



THE HOLMEWOOD SCHOOL



**National
Autistic
Society**

**Accredited
Advanced
2020**



Newsletter

Friday 28 January 2022

Dear Families,

January is nearly over and we have had a great start to the year at Holmewood. New students are settling in well and learning is in full swing.

This week our Inclusion and Diversity Leads introduced LGBTQ+ History Month to students and told them about some of the activities we have planned for next month. Thank you to Mr Ashdown and Ms Gasseau-Dryer for organising the events. On this subject, as promised, I have arranged an online workshop for all those interested in learning more about LGBTQ+ terminology and current issues. Ms Bridget Young and Mx Mattie Ingram will be leading this on Thursday 3rd February at 11.00. Please let the office know if you'd like to attend so that they can add you to the Google Meet invite. In the meantime, we recommend that you read this article which will link nicely to the workshop:

<https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/gender-and-sexuality-in-autism-explained/>

Thank you to those who sent feedback on our SRE curriculum and policy. We are now ready to move forward with this.

Finally, before I leave you for the weekend, I want to make you aware that we do still have cases of Covid-19 circulating in school. Please be alert to any letters from Simon or I to advise you about testing or isolation. Please continue to encourage your child to test themselves twice weekly with lateral flow tests. Any positive results should be reported

directly to Simon, Bridget or I. In the meantime, although masks are no longer mandatory, we support all those who wish to continue wearing them. Please also stay alert to the three main Covid-19 symptoms which are:

1. High temperature/fever
2. A new and continuous cough
3. Any new loss of taste and/or smell

Wishing you all a happy weekend.

Ms Camilleri

Executive Head Teacher

Dates For Your Diary

- **Fri 11th Feb** - Last day of half-term
 - **Mon 14th - Fri 18th Feb** - Half-term holidays
 - **Mon 21st Feb** - Spring term (2nd half) starts
 - **Tues 22nd Feb** - Spring cafe (Lower School)
 - **Thurs 3rd March** - World Book Day
 - **Mon 14th - Fri 18th Mar** - STEM week
 - **Mon 21st - Fri 25th Mar** - World Autism Awareness Week (WAAW)
 - **Fri 25th Mar** - End of spring term
 - **Mon 18th Apr** - Bank holiday
 - **Tues 19 Apr** - Inset day
 - **Wed 20th Apr** - Summer term (1st half) starts
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Advancing Despite Adversity In January

As you know I have been harping on about resilience this term. I have been speaking about it in staff meetings and assemblies, and I created a monthly resilience award to recognise a student who has 'advanced despite adversity'. This week I asked the staff to submit students for consideration for this award.

Well it seems that quite a few students have advanced despite adversity this month and by Thursday I had already had six nominations. Reading through them, I realised how difficult it would be to choose just one so I pleaded with the staff at briefing to help me decide. Instead they gave me two further nominations.

The reasons why certain students were nominated varied and included:

- an increased attendance to lessons
- an ability to accept feedback

- an increased ability to ask for help
- the ability to accept unexpected changes
- being able to listen to someone else's point of view
- staying focussed despite distractions
- opening up to others.

While all of us will come up against adversity in our lives, those with a diagnosis that impacts their learning, their mental and/or their physical health have to face life's hurdles from a point of disadvantage. It seems a bit unfair to expect people with special needs to run the same race as those without barriers. The world will have that expectation however, so we have to support our young people to keep up so that they have the energy and the stamina to continue the race once we're no longer there.

With our support and their own improving resilience, our students can, and have achieved amazing things.

It makes me very proud to know that so many of our young people are building their resilience and I will send a personal email to the parents of each of this month's nominees.

However I have decided to award this month's resilience award to **Jack Razok**. Jack has kept going this term despite several differing forms of adversity. He has good attendance and staff have been particularly impressed with his improving ability to listen to other people's point of view. He has also settled in very nicely to Muswell Hill despite the change not only in sites but also in classes. Well done Jack!

