

# GORDONBROCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

# THE ARTS BULLETIN

December 2024

EDITION 10

Welcome to Edition 10 of The Arts Bulletin.

It's been an action-packed term at Gordonbrock, full of arts and cultural enrichment. In this edition, we share a round up of the term, including our Black History Month arts programme, National Poetry Day, choir's Turning of the Year showcase and orchestra's performance in the Creative Project at Royal Albert Hall.

We're gearing up to submit our Statement of Impact for our Artsmark Journey. I can't quite believe it, but it's been two years since we set sail on our current Artsmark Journey, and I feel incredibly proud of the elevation of our arts provision since our Statement of Commitment. Our arts and cultural education offer goes from strength to strength.

We look forward to our Christmas performances over the coming weeks, and hope that you can make it!

*M Ridler-Mayor*

Deputy Headteacher for Curriculum

## @THEARTSATGB

Why not up to date with arts and cultural provision at Gordonbrock by following @TheArtsatGB on [X.com](https://www.x.com/)? We've love you to reply or retweet us!



## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK

This is the tenth edition of The Arts Bulletin. We hope that you're enjoying them. If you have a moment, we'd be keen to gather feedback. Please [email the office](#).



## CARNIVAL OF HEROES

A huge thank you to Bigfoot Arts Education for their incredible visit on Friday, 11 October, to perform Carnival of Heroes as part of our Black History Month celebrations. The performance brought our main hall to life as Spirit, a character separated from the Notting Hill Carnival parade, made a vibrant entrance to share inspiring stories. Through Spirit, we learned about remarkable Black role models from both the past and present, including Claudia Jones, the visionary founder of the Notting Hill Carnival. It was an unforgettable celebration of history, culture and heroism!



I enjoyed everyone having colourful material and dancing.  
LOLA, YEAR 4

I enjoyed that we were able to experience a bit of carnival.  
AFENI, YEAR 4

ELIOT BANK & GORDONBROCK SCHOOLS FEDERATION X LEWISHAM CULTURE EVENTS PRESENT

# RECLAIMING RHYTHMS



In October, our concert hall was transformed into a professional music venue as a collective of London's finest professional international touring Black musicians came together to create a new musical ensemble for our young musicians.

In a new partnership Eliot Bank & Gordonbrock Federation x Lewisham Council's BHM Culture Events joined forces to create the band, 'Reclaiming Rhythms', with Roshan on Guitar, Lewis on Sax, Pat on drums, Mariam and Brad singing and Evander on Bass. Individual members of the band have achieved remarkable accomplishments, including performing on world stadium tours, reaching the semifinals on The Voice, collaborating with icons like Chaka Khan and composing music for films on Netflix. They've also been featured at the MOBO Awards, which celebrate Black music.

During our assemblies for KS1 and KS2, our young musicians had the opportunity to listen to the band perform a variety of genres, learning about the stories behind both the artists and the music. They explored Soul with Aretha Franklin, R&B rock ballads like Purple Rain, Disco with Sister Sledge's Lost In Music, Hip Hop with OutKast's Hey Ya, and Blues, Rock, and Soul with Proud Mary, made famous by Tina Turner.

A huge thank you to 'Reclaiming Rhythms' for their huge contribution to our Black History Month celebrations and to Lewisham Council's BHM Culture Events for their support.

When I heard the singers, it inspired me so much - I think I want to be a singer.

**NATHAN, Y4**

I loved discovering new genres, and especially liked the drums and guitar.

**POLLY, Y3**

I enjoyed all the songs and the melodies. It was a great performance!

**JONAH, Y2**

I liked how they used high and low voices for the different songs.

**MARCIE, Y2**


The singing was so good. We felt like we were at a real concert. It was interesting to learn about Black music, too.

**RACHELLE & VIOLA, Y6**

# NATIONAL POETRY DAY 2024

Back in October, Gordonbrock celebrated National Poetry Day with a vibrant assembly, led by Miss Crosbie, where pupils shared their original poems and favourite works by renowned poets. Enjoy a small selection!

## Fish



I am a fish with a very fine life,  
But now I am stuck in this thing called  
plastic.  
And I'm a person that is not recycling,  
But now I will always recycle.  
*Edith, E6*

## Today Is The Day

Today is the day, the day of peace.  
Also I get released from my ugly leash.  
I try to see, but it's in the way.  
The only thing I can do is pray.  
I go to the gym looking slim,  
Drinking water from a tin.  
I can see you and me,  
So then I go and drink some tea.  
Longer and longer,  
I can see the lucky view of you and me.

*Amarii, A5*



## My Ginger Cat

*Jasmine, A4*

Ginger is his fur,  
Loud is his purr.  
  
Soft are his ears,  
Ears, sharp like spears.  
  
Happy as he stares,  
At all my teddy bears.  
  
Laying on his bed,  
He now rests his head.  
  
Sitting on the mat,  
That is my cat.

