

6th Sense

WRITTEN BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS



Photographer: Mimuna Hussin

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6th Sense is proudly brought to you by the students of Clapton Girls' Sixth Form. All credit goes to the amazing students who contributed, from the incredibly thought-provoking articles to the details of the art pieces.

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Editor's Note:

In order to celebrate Black History Month, I asked students across the Sixth Form about what they would want to see in this newspaper. This is what they shared.

The articles showcase the different opinions of everyone, but all underline the importance of respecting and loving each other despite how you look, talk, walk, dress etc. These are the issues that should be spoken about and I'm proud to be able to bring them to you. We hope you enjoy it :)

Falak Mustafa

Save our
Environment!

Please make sure
you recycle this
after reading.

Black History Month or 'Diversity Month'?

Tahera Parveen

Over 31 years, Black History Month has been recognized and celebrated all over the UK. A time when African-Americans can take the time out and see what the people before them fought for. Black history is a time of rejoicing, celebrating and thanking those African-Americans for giving us hope or a life lesson that could be used. However some parts of the UK are choosing to celebrate diversity more generally and believe that not only should this month be a time to look back at black history, but a time for all ethnicities and races to be recognized. Wandsworth Council in the south-west of the capital says it wants to educate people about all cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds in the borough.

Many argue and criticize this as it takes away the whole purpose of black history month and there is a lot more to be learnt about black history, specifically in schools. Most importantly it is said that equality is far more important than diversity.

Olusoga, who has been amongst that talks of Black History Month says he was disappointed some councils were trying to dilute it.

"I've been critical of Black History Month in

the past, but I think it really is becoming a shared experience. We can have Black History Month with all people learning about it. Can black people not create things without being seen as exclusive? Black History Month feels to me really inclusive."

Labour MP Marsha de Cordova has written to the council saying the change is a "disappointment" and the original name needs to be reinstated.

"We are proud to celebrate the historical achievements and successes of all the diverse communities that make up our borough and who all contribute so much to life in our city."

Trainee lawyer Raifa Rafiq, who is a host on the Mostly Lit podcast,

says calling it Diversity Month is an "absolute no-no".

Her worry is that if the month is rebranded, soon it will be "just any other month".

Community organisations like Black History Studies, have been teaching the topic for decades, providing knowledge that is mostly marginalised. We have outgrown the need for special attempts to give black history a platform. Let's use the opportunity of the "Diversity Month" to fight for black history to truly transform how we understand the world.

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." – Marcus Garvey



Rumaysa and Kamara



Left to
Right:

Christina,
Ema,
Aisha,
Rbeeza,
Haleemah,
Adia,
Mimuna

Is our History not British enough for you?

Candice Brooks

“A significant individual who has contributed to international achievements”. This is how Christopher Columbus is described in the Key Stage 1 national curriculum. Let's just stop right there.

Achievements. Michael Gove and several other Politicians who essentially wrote the national curriculum certainly believe so. A man who robbed, enslaved, indoctrinated, spread disease, killed hundreds of people and falsely claimed to discover the America's is a hero. Wow. This sadly is not the story children are being taught in schools and I understand that may be a bit grim for such young children to learn about but he certainly shouldn't be taught the way he is. Kids are being told of the great explorer, “Christopher Columbus who sailed the oceans blue in 1492”. My two nephews are learning about Christopher Columbus for their school project on the Caribbean. All the History the Caribbean has to offer and we're teaching children about Christopher

Columbus? The lack of Black and Asian History taught in schools is shocking considering there is a treasure chest of Men and Women of Black and Asian ancestry who have contributed to international achievements; The Caribbean soldiers of Portchester castle who saved the lives and liberated Men and Women who were captured during the Napoleonic wars. Sophia Duleep Singh who made prominent contributions to the suffragette movement are just two examples. The

“It's Black history. But not British history.”

National curriculum is described as ethnocentric and often this is regarded as a positive aspect of our education system. “Its very much focused on British History”. But does that only mean white History? Are the movements coordinated by the Indian workers association not British History? Yet we only learn about civil rights movements in America. Is the works of Ottobah Cugoano, an African abolitionist and natural rights

philosopher, not British History? Yet we only learn of William Wilberforce who drove the abolition of slavery. I'm not blaming Schools or Teachers either. They can only do so much. They're given a selection of history and expected to teach a narrow minded view that doesn't acknowledge the efforts and contributions made by people of a diverse background. We focus on negative aspects of ethnic history for example the cold war in Asia or Slavery. Neither celebrate the achievements made by Black and Asian people but rather highlight our struggle. The civil rights movement is one of the only achievement recognised that I can personally think of. However not one that we can resonate with. It's Black history. But not British history. The idea behind the new curriculum was to center British history. To reflect us. Our Mistakes. Achievements. And legacies of our cultural history. As demonstrated the History of many people of African, Asian or Caribbean descent do not make it into any of these categories. Is our History not British enough for you?