Ms B Young

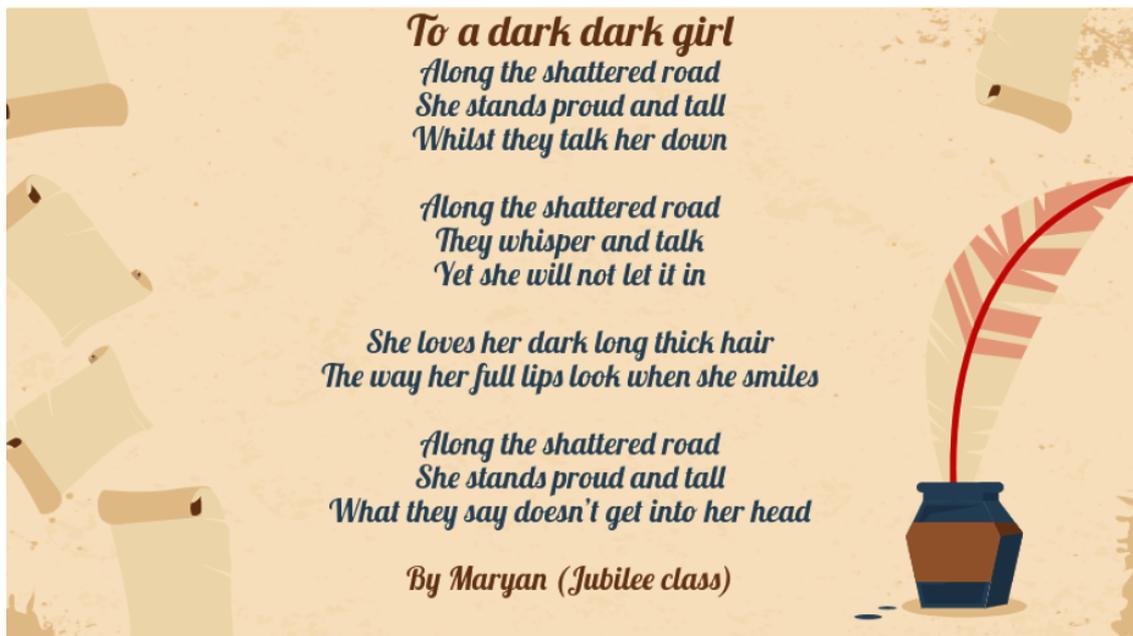
Head of Upper School

Outstanding Poem By Maryan

Well done to new Jubilee student, Maryan, who has written a poem called 'To a dark dark girl'. Ms Lyons, our English teacher described it as 'an outstanding piece of work'.

Maryan is going to enter her poem into the Empowered Poetry Competition.





It's been an exciting start to 2022 for the new Circle class. The biggest news is we've been joined by two new pupils. Joining Arthur are: Jack and Dominic. Arthur has been a fantastic role model, showing Jack and Dom around the school and being as helpful as he possibly can be. All three of the students have become fast friends, playing football together whenever they get the opportunity and gaming with each other out of school.

In school this week, Circle class have been enjoying many different subjects and activities. We've enjoyed playing badminton at Copthall Leisure Centre with Mr Rose where the students got to show off their awesome racquet skills.

In Art, as part of our main topic of conservation, we've learnt all about the German expressionist artist Franz Marc and created some fantastic art in his style. Learning about artists inspired by animals and conservation and the many endangered species of animals in the world will prepare us nicely for the trip we have to London zoo in March.



In Geography we've continued our work on ecosystems which followed on from the fun trip we had to our local park to study the different types of flora and fauna in the area. In addition to all the hard work the students had time for a fun



paddle in Dollis Brook and also showed their awareness of the environmental problems caused by littering by clearing some of the rubbish they came across.

Finally, Circle class have been learning about poetry in English with Miss Pitts. They have been writing their own excellent poems based on the sea so we'll sign off with a contribution from one of our students.

