

# GORDONBROCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

# THE ARTS BULLETIN

Edition #4 | December 2023

## THE ARTS BULLETIN

While the end of term is fast approaching, we must not miss the opportunity to reflect on what has been a brilliantly busy one in terms of arts provision at Gordonbrock.

Included in this edition of The Arts Bulletin: A Celebration of Black Music, Gordonbrock X BCLP Art Project, Music Making in Year 5 and much more. Don't miss our guide to progression in the teaching of colour theory at Gordonbrock, too. Next term, we look forward to our annual ArtsFest and a 'Progression in Portraiture' display in school. We can't wait to share them with you.

*Mr. Ridler-Mayor*

Deputy Headteacher for Curriculum and Assessment



## @THEARTSATGB

Follow us on Twitter ([@TheArtsatGB](https://twitter.com/TheArtsatGB)) for regular updates on arts and cultural provision at Gordonbrock. Please help us spread the word by commenting, liking or retweeting us.

## YOUR FEEDBACK

This is the fourth edition of The Arts Bulletin, and we'd love to hear your feedback.

Why not send us an email at [info@](mailto:info@) to tell us what you think?



## A CELEBRATION OF BLACK MUSIC



In October, we enjoyed a powerful celebration of Black History Month through an unforgettable live music assembly from Mr. Prescott (trumpet) and his professional musician friends, Georgia (vocals), Alex (drums), Iain (bass) and Jonny (saxophone and piano).

Both KS1 and KS2 learned about prominent Black musicians including Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, James Brown and Destiny's Child, and enjoyed performances marking some of their iconic music.

“

*It was really cool to see someone singing live in school. I really like singing—it is one of my favourite subjects. It was inspiring!*

Robin, Year 2

”

“

*It was amazing and it inspired me to keep on singing. I liked it when the band played the music. It was loud and made me move my body!*

Zelah, Year 2

”

As part of our Artsmark journey, we are excited to launch Gordonbrock Society of Arts (GSOA). We are keen to hear from parents or people with links to our school community who have a shared curiosity for the arts and are willing to support us on our Artsmark journey. When we talk about the arts, this includes architecture, calligraphy, dance, drawing, literature, motion picture, music, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and theatre. Please [complete this form](#) or pass it on to someone you know to register an interest in supporting us. Thank you to those who have already registered an interest. We will be in touch with you soon!

**GSOA**  
GORDONBROCK SOCIETY OF ARTS

# BENJAMIN OBADIAH IQBAL ZEPHANIAH

(1958-2023)



We were deeply saddened to learn about the passing of poet, performer and actor Benjamin Zephaniah last week. Benjamin's work—encompassing powerful poetry and literature that passionately explores social justice, cultural identity and equality—has and will continue to be an important feature of the Gordonbrock curriculum. We have plans to dedicate a section of our library to Benjamin Zephaniah and his work next term.

“ I enjoy *The British* by Benjamin Zephaniah, because he talks about the many cultures in the UK.

Hila, Year 5

“ Benjamin Zephaniah did a lot of things to change the lives of people. He wrote some great poems, such as *Funky Chickens* and *Talking Turkeys*.

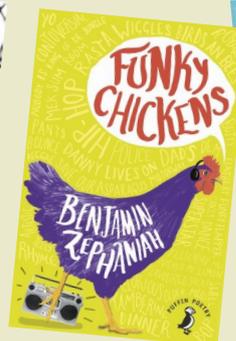
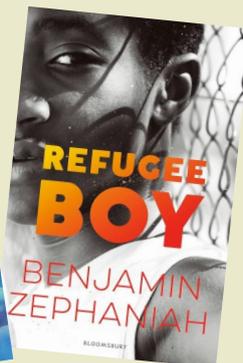
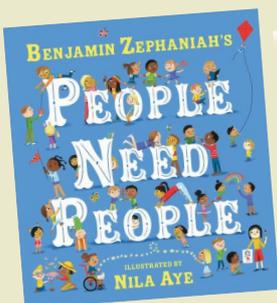
Albie, Year 5

“ Benjamin Zephaniah was a very kind man who encouraged people to write poems. He wrote some great poetry—my favourite is *Talking Turkeys*.

Iris, Year 5

“ Benjamin Zephaniah was a very good poet, because he actually spoke out about his opinions. He did it in a way that everyone could understand.

Margot R, Year 5



## GORDONBROCK X BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER

To mark **Black History Month 2023**, a group of our year 6 artists paid homage to inspirational Black females in the law profession and beyond in a **collaboration project with law firm BCLP (Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner)**.

