

GORDONBROCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE ARTS BULLETIN

February 2025

EDITION 11

Welcome to Edition 11 of The Arts Bulletin.

I'm pleased to share that we submitted our Statement of Impact to Arts Council England at the end of January, and we eagerly await their evaluation of our Artsmark journey. World-renowned saxophonist, Tony Kofi, visited Gordonbrock as part of Trinity Laban's Jazz On Tour. We've a new feature, *Behind The Notes*, looking behind the scenes of our music making, and a sneaky peak at some still-life outcomes from last term. In other news, we're delighted to announce an upcoming Federation art project with Frank Bowling Studios. An exciting edition, indeed - I hope you enjoy it!

M. Ridler-Mayor

Deputy Headteacher for Curriculum



@THEARTSATGB

Why not keep up to date with arts and cultural provision at Gordonbrock by following @TheArtsatGB on X.com? We'd love you to reply or retweet us!



FEEDBACK

This is the eleventh edition of The Arts Bulletin. We've love to hear your feedback.

Email info@ to share your feedback with us.

FRANK BOWLING PROJECT

In conjunction with our Federation-partner school, Eliot Bank, we are delighted to announce an exciting art project in collaboration with Frank Bowling Studios.

A group of year 5 pupils from both Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock join forces to create Frank Bowling-inspired artwork under the guidance of the studios.

Their creative efforts will culminate in work for display at the prestigious Lloyd's of London building.

Sir Frank Bowling is a renowned British-Guyanese artist celebrated for his groundbreaking contributions to abstract art. With a career spanning over six decades, Bowling is best known for his vibrant and dynamic use of colour, texture and innovative techniques that push the boundaries of traditional painting. His work often blends personal narratives with broader themes of history, migration and identity, creating visually striking and thought-provoking pieces. A Royal Academician since 2005, Bowling has received numerous accolades, including a knighthood in 2020 for his services to art. His work continues to inspire and influence artists worldwide.

We look forward to sharing updates with you in future editions of The Arts Bulletin.

JAZZ ON TOUR

The future of London jazz comes to the Gordonbrock Concert Hall.

On Thursday, 23 January, we were thrilled to welcome world renowned UK saxophonist **Tony Kofi**. A virtuoso performer and multi-award-winning artist, Tony Kofi is celebrated for his soulful sound and mastery of jazz. During his visit, he led **The Trinity Laban Thelonious Monk Band** – formed of Trinity Laban students – in a fantastic celebration of jazz music.

Based in Greenwich, **Trinity Laban’s world-class jazz programme has launched the careers of many of the top names on the current UK jazz scene** including Moses Boyd, Nubya Garcia, Deschanel Gordon, and Laura Jurd.

The band focuses on performing the works of legendary jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Monk (1917–1982). While guided by renowned Monk experts—saxophonist and Trinity Laban tutor Tony Kofi, along with Head of Jazz Hans Koller—this ensemble is fundamentally student-led. Trinity Laban’s senior jazz students bring their own experiences with Monk’s music through personal practice and listening, using this platform to delve deeper into his repertoire within a collaborative setting.

The result is accessible music with a joyful, soulful and big band sound – even featuring euphonium, double bass and baritone sax in the line-up. With spontaneity and excitement added by on the spot improvisations in the unique harmonic-rhythmic milieu of Monk. **As Monk said himself: “When you are swinging, swing some more!”**

We were incredibly fortunate to have **two music assemblies: one for our younger pupils and one for older pupils, with Q&A sessions and an opportunity to play some of their instruments at the end of the session.**

Throughout the assemblies Tony explained the meaning and story behind each piece, the dynamics and tempo markings and featured solo instruments.

I loved the drums! I was shocked when he played so fast. I see myself playing in a band like that one day.

NURAI, YEAR 5

It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and it was an amazing for them to come to Gordonbrock!

HOPE, YEAR 6



JAZZ ON TOUR

On behalf of Gordonbrock, we would like to **give a massive thank you to the Trinity Laban team**: Tony and his incredible students, Neill and Jake – for inspiring and igniting the spark of jazz in our young musicians! In particular, for adapting the project for primary schools – the first of its kind in Lewisham for Jazz on Tour!

