It was another successful month, topped off by a fantastic event which brought together students, parents and our local community for a night that celebrated different cultures and key figures of Black History."

There are three easy ways to keep in touch!
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