# TURNING OF THE YEAR 2024

Last Tuesday, our Junior and Senior Choirs joined other Lewisham schools at Lewisham Music's enchanting Turning of the Year concert at Blackheath Halls. This stunning annual event marked the beginning of the festive season with beautiful performances and a touch of magic. Our choirs joined other Lewisham primary schools, including our Federation-partner school, Eliot Bank, and sang brilliantly, filling the hall with joy and harmony. To top it all off, the evening ended with a delightful surprise – a little snowfall, making the moment truly unforgettable!



I loved every moment, from start to finish. It's always an amazing opportunity to perform at Blackheath Halls. I feel lucky to be involved.

BESS, YEAR 6

It was really good. I enjoyed the singing – and the 'snow' at the end of the show!

HELLEN, YEAR 3

I really enjoyed it and I really loved our solo song – a medley of many different Christmas songs.

NURAI, YEAR 5

I thought it was really good. I was so excited. I didn't think the stage would be so big! My favourite song was, 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday'.

KAESON, YEAR 5

# TRACY BEAKER: THE MUSICAL

The most popular teenager in Britain visited Gordonbrock's Year 6 last week as students from Trinity Laban's musical theatre degree course performed Tracy Beaker: The Musical. In the show, Jacqueline Wilson's Tracy Beaker was back at the 'Dumping Ground', sharing her adventures – from the fostering process and the chaos that ensued, to life inside a children's care home and her many friends and rivals. It was both funny and heartwarming and Tracy's talent for troublemaking, fun and friendship meant the show was enjoyed by all who watched it.

It was very good and we loved how the actors matched the real characters' personalities.

EMPRESS & ANNA,  
YEAR 6

I really liked the songs and the dancing. It was really professional. I learned that some children are in care and that it offers huge support to them.

HILA, YEAR 6



# MUSIC FOR YOUTH PROM 2024

Our school orchestra - we believe, the only four-family primary orchestra in Lewisham - took to the stage last Wednesday at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall as part of the Creative Project for the Music For Youth Prom. This unforgettable occasion saw our talented instrumentalists perform alongside thousands of other musicians in a breathtaking mass ensemble, making music in one of the world's most iconic venues. It was truly a night to remember!



It was so much fun. I couldn't believe how big the Royal Albert Hall was inside. It was my first time there. I'd love to play there again one day!

EMILIA, YEAR 6



I really loved it. It was amazing - a once-in-a-lifetime chance and I got to take it. It was fun to play along with other schools - over 1500 children in total!

LALI, YEAR 6



At first, we thought it was going to be quite a small concert, but instead it was massive! We loved playing in a 1500-kid orchestra!

TRISTAN & JACOB, YEAR 3



# ARTSMARK JOURNEY

You may recall, back in February 2023, we entered into a new Artsmark process, submitting our Statement of Commitment to Arts Council England. This submission marked the start of a renewed Artsmark Journey. Having already achieved Gold, we set out an ambitious plan to further elevate arts and cultural provision at Gordonbrock in pursuit of their highest accolade Platinum. Enjoy an overview of highlights from our Journey below.

IN FEBRUARY 2021, GORDONBROCK WAS AWARDED ARTSMARK GOLD



**Artsmark Gold Award**  
Awarded by Arts Council England

FEB 23, SUBMIT OUR STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

MAR 23: FIRST FEDERATION ARTSFEST CONCERT: A STORY OF HOPE

MAY 23: LAUNCH THE ARTS BULLETIN



SEP 23: MUSIC MARK AWARD

MAR 23: SCIENCE X ART EXHIBITION

MAY 23: GORDONBROCK SOCIETY OF ARTS FORMS



JUL 23: TAKE ONE BOOK EXHIBITION

JUL 23: Y6 SEE THE LION KING AT THE LYCEUM

JUL 23: JUNIOR CHOIR IN SONGFEST FOR FIRST TIME

OCT 23: GORDONBROCK X BCLP LAW FIRM BHM ART PROJECT

OCT 23: BHM LIVE MUSIC ASSEMBLY

JUL 23: FIRST GORDON'ROCKS' FESTIVAL AT SUMMER FAIR.

