

GORDONBROCK PRIMARY SCHOOL THE ARTS BULLETIN

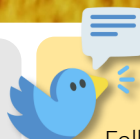
Edition #5 | February 2024

THE ARTS BULLETIN

In this edition of The Arts Bulletin, I am delighted to introduce our newly-formed Arts Council, share news about a range of arts and cultural learning at Gordonbrock this half-term, give you a peak of our Progression in Portraiture exhibition, celebrate the successes of our Eco-Team in a recent art competition at Horniman Museum and provide you with insight into progression in our singing curriculum. Keep a look out for our ArtsFest 2024 flyer, too. Gordonbrock has also signed up to Royal Academy of Arts Young Artists' Summer Show—more information inside this edition of The Arts Bulletin. Enjoy the read!

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 fifth edition of The Arts Bulletin, and we'd love to hear your feedback.

Why not send us an email at info@ to tell us what you think?



INTRODUCING ARTS COUNCIL

Miss. Gibbons and Mr. Prescott were inundated with applications for a place on this year's Arts Council—a new pupil group at Gordonbrock with the pivotal role of promoting and supporting artistic and creative endeavors. After reading through over 100 impressive and arts-passionate applications, 12 pupils were selected to represent our pupil community. Year 5/6 pupils from the Arts Council supported Mr. Ridler-Mayor last week, exploring attitudes to art and progression with pupils from across the school. We look forward to the Arts Council making contact with those who have signed up to GSOA (Gordonbrock Society of Arts) soon, too!



“ I am looking forward to helping to decide what we can do to make the arts even better at Gordonbrock. Arts Council member ”

“ I'm really proud I'm on the Arts Council and can't wait to see what work we get up to. I'm looking forward to developing the arts. Arts Council member ”

SCHOOL ORCHESTRA UPDATE



Celebrate good times...c'mon! From trombones and violins to guitarists and glockenspiel players, our orchestra is thriving! We have been learning the Kool & The Gang classic, Celebration.

Our first week started using our voices rather than instruments to help understand the rhythm of our part and the pulse of the music. Some instruments, like our trombones, start the piece off as a harmony part whilst our clarinets, trumpets and glockenspiels have the melody all together. Importantly, we learnt that some instruments help connect together the orchestra - like the chords in the piano and guitar sections with our percussion section, keeping a steady pulse throughout.

Currently, we are looking at the bridge where the melody and rhythm changes before returning back to our catchy chorus. We are very excited to be working towards performances in school and, in the future, for Lewisham Music!

If you would like to join the orchestra, please speak to Mr. Prescott. We rehearse 1pm-1:30pm on Friday's in the music room—see you there!

GORDONBROCK X BCLP

We were very pleased to see the return of the Gordonbrock X BCLP artwork earlier this term, which we are now incredibly proud of have on display in school. We hope that those who were able to attend Open Morning this week enjoyed the exhibition.



ARCHITECTURE WORKSHOP FOR YEAR FIVE

Did you know **architecture** is considered one of the arts? It involves **creativity, aesthetic expression, and the design of structures that can evoke emotional and cultural responses**. Historically, architecture has been regarded as one of the fine arts, alongside painting, sculpture and music. Many ancient civilizations valued architectural achievements as significant artistic expression. The Mayan temples, such as those at Tikal or Palenque, are considered remarkable achievements and are recognized as artistic expressions of the ancient Mayan civilization. Feature of Maya architecture include multi-level elevated platforms, massive step-pyramids, corbelled roofing and monumental stairways. Exteriors were decorated with sculpture and moldings of Maya glyphs, geometric shapes, and iconography from religion.

Our Year 5 children had the great opportunity for a hands-on exploration of Maya architecture in a workshop earlier this term.



PROGRESSION IN PORTRAITURE DISPLAY

Every Autumn Term, our focus in Art is **drawing and painting**. We feel very proud of our most recent exhibition in school—**Progression in Portraiture**—which showcases the outcomes of last term's learning.

The display is designed to enable the viewer to embark on a visual journey through the evolution of portraiture, showcasing the progression of artistic expression from Reception to Year 6. This unique exhibition unveils the imaginative growth and creativity of our pupils' young minds, capturing each stage in their artistic development. Witness the transformation of early artistic exploration into nuanced perspectives, as these young artists explore the craft of portraiture, leaving a trail of captivating portraits. Celebrate the power of creativity and the beauty of evolving perspectives.

We hope you had the chance to see the exhibition at Open Morning. If not, please enjoy some teaser photos below.



"There's nothing more interesting than the landscape of the human face." Invin Kershner

ELIOT BANK AND GORDONBROCK SCHOOLS FEDERATION
PRESENTS

ArtsFest 2024

A STORY OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE

COMING
SOON

Later in the Spring Term, we look forward to a coming together of both **Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock choirs** to perform as a mass choir at our very own Federation event, **ArtsFest 2024: A Story of Self-Acceptance**.

The first ArtsFest, last year, was a huge success—a highlight in our arts calendar! It was a beautiful performance of song, spoken voice and live artwork, all around the theme of **hope**.

We look forward to continuing with the theme of mental wellbeing, setting this year's event to a story about **self-acceptance**.

Parents of children in choir, please keep a look out for key dates early next half-term.

GSOA
GORDONBROCK SOCIETY OF ARTS

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. Arts Council will be in touch.**

ECO-TEAM TRIUMPH IN ART COMPETITION

This half-term, our Eco Team participated in the Big Schools Eco Event at the Horniman Museum. The children had the opportunity to take part in a drama workshop where they explored different ways of expressing the threats to our environment through movement and dance. The children also improvised a song about how the government could do more to protect the environment.