This is the inception of an incredible partnership with Trinity Laban, Tomorrow's Warriors, a jazz education organisation, and Gordonbrock as we develop a bi-weekly Jazz club led by Tomorrow's Warriors and Trinity Laban staff and students. Our journey into jazz has only just began!



I loved the contrasting pieces: some were really calming that had a sense of flow and some had loads of different dynamics.

ESME, YEAR 5



ROUTE FROM CLASSROOM TO ENSEMBLE

Every child is a Gordonbrock musician.

Learning an instrument in our **whole-class Music curriculum**:

- Glockenspiel
- (one octave/two octave)
- Ukulele
- Recorder
- Djembe drum
- Samba drumming



Developing a love and interest in learning an instrument. Whether progressing from recorder to flute, clarinet, ukulele to guitar or starting a new instrument. From Year 3, You can learn: **violin, harp, trumpet, trombone, flute, clarinet or guitar**. More instrumental lessons are available through Lewisham Music at The Fellowship on Saturdays.

Join one of our **instrumental ensembles**:

- KS2 School Orchestra
 - Woodwind ensemble
 - Brass ensemble
 - String ensemble
 - Guitar ensembles
- Join a instrumental ensemble outside of school:
- The Jazz Hang, instrumental ensembles at The Fellowship with Lewisham Music, Junior Trinity on Saturdays
- Speak to Mr Prescott for more info!**



Looking for musicians wanting
to discover the world of Jazz!

Join our FREE weekly programme
starting this Autumn,
Wednesday evenings, 16:45—18:45
Lewisham Music, SE6 3BT

**Want to play in a jazz
band?**

Join the Jazz Hang at
The Fellowship,
Lewisham Music today!

**Aimed at young
musicians Y5 and Y6**

Jazz Hang

TRINITY LABAN

X



Lewisham
music



To apply directly and find out more, scan the QR code

BEHIND THE NOTES

Looking behind the scenes of orchestra's music-making.

Welcome to our new feature "Behind The Notes" where we look behind the scenes at our music making at Gordonbrock! From singing assemblies before our BIG SING's, whole class instrumental learning, EYFS mini musical making and more!

In this edition, we feature our KS2 Orchestra as they look at their most challenging piece to date: *Pirates Of The Caribbean* by Hans Zimmer.

From it's inception just over a year ago our orchestra now has over 35 young musicians, with: one student conductor, three piano players, four drummers, four violinists, five flutes, two clarinets, four trumpets, eight recorders and seven guitarists!

From this incredible uptake in interest on the back of our Music For Youth at Royal Albert Hall performance we have doubled our rehearsal times: Monday and Friday lunchtimes 12:30-1pm with LKS2 having an early lunch and UKS2 having a later lunch.

Working at times during the piece in five-part harmony in rhythmic unison, we have been developing our dynamics, increasing tempos and improving our ensemble skills by following our conductor very closely. Following the music on the stave is a big part of our ensemble playing, counting bars rests and being prepared to come in at the right place is crucial for a successful performance!

Our young musicians have just started our next piece: *The Addams Family Theme Tune* with *Black Magic* by Little Mix coming up later in the new half term.

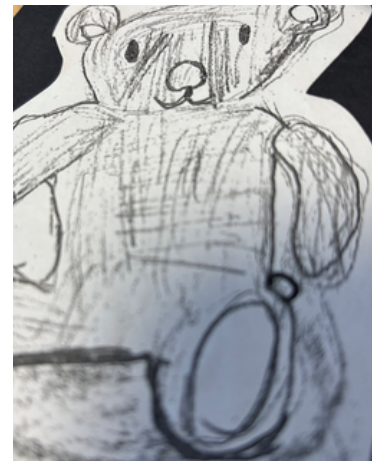
PLAY WITH US

For KS2 children - If you are learning an instrument at school, either through a Lewisham Music teacher or through whole-class learning, speak to Mr Prescott to join!