NOV 23: CHOIRS PERFORM AT TURNING OF THE YEAR

JAN 24: ARTS COUNCIL FORMS

OCT 23: SCHOOL ORCHESTRA FORMS

FEB 24: ECO-TEAM TRIUMPH IN ART COMPETITION

APR 24: MEMBERS OF GSOA VISIT YEAR 3

APR 24: FASHION DESIGNER VISITS YEAR 4

MAR 24: FEDERATION ARTSFEST CONCERT: A STORY OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE

MAR 24: PROFESSIONAL HARPISIT VISIT

APR 24: ORCHESTRA DEBUT AT LIVE UNPLUGGED

SEP 24: Y4 BEGIN ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA PROJECT

SEP 24: Y5 SEE HAMLET AT BROADWAY THEATRE



JUL 24: Y6 SEE THE LION KING AT THE LYCEUM

NOV 24: CHOIRS PERFORM AT TURNING OF THE YEAR

OCT 24: BHM RECLAIMING RHYTHMS

SEP 24: MUSIC MARK AWARD

JUL 24: Y5 TAKE PART IN ROYAL OPERA HOUSE CREATE DAY

JUL 24: ARTS COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

OCT 24: BHM BIGFOOT THEATRE - CARNIVAL OF HEROES

NOV 24: ORCHESTRA PERFORM AT ROYAL ALBERT HALL



JUL 24: TAKE ONE BUILDING ART EXHIBITION

JUL 24: JUNIOR CHOIR PERFORM AT SONGFEST

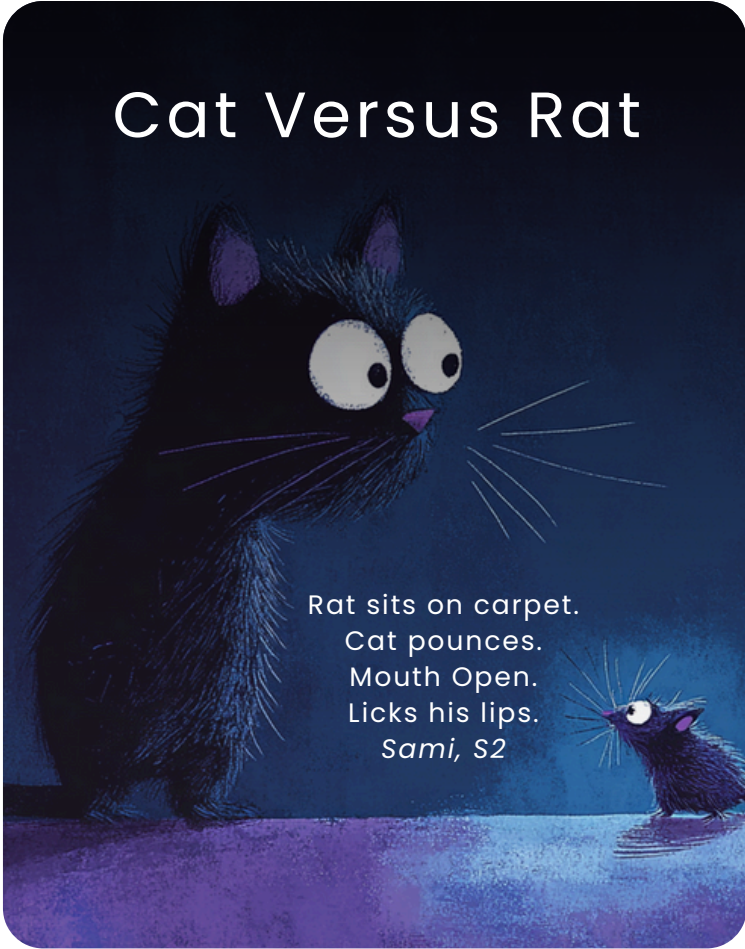
JUL 24: GORDON'ROCKS' SUMMER FESTIVAL

JAN 25: SUBMIT OUR STATEMENT OF IMPACT

In January 2025, we eagerly anticipate showcasing the outcomes of our Journey by submitting a comprehensive Statement of Impact to Arts Council England. We eagerly await the outcomes of this incredible journey - hopeful for Platinum, but most importantly, extremely proud of our achievements over the past two years.

# MORE FROM NATIONAL POETRY DAY 2024

## Cat Versus Rat



Rat sits on carpet.  
Cat pounces.  
Mouth Open.  
Licks his lips.  
*Sami, S2*

## Poem

A poem is one thing,  
A poet is another.  
Both I love as my teacher said.  
The key to perfect performance  
Is a great audience.  
Poems are more than you will ever think.  
Just listen to this one.  
Because poems are amazing,  
Why not write one?  
*Oliver, E6*

A big well done to all the children who wrote their own poems for this year's National Poetry Day – both those published in this Bulletin and those shared and enjoyed in school. It was a wonderful day of creativity and expression, showcasing the incredible talent and imagination of our young poets. Your words have inspired and delighted us all—keep writing, dreaming and sharing your voices with the world.



## Young Artists' Summer Show

Why not spend some time over the winter break creating some artwork for **Royal Academy's Young Artist Summer Show**?  
Submissions open 6 January 2025.

**Coming soon**

**Registration and submissions open 6 January 2025**

The Young Artists' Summer Show is an exciting opportunity for students aged 4–18 to exhibit their artwork online and at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Submissions open 6 January 2025. [Find out more](#) about the Young Artists' Summer Show.

ELIOT BANK AND GORDONBROCK SCHOOLS FEDERATION PRESENT

# ArtsFest

## 2025

*the coming of kindness*

MARCH 2025