What's Going On?

Want to get the most out of Black History Month?

Black History Month is a time of acknowledging achievements and learning the history of Black Figures. Around London, there are a lot of occasions to commemorate this.

Locally in Hackney, there are a variety of free events for people of all ages!

Young Hackney is hosting numerous events:

- ◆ **Afrobeats Night**
Throughout October 6pm-8pm
@Young Hackney Forest Road or The Edge Youth Club
- ◆ **Music Production Sessions**
Throughout October 6pm-8pm
@Young Hackney Forest Road or The Edge Youth Club

More Events:

- ◆ **Roots, Rhythms & Records: The sounds and stories of African and Caribbean music in Hackney**
Until 16 March 2019
@Hackney Museum
- ◆ **Blood Sister: The Q&A with Ruth Tross**
Wednesday 31 October 6 - 7.45pm
@Dalston CLR James Library
Khadijah Chaudhrey



Laraib and Rumaysa

For more info, visit:

<https://www.hackney.gov.uk/black-history>

Or for different events visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--london/black-history-month/>

Most events are free but some require booking

Classic of the Month

M.Adia

Either you've read it or you've heard of it.

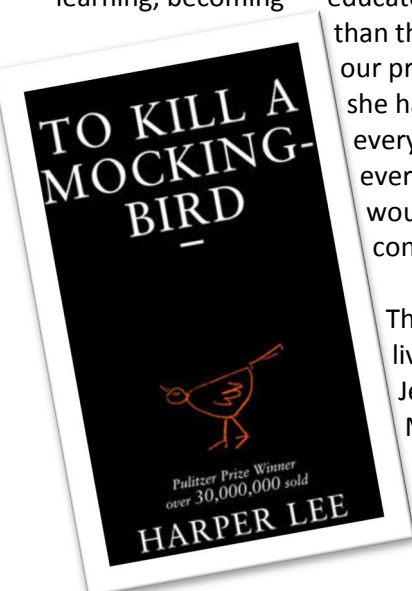
Without doubt 'To Kill a Mockingbird' is an exceptional read. Think of it a bit as a book about moral education - on the importance of it. You'll read the story from the perspective of children being taught by their father who is committed to racial equality. It's a book of learning, becoming educated more on the racial injustices than the standard studies of school - our protagonist Scout even says that she has learned practically everything except algebra, everything as in everything one would need to know to be socially conscious.

The novel tells the story of the lives of Scout and her brother, Jem, children growing up in Maycomb, Alabama during the 1930s. Along with their summer friend, Dill, the children become entranced

with the idea of getting a glimpse of their reclusive and unseen neighbour, Boo Radley. Meanwhile, their attorney father, Atticus Finch, has decided to defend Tom Robinson, a black man falsely accused of raping a local white woman, Mayella Ewell.

So why pick up this book this Black History Month?

The rigid social divisions in the community of Maycomb in the book have the black community, despite its abundance of admirable qualities, lowest in the hierarchy, beneath ignorant farmers - like the Cunninghams - and beneath the even lower Ewells who Atticus had said were 'the disgrace of Maycomb for three generations'. Author Harper Lee highlights how poverty cements the duplicitous nature of society's race-based class system. She demonstrates how people who are caught up in the jumble of ignorance and poverty turn to racism to mask their shame and low self-esteem. Lee critiques of the role of class status and, ultimately, prejudice in human interaction that is so instilled in so many societies - even today. It is therefore important to never turn a blind eye to these injustices, **no matter what background you are from, and it is important to never forget the history of it either.**



“Knowing the past doors, opens the future doors...”

Aymaan Hussain

The question that faces us today is whether or not Black History Month is still relevant? Or has it simply become one more school assignment that has no meaning to us? Has Black History Month become a time where we state the obvious facts? Or is it a useful concept of understanding goals that have been achieved in the past?

This month, **there is still a beacon of change and hope that is still needed in this world.** The chains of slavery are gone—but we are all not yet free. The great diversity within the black

“The chains of slavery are gone—but we are all not yet free.”

community needs the past to remind us of not just how far we have travelled but, how far there is to go. It is also an opportunity to correct many of the misrepresentation and misunderstandings of the black culture. This month promotes opportunities for open dialogue and personal interactions between many cultures. This can lead to a better understanding and appreciation for the experiences and dilemmas we go through as well as trying to make contributions to our families and larger society.