STAY STILL...

Last term, as part of our school-wide focus on developing drawing and painting skills, pupils across all year groups engaged in still-life study. This emphasised key artistic techniques such as observation, shading, proportion and composition, while deepening the pupils' understanding of how light, texture and perspective bring subjects to life.

A showcase of the children's learning will soon be on display in the school's main reception foyer. Watch this space!



GUITAR TUTOR

We are excited to welcome Joff to our music team as our new guitar teacher. With a passion for music and years of experience in both performing and teaching - including many years at our Federation-partner school, Eliot Bank - Joff is eager to inspire our guitar players.

We look forward seeing our young musicians progress over the coming months, and will continue to provide performance opportunities throughout the school year. From music assemblies to school concerts.

Young Artists' Summer Show

2025

Gordonbrock is registered with the Royal Academy, so you should be able to select us when submitting your child's artwork.

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4–18 years living and studying in the UK.

Students can submit one artwork for consideration which will be judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals. Selected artworks will be displayed at the Royal Academy of Arts either onsite or online.

How to enter

From 6 January 2025, teachers will be able to register their school. Next, teachers and parents/guardians can submit artworks via the RA website until 5 March 2025.

Important dates

6 January – 5 March 2025

Registration and submission open

May 2025

Judging

15 July 2025

Online exhibition opens

15 July – 10 August 2025

Display at the RA open

RA Royal Academy of Arts

Sign up and find out more

roy.ac/youngartists

#RAYoungArtists

Made possible by Robin Hambro

PROGRESSION IN SCULPTURE

This term's art focus is sculpture. Throughout their artistic journey, pupils move from playful exploration to sophisticated craftsmanship, developing not only technical skills but also a strong sense of creativity and expression in their sculptural work.

"Sculpture is the art of the hole and the lump."



Auguste Rodin

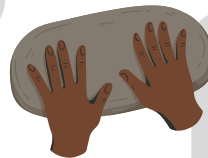
In **EYFS**, the focus is on experimentation with materials, tools and techniques. Our young artists begin to explore colour, design, texture and form, gaining confidence in handling different materials. They are encouraged to share and explain their creations, laying the foundation for reflection on artistic choices.

"I was a sculptor. I had to sculpt. I couldn't stop."



Augusta Savage

By **Year 1**, artists start working with basic sculpting techniques, such as cutting, rolling, squeezing, pinching and coiling materials. They learn to join simple objects together and experiment with adding texture using tools, allowing them to create both familiar and imaginative forms.



In **Year 2**, their ability to manipulate materials improves, enabling them to work on a larger scale and with greater control. They begin to construct more complex forms, such as clay pumpkins, and develop an understanding of joining techniques.



By **Year 3**, independence becomes a key theme. Artists are encouraged to select materials and tools with minimal support, taking part in longer projects that develop over multiple stages. They begin working with life-size materials and explore creating collaborative large-scale sculpture, demonstrating a greater awareness of form and structure.



In **Year 4**, artists refine their sculpting skills by experimenting with and combining different materials and processes to design more intricate 3D forms. Working with wire as a moldable material marks a shift towards more intentional sculpting techniques.

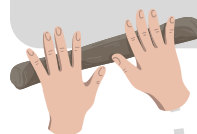


"I think every sculpture must be touched. It's part of the way you make it, and it's really our first sensory perception of the world."



Barbara Hepworth

In **Year 6**, artists bring all their skills together to create sculptures that demonstrate a deep understanding of form, proportion and composition through found-object assemblage. They can choose and apply the most appropriate techniques to transform everyday materials into expressive, thought-provoking works. By repurposing and reimagining discarded objects, they reflect their observations of the natural or real world in innovative ways. Their ability to work on a range of scales allows them to communicate ideas effectively, producing well-balanced and carefully constructed sculptures that give new life and meaning to the materials they use.



ELIOT BANK AND GORDONBROCK SCHOOLS FEDERATION PRESENT

ArtsFest

2025

the coming of kindness

MARCH 2025