

Magazine

Inline



Little Ilford News & Events Spring 2015 - Issue 16

In this edition:

News from Year 9, International Women's Fortnight, Comic Relief, Citizenship Day and some of the other great events happening at Little Ilford School ...

Learning Together
Achieving Together
Succeeding Together



Students and Staff meet Tristram Hunt and Charlie Condou. Full story on page 2.

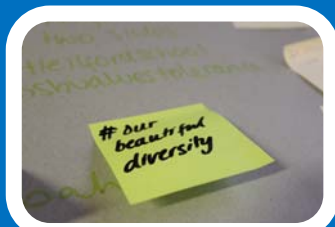
Welcome to the Spring edition of INLINE Magazine. As I write, the hoardings for our new building are due to go up on the 5th of May, a month later than scheduled. This is due to additional requirements from the planners before permission could be granted. When the works begin, students will be entering and leaving the school from Rectory Road beside the Little Ilford Learning Zone. This will mean that we will all have to rethink our journey into school to make sure that everyone is inside the grounds by 8.20am. We aim to practice the entrance and exit from Rectory Road the week before the hoardings go up (week beginning Monday 27th April) to smooth out any possible issues. The beginning of the day will be the one time when everyone will be in the playground together, so we are setting up a breakfast club in the dining room to ease congestion and give a pleasant and calm start for students. There will be a range of options up to a full cooked breakfast – Looked After Children (i.e. children in care) will receive the service free of charge. We are also starting up a number of extra lunchtime clubs to occupy the students while the playground space is limited. We plan to take around 60 students at a time to the park at lunchtime so that they can play football, which will be impossible in the playground, and will select the students based on the number of achievement points that they have. The completion of the building is still scheduled to be October half term in 2016, when we will have a brand new school with resources that match the 'Outstanding' label that the school has been given. Exciting times!

I do 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.

I send my best wishes to all of you and would like to thank you for all of your support across the year.

Ian Wilson, Headteacher

Citizenship Day: British Values



Friday 13th February was Citizenship Day, with the theme of British Values. Students were off timetable for the day and took part in workshops designed by our staff, focussing on a variety of topics such as democracy, rule of law, mutual respect, individual liberty and faith and beliefs.

The theme ran throughout the entire day with a specially designed British lunch, with a menu including a full English breakfast, bangers and mash and plumb crumble. The accompaniment to lunch was a music playlist of world famous British music, from past and present.

The success of the day could be felt in the atmosphere around school and one group was brainstorming ideas to get us trending on twitter, celebrating 'our beautiful diversity' (picture above).

One of the Citizenship Day Coordinators said: "It was a fantastic day." Students responded very positively and enjoyed the sessions designed by Little Ilford School staff."

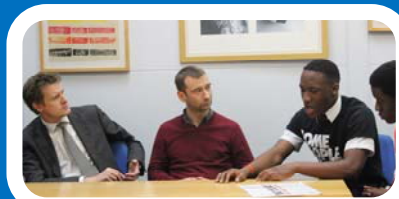
Students meet MP and actor to discuss LGBT bullying

Labour Shadow Education Minister Tristram Hunt and actor Charlie Condou paid a visit to Little Ilford School and met with a small group of students and staff to discuss the school's approach to anti-homophobic bullying. The Labour MP was impressed by the work going on and said about the school: "This is a trailblazer, this is a leader, this is a school that other schools can learn from."

The visit was in recognition of all the excellent work done alongside Stonewall, the LGBT charity which was set up in 1989 opposing 'Section 28' and other barriers to equality. Hannah Kilbirige, a Senior Education Officer at Stonewall welcomed the school's initiative and said: "Little Ilford is doing fantastic work to tackle homophobic bullying.

Our Headteacher said: "We're trying to make sure the oxygen of bullying is taken away.

"It's really important that schools make sure there is a culture where it isn't seen as acceptable."



Teens and Toddlers



Fourteen Year 9 students have taken part in an innovative 18-week mentoring programme that gives young people vital interpersonal skills, focussed on inspiring young people to achieve the skills, qualifications and self-belief they need to succeed in school, work and life. The programme works on raising the aspirations of young people aged 13-17 by pairing them as a mentor and role model to a child in a nursery (ages 2-5) who is in need of extra support. It helps young people to build their sense of responsibility so that they make positive decisions about their education, their health and their future. The mentoring provided by the teens also helps the toddlers to improve their personal, social and communication skills. The project involved the students going to local primary school and working in the nursery and reception classes to support a toddler who had been identified as needing support. Students also gained an accredited NCFE (OCF) Level 1 qualification in Interpersonal Skills, which helps them to engage with school and go on to further education.

We are extremely proud of the commitment, dedication and positive attitude that these students showed throughout the programme. The Nursery schools (Sheringham and Essex) praised the students for their mature and professional attitude whilst at the nursery and the excellent care they took of the toddlers they were working with.

Ms A Louka
Year 9 Pastoral Achievement Leader

International Women's Fortnight

Monday 23rd February saw the start of our International Women's Fortnight celebrations, leading up to International Women's Day on Sunday 8th March. The annual celebrations had the theme of 'This Girl Can' and there was a timetable consisting of lunchtime talks, special assemblies, trips and a student celebration afternoon. We also hosted a number of inspirational special guests.

Our first guest was Laura Dajao, a dancer who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2007 and now requires a wheelchair in order to be mobile. Despite the barriers put in front of her, Laura continued to dance and went on to become the first wheelchair user to perform on the Sadler's Wells Main Stage. Laura took part in year group assemblies with an incredible performance of Equation, her own piece, that depicts the different emotions that unravel as one goes through a traumatic experience. There was also an opportunity for students to speak with Laura and ask questions to which we was 'surprised by the maturity of the students'.

We also had guests such as Alyson Henshaw (HSBC) and Laura Stamp (KPMG). Laura was one of 80 people promoted to Director in the UK last year, of which approximately 30% were women. Both guests spoke in assemblies and then a small group of students had the opportunity to talk with them afterwards to ask more specific questions in an informal environment.



Inspiring Women in Sport

As part of International Women's Fortnight, a small group of female students attended a speed networking event at the Aquatics Centre in the Queen Elizabeth Park, hosted by Clare Balding. The event included over 75 professionals from a variety of backgrounds in sport, which gave our students the opportunity to speak directly to Olympic sports stars and other professionals who work behind the scenes. As part of BBC School Report, our students interviewed Miriam Gonzalez Durantez, who set up 'Inspiring Women' to help provide teenage girls with the access to female role models from a variety of industries. "Regardless of whether you are into sport or if you think you will do something very intellectual and academic, sport is very important," Gonzalez Durantez told our students during the interview. One student said: "It was brilliant because we got to meet lots of amazing people. It's great to see women who haven't been stopped by the stereotypes. I love writing and football so I might mix them for a career."



Royal Docks Industry Day

Comic Relief

**RED
NOSE
DAY**

Well done to everyone who took part in fundraising on Friday 13th March. Not only were students selling red noses, but there were a variety of attempts at raising money for comic relief.

Inspired by 'The Great Comic Relief Bake Off', many students contributed to a bake sale which was enjoyed by everyone. There were also sponsored silences and wearing a red item (including hair dye) in order to raise money for this worthwhile cause which helps change lives for people living in the UK and Africa.

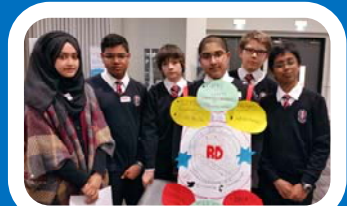


We raised £543.99!



On Tuesday 24th March, a small group of Year 8 students attended Royal Docks Industry Day, which gave them an opportunity to engage directly with prominent businesses in the area, including London City Airport, ExCel

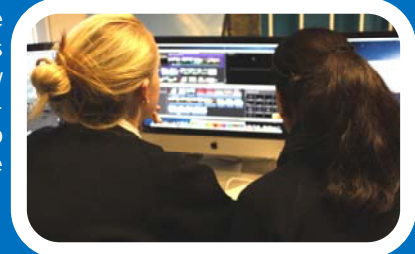
London and British Airways. The aim was that students came away with an enhanced understanding of future potential careers around the Royal Docks area. They also took in an engaging enterprise challenge working one-to-one with business volunteers. Split into two groups, our students competed alongside other schools in the enterprise challenge 'How do you promote the Royal Docks as a world class business destination?'. Both groups did a fantastic job impressing business professionals in the challenge with one group winning (above) and the second were runners-up (right).



Film Club

Since September we have been running a Film Club after school where students can watch and discuss films and they have been shown a variety of films that link in with our weekly themes. Over the last term, our Film Club students were able to get behind the camera and create their own short film, working with Nick Shaw from Chocolate Films. Students came up with the idea of producing a spooky film about the Little Ilford School 'ghost'.

Nick taught students some camera basics and techniques to help them achieve the final product and was there throughout the entire creative process, from storyboarding to editing. Each student was able to produce their own version of the film which they shot together and came up with some spine chilling results! One student said: "Everyone should join Film club because there's such a good variety of things to do, from watching films to creating your own." Nick Shaw said: "It's a really valuable experience to play with technology and ideas away from the lesson environment. Whatever your level everyone has a film in their head and it's my job to inspire the students. There are some future BAFTA winners here and I just wish someone told me at school that people can become film makers!"



Little News: Diary of a Badman

Little Ilford School was visited by Humza Badman to talk to students about his work and to answer their questions.

World Book Day



On Thursday 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day with staff and Year 7 students by dressing up as their favourite characters. The day fell within Reading Week and throughout the week we had group reading sessions in the library. Every day the school bell would ring for everyone to 'drop everything and read' for fifteen minutes.

There are three easy ways to keep in touch!
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Edited by Dean Howard