The Sea

The sea is so relaxing and blue
Very salty and cold too
Smashing and crashing all I hear
The sea is so beautiful it brings a tear.

The current is coming; looks like I've been bested
Maybe If I leave; the sea will be well rested
The sea is so aggressive, I never thought it'd be like this
But I still love it, the sea is bliss.

By Arthur Ellingham

Have a wonderful weekend!

Circle Class Teaching Team



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely welcoming back the students after the break and getting back into a routine.

I would like to start by saying WELL DONE to Hammersmith Class for sitting their first mock exam in Computing. They all have been working incredibly hard and coped well with the examination process.

The students also got the opportunity to interview remotely Hollywood actor Thomas Brodie-Sangster as part of their Silver Arts Award in Drama on Monday. Thomas has

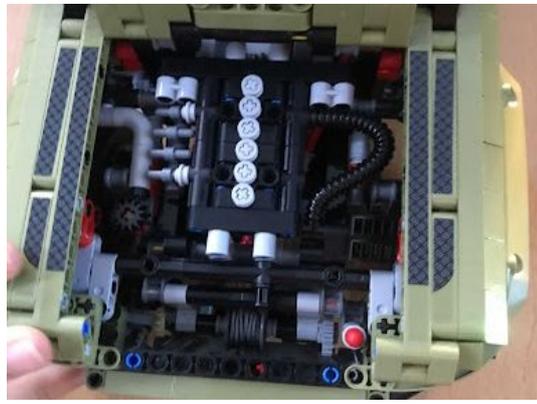
starred in numerous movies and TV serials including Love Actually, Star Wars: The force Awakens, Game of Thrones and Doctor Who. All the students were respectful and asked some fantastic in depth questions. A BIG thank you to our Drama Teacher, Ms. Axetorn, for organising this fantastic opportunity for our students.



The students during Computing lessons have begun filming their group projects they have been working on for the BTEC qualification. This is based around their stop motion tea advert.



Jack impressed staff and students with bringing in his Land Rover Defender lego tech. This took him 3 months to complete with a lot of hardwork and dedication. It shows great commitment and a big improvement with his fine motor skills.

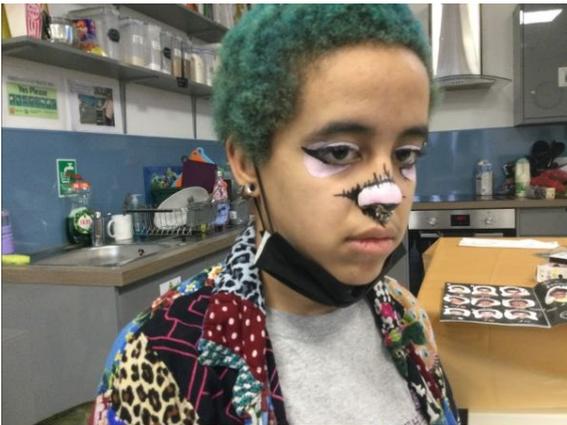


Have a lovely weekend,

Hammersmith Class Teaching Team

The Holmewood Gallery







Designated Team For Child Protection And Safeguarding

If you are a student and have been harmed, or are at risk of harm, these are the people who can help. You can also talk to us if you are worried that another student is at risk of harm.

Lower School			
			
Ms D'Silva (Assistant Head and Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer for Lower School, Level 3)	Ms Lemposzek (Head of Welfare & Behaviour, Deputy DSO for Lower School, Level 3)	Mr Gibbs (Humanities & PSHE Teacher, Deputy DSO for Lower School, Level 3)	Ms Camilleri (Executive Head, CEOP Ambassador and Deputy DSO, Level 3)
Upper School			
			
Mr Lamb (Deputy Head and Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer for Upper School, Level 3)	Ms Young (Head of School and Deputy DSO, Level 3)	Ms Young (Assistant Head and Deputy DSO, Level 3)	Ms Camilleri (Executive Head, CEOP Ambassador and Deputy DSO, Level 3)

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