The one thing has not changed, is the need to draw inspiration and guidance from the past. Through that inspiration, people will find tools and paths that will help them live their lives. Who could not help but be inspired by Martin Luther King’s commitment and his sacrifice or from the creativity of Madame CJ Walker.

Let me conclude by re-emphasizing that Black History Month continues to serve us well. Experiencing Black History Month reminds us that history is not dead or distant from our lives. It is the one month of the year that we all come together in celebration of what "Can Be" if we as a society are open and willing to embrace the past, just as we embrace the future. This month will go down in history as the one true month, where sharing and caring is the main theme for everyone and hopefully, the rest of the world will follow.



Adia and Rbeza

Meet our Photographer!

Hey guys!

I'm the new photographer at Clapton Girls, and I recently moved to this sixth form. I am delighted to be part of a sixth form as such where I can participate in all these new opportunities and express my passion towards photography. I am very lucky to visit amazing locations where I can put my skills to the test and develop them further- and this newspaper is one way I can boost those skills and showcase many different themes through the power of photography. For this issue of the 6th Sense, my main aim was **to show diversity, equality and happiness** by bringing many different people from various ethnic and cultural

backgrounds together. This is clearly shown in these photos and one thing that I'd like to emphasise is that **we're all equal no matter what the circumstances are.** Photography speaks louder than words which I find very fascinating- this is the main reason why I started taking photos- to express all my feelings without having to do any speaking, which effectively helped me get through my GCSEs. My only wish is for you to understand that each and every photo is entitled to a different meaning and message to express the importance of equality through visuals. I am looking forward to showing everyone my future projects in the next

See you then ;)



Mimuna Hussin (Year 12)

THE AUTUMN FLAW

Thyra Blackmon, and Emilia Blackman, could not have been more alike than they were dissimilar.

Thyra had short, choppy black hair, while Emilia's flaxen strands hung long and stream-like below her shoulders. Thyra swayed her gnarled limbs wherever she went- and although she didn't care to admit it- towered over her sister in stature and (surprisingly) in elegance; and Emilia herself was indeed, as many often agreed, fairer in a world where Thyra seized to exist. However, no one could deny that the Blackmon sisters quite the distinguishable gaze. They were impossible halves of the same whole, made from the same material of

impossible stuff- sewed, stitched and stuffed on the same hour of the same day. Not short of the Earth's non-existent edge, and glints viridian bosques, their eyes questioned the very existence of a stranger's soul, and when asked a question they would both answer incredulously; "Have you had dinner yet, Emilia?" "Yes I have Mamma," Thyra would answer.

"It was very good Mamma," Emilia would answer.

But, in every worldly bond there is a mark— and the Blackmon sisters were no exception:

Thyra hated Emilia.

No flimsy ink could transcribe her greedy detest; no voice or action could possibly embed her cold, bubbling rage. She was everything her sister was not, and her sister everything she was not also, and so with a tumbling harrow for jealousy, she borrowed her emotions into the most enamouring scheme.



By Gabriella Bandeira

BY: GABRIELLA
BANDEIRA

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she glazed her forearm with the cold sweat below her woolly hat. As she knelt on the dry soil, she ignored the fact that she had just smeared her own forehead with a mound full of dirt, and squinted towards the horizon. Hushing her voice, she whispered: "Look over there Thyra, it's a squirrel!"

And it was a squirrel, in all its ridiculous glory, squiggling amongst the under-grown pumpkins like one of those silly games of pop up pirate. The wind flickered at Thyra's neck, squirming and nipping at the left her nape. She turned to confront it- and there, in the most innocently placed manner, laid a pumpkin not twice, but two and a half times larger than the width of her shoulders.

She hauled her impossibly long arms at the pumpkin, and as soundlessly as possible, came up behind the kneeling Emilia, and dropped the fifty-pound pumpkin on her head.

The wind ceased to flicker.

Now, it was never said that every story had to have a happy ending- and as Thyra bit into her wonderful, scrumptious and steaming slice of pumpkin pie, she decided that this was one of those stories.

And who needed to know that in a not-so-far orchid, freckled with undersized pumpkins, and painted occasionally with the shadow of a giggling squirrel, lay the body of her weeping, golden haired sister, covered in newly formed mould?

Thyra Blackmon certainly knew- after all, the evidence was under her very nose.