For the event, the team also submitted a piece of 3D art made out of waste/recycled materials which won the competition.

A HUGE well done to all the children involved, and thank you to Mrs Barber for arranging the trip and to Miss Curtis for supporting on the day.



“

It was really exciting to take part and so surprising to win. We were shocked and thrilled at the same time. It was a day to remember!

Eco-Team member

”

RA

Gordonbrock
has registered to
enable our pupils
to take part.
We'd love to see
your entries!

Call for entries

An exciting opportunity
for students aged 4–19 to
exhibit their artwork online
and at the Royal Academy
of Arts

Open for submissions

8 January – 27 March 2024

Find out more and enter

roy.ac/youngartists

#RAYoungArtists

Young Artists' Summer Show

2024

Royal
Academy
of Arts

Made possible by Robin Hambro

GLOBAL MUSIC NEWS: NEW CATEGORY FOR AFRICAN MUSICIANS AT THE GRAMMYS.



What are the Grammys? The Grammy Awards, or simply known as the Grammys, are awards presented by the Recording Academy of the United States to recognise "outstanding achievements in the music industry". They are regarded by many musicians as the most prestigious and significant awards in the music industry worldwide. Pop sensation Beyoncé has the most Grammys ever, 32 awards, with Hungarian British Opera conductor Georg Solti having 31.



African artists have won Grammys in the past. South African Miriam Makeba was the first in 1966 when she picked up the prize for Best Folk Recording. There have been several others including Nigerian Burna Boy, who won in 2021 for Best Global Music Album.

For the first time in its 65-year history the Grammy Awards in America has introduced an African category, Best African Music Performance, featuring some of Afrobeats' global superstars. Afrobeat is a genre of music that blends together West African musical styles, mainly from Nigeria, with American funk and jazz influences, with a focus on chanted vocals, complex intersecting rhythms, percussion and horns (trumpet, saxophones and trombone).

Afrobeat music on Spotify alone has grown 550% in streams since 2017 making it one of the fastest growing genres in the world! Let's see who the nominees are for the new category this year: (From left) Asake, Arya Starr, Burna Boy, Davido and Tyla.

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 in singing and how increasingly complex and demanding our curriculum expectations become as children progress through school.

Singing is at the heartbeat of our music making at Gordonbrock. Our young singers are immersed in a positive singing musical environment by exploring an array of genres in their musical journey, workshops from professional singers (SongEasel, Black History Month live music assembly, Royal Opera House, Lewisham Music, Trinity Laban) and developing expression through singing. From disco and musical theatre to Indian classical and opera, our song choices are in line with the Model Music Curriculum and the National Plan for Music and are crucial in engaging and inspiring our young singers in music making.

Our young musicians develop their singing technique daily through the following six principles:

- **Warm ups** - pupils use their voices safely. From sirening to fun games, a warm up is vital for successful singing.
- **Breathing** - increasing their control of airflow when singing. Knowing when to sustain phrases and when to use shorter breaths for effect.
- **Posture** - standing in a relaxed yet stable stance sets the body up well to produce an unforced but well focused sound.
- **Dynamics** - using a range of dynamics as an expressive tool. Confident singing will often be loud but not tip over into shouting.
- **Phrasing** - giving shape to melodic lines this may be through small dynamic changes or diction.
- **Context** - our singing can often be brought to life when considering the context in which it was composed or discussing the meaning of the lyrics.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PROGRESSION IN SINGING FOR A YOUNG MUSICIAN AT GORDONBROCK

In **EYFS**, young singers develop their range of pitch by using solfa hand symbols for do-so by learning a range of songs with a range of expression. This is explored through musical games 'this is my happy voice, this is my robot voice, this is my giant voice'

EYFS

In **Year 1**, harmony is explored as our young musicians learn simple songs and some call and response using do-so or mi-so in range within a round. This is where our musicians sing a song starting at different times to create simple harmony.

Y1



The only thing better than singing is more singing.

Ella Fitzgerald



I'm the interpreter. I'm the one who takes your words and brings them to life. I was trained to sing and dance and laugh, and that's what I want to do.

Aaliyah

Y3

In **Year 2**, our young singers regularly sing songs with a range of do-so pitching accurately and with increasing vocal control. They develop their understanding of dynamics (loud/quiet) and tempo (fast/slow) and demonstrate these when singing by responding to the leader's directions and visual symbols (e.g. crescendo, decrescendo, pause).

Y2

In **Year 3**, performing songs with greater expression and increasing control of phrasing and breathing throughout a song is focused on. Our young singers develop their understanding of the difference between singing legato (smooth) and staccato (short) for effect and build confidence with dynamics.

In **Year 4**, singing in two-part harmony is developed weekly in our KS2 singing assemblies as well as reading sheet music for our Big Sing performances. Within our Music curriculum sessions, our young musicians develop singing rounds in four parts with confidence, leading each part with clear diction.

Y4



There's no half-singing in the shower, you're either a rock star or an opera diva.

Josh Groban

Y5

In **Year 5**, developing ear-training is key for our young singers as they lead a three-/four-part round within our music curriculum sessions. Learning the musical language through singing (learning notes on the staff, treble clef, how to write in dynamics and tempo markings) develops their composition toolkit as they compose their own ternary pieces.



Those who wish to sing always find a song.
Swedish proverb

Y6

In **Year 6**, our young singers sing a range of songs that involve syncopated rhythms, vocal independence and vocal leadership as they develop leading harmony parts sometimes in mixed formation to create a greater blend of sound. Singing is taken above and beyond during performances by showcasing a greater range of dynamics, diction, phrasing, close harmony and expression.