Through the vibrant strokes of acrylic, the young artists brought to life the strength, wisdom and resilience of these trailblazing women, who have paved the way for justice and equality.

Backgrounds to their portrait were inspired by the striking artwork of American quilt-artist, **Bisa Butler**, who combines vibrant colours and patterned fabrics to reimagine and celebrate narratives of Black life.



*Bisa Butler*



“

We felt incredibly proud of ourselves. We felt like accomplished artists. We didn't think we'd ever be able to achieve anything like this. It was extraordinary!

*Shelina and John-Joseph*

”

Portraits included: **Funke Abimbola MBE**—a Nigerian businesswoman and lawyer. She advocates for diversity across UK society with a specific focus on the legal profession. **Jessikah Inaba**—the UK's first blind and Black female barrister in London. Jessikah spent her childhood in Lewisham. **Debo Nwazuru**—chair and founder of the Black Lawyer's Directory (BLD). BLD launched in 2006 with the aim of highlighting and promoting diversity in law. **Alexandra Wilson**—a barrister, and author of *In Black and White: A Young Barrister's Story of Race and Class in a Broken Justice System*. **Dame Linda Dobbs**—a retired High Court judge in England and Wales who served from 2004 to 2013. Dobbs was the first non-white person to be appointed to the senior judiciary of England and Wales. **I. Stephanie Boyce**—a British solicitor. From March 2021 to October 2022, she was President of the Law Society. **Mavis Best**—Mavis Best and a group of Black women from Lewisham lobbied the police and the government to scrap the sus law. **Dr. Gifty Edila**—the first Black director of law in a council in England and Wales.

The pupils were invited to the BCLP offices in the City of London to see their work exhibited, met with staff for a mentoring session and enjoyed a corporate lunch. A huge thank you to Lloyd, Georgia, Manuela, Rudrani and the catering team at BCLP, and to Miss White for supporting the pupils with their portraits and Deniz for joining us on the trip.



## SCHOOL ORCHESTRA UPDATE

Welcome to the new world of orchestral players at Gordonbrock as we focused in on our first piece this term, Dvorak's New World Symphony. This term, our young musicians started a project with BBC Ten Pieces as we learnt an extract from the piece, composed a creative response to Dvorak's symphony and listened to a range of BBC Concert Orchestra videos from professional musicians on how to work together as an ensemble successfully. We are very much looking forward to working together as we prepare for performances next term!

## TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Our friends at Trinity Laban have a full programme of events for all ages over the festive period.



Events include a Lunchtime Concert: Stefano Fiacco (guitar), Opera Scenes @ Blackheath Halls, Chamber Concert: Waldstein Trio and Youth Dance Platform.

Why not check out their [What's On](#) page for more information?

## ASSEMBLY PERFORMANCES



Over this term, a range of young musicians have performed at the start and end of our music assemblies—from Fred in Y6 playing a jazz piece on the piano to our string ensemble last week performing on the stage to all of KS2. Both junior and senior choirs performed pieces in preparation for Turning Of The Year (Juniors sang One Call Away by Charlie Puth while seniors sang Somewhere Only We Know in two-part harmony). Congratulations to all of our expectational performers!

## TURNING OF THE YEAR

Lewisham Music kick started the winter season in spectacular style with a wondrous **Turning of the Year** concert at Blackheath Halls on Tuesday, 28 November. Both junior and senior choirs from Gordonbrock and our Federation partner school, Eliot Bank, performed to a sell-out crowd. We felt incredibly proud of all the children involved for their amazing singing—both as a massed choir with other schools and in their own school performance: a five-song medley of classic Christmas songs in two-part harmony. They certainly spread plenty of Christmas cheer!



“ It was very exciting when the concert started. It was a great surprise for our parents, who didn't know the songs. My mum, dad and sister really enjoyed it! ”

Edward, Year 4

“ It was so much fun taking part in Turning of the Year. As well as performing, one of the best bits was meeting different children from other schools, like Beecroft. ”

Hope and Jenaya, Year 5

“ It was exciting to take part. I really enjoyed singing all the songs, but especially Arctic Home. It was kind of true, because the ice is breaking and polar bears don't have space to live. ”

Robyn, Year 3



Lewisham  
music

## SKETCHBOOK DEVELOPMENT

As part of our ArtsMark journey, we are developing our Art curriculum further, including how we use sketchbooks to develop children's knowledge and skills, and to capture process. We want sketchbooks to embody a journey of exploration, experimentation and artistic growth.

Year 4, as part of their portraiture work this term, have used their sketchbooks effectively, to create their own sanctuary of personal expression, hone skills and document inspiration, fostering a deeper connection between pupils and their artistic endeavors.



## MUSIC MAKING IN YEAR 5

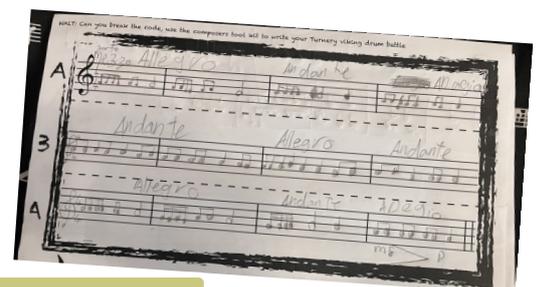
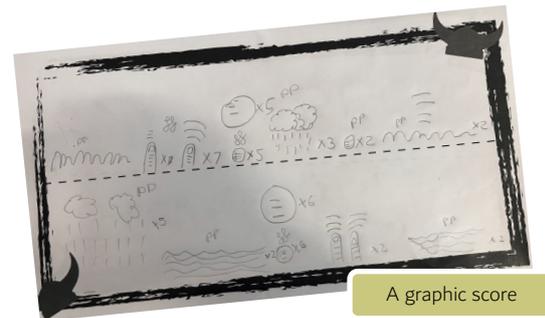
This term, our young musicians in Year 5 have focused in on becoming composers! Linked with their topic for the term, Anglo Saxons and Vikings, every child created a Viking drumming battle.

Firstly, our musicians created polyrhythms set to words - Let's go raiding, let's go raiding; Viking's watch out; and Long Boat. These different phrases were set to individual rhythms that the children then mixed together to create their own rhythmic pattern.

Our next stage was composing a graphic score. A graphic score uses pictures to represent music on the page. This progresses on from Year 2 where they focused in on Anna Clyne, a professional musician who uses graphic scores in her composition. The Night Ferry (a piece from the model music curriculum). Every child in Year 5 then added in a range of dynamic symbols from forté to piano.

Finally, we cracked the musical code by seeing how many different rhythms fitted within four beats of music as our young musicians wrote a new composition on the staff for their drum battle. In pairs, they created a turnery piece of music (this is an A section, a new B section and a repeated A section—for example, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star). All young musicians drew a treble clef, time signature, created accurate compositions, added in a range of tempo markings from Allegro to Presto and new dynamic markings including crescendos, diminuendos to ff/pp.

During our Music sessions, we also learnt a range of Viking songs in two-part harmony, listened to a range of dramatic classical music and performed some of our work in a class assembly. Our young composers in Year 5 should be very proud of themselves!



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In each edition of The Arts Bulletin, we aim to put an area of our arts curriculum **In The Spotlight**. In this edition, we explore progression the teaching of colour theory in Art.

## PROGRESSION IN THE TEACHING OF COLOUR THEORY FOR A YOUNG ARTIST AT GORDONBROCK



EYFS

In EYFS, our youngest artists **experiment with colour**. They explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to **express their ideas and feelings**.

Y1

In Year 1, artists learn to **name primary (red, blue and yellow) and secondary colours (purple, orange and green)**.



*The colors I choose support the narrative I am trying to tell about the subject. The colors I choose support the emotion I observe and feel.*

**Bisa Butler**



*I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way – things I had no words for.*

**Georgia O'Keefe**



Y2

In Year 2, our young artists learn to **mix paint to create all secondary colours (green, orange and purple)**. They practise **mixing and matching colours, predicting outcomes**. We also expect them to be able to **make brown paint**, and make tints by adding white and tones by adding black.

Y3

In Year 3, artists learn to **mix paint accurately** and know where the primary and secondary colours sit on the colour wheel. They will practise **creating a background colour using a wash**.



*Colour is all. When colour is right, form is right. Colour is everything; colour is vibration like music; everything is vibration.*

**Marc Chagall**

Y4-6

In Year 4 through to 6, our budding artists learn to **create all the colours they need**, and their **knowledge of colour theory is used to create mood in their paintings**. As they progress through these year groups, artists **develop their ability to express their emotions accurately through their paintings**.



*Colour affects the eye and heart, physically and metaphorically, more directly than any other single element in painting.*

**Frank Bowling**