Certainly, 'water's sweet but blood is thicker', but who's to say that the sister well and truly loved her other half?

It was mid-October when the leaves dismantled their greenish glow, and after the long-weighed skirmish of spring and summer was at last devoured, they faded into their true selves: browns, oranges and fraying yellows. All forgotten ripened fruits had dropped and rotted silently, and had nourished the tanning of the autumnal fruits: twisted turnips, prickled pears, becoming blackberries, and pumpkins— which, as far as Mother Blackmon was concerned, was a perfect convenience for a trip to the neighbouring orchid, for her next generation of seasonal pumpkin pie.

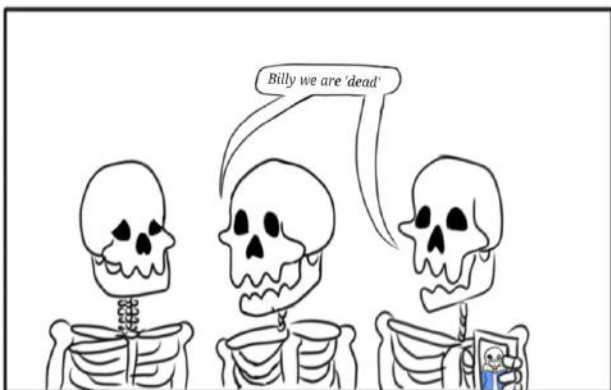
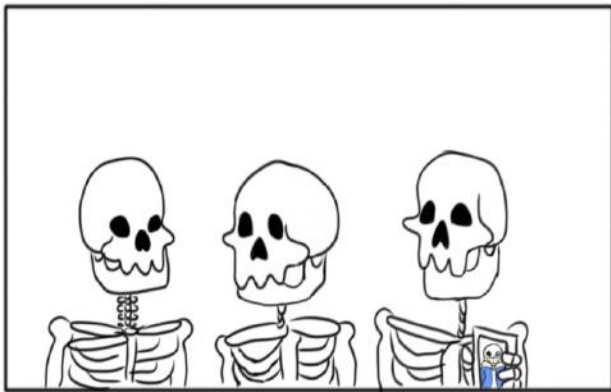
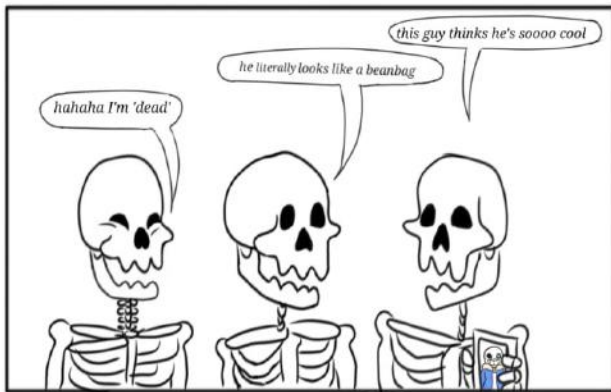
"I think this one's the biggest!"

Thyra glanced over her shoulder, "No, that's not it. Mamma said we'd have to find one 'as big the width of our shoulders', remember Em?"

"We'll never find one as big as that..."

Top 15 Horror Movies:

1. Sixth Sense
2. Halloween
3. Hereditary
4. The Thing
5. World War Z/ Train to Busan
6. Halloween Town
7. Hocus Pocus
8. Coraline
9. Chucky
10. Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street
11. Addams Family
12. It
13. The Conjuring
14. Insidious
15. Friday the 13th



By Aisha Vesamia

Halloween Fashion Show

**Friday 2nd
November
3:30-5pm
Nightingale Hall**

Last Year's Winner

Rehearsals:

Wednesday 31st October 3-4 @R44

Thursday 1st October 3-4 @ Dance Studio

Any enquiries see Zeynep Sahin 13A

18 THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE 18

HALLOWEEN EDITION

1. Make the iconic ghost outfit out of a bedsheet
2. Make your own horror movie
3. Throw or go to a fancy dress party
4. Explore the London Dungeons
5. Visit a pumpkin patch
6. Go on the Jack the Ripper Tour
7. Go to fright night at Thorpe Park
8. Learn the zombie dance to Thriller
9. Go trick or treating
10. Watch a horror movie on your own in the dark
11. Go to the basement or attic on your own in the dark
12. Participate in the Halloween Fashion Show
13. Play dead
14. Pretend to die on the streets on Halloween night
15. Give treats to trick-or-treaters
16. Pretend to rip your arm off in front of Trick or Treaters
17. Eat a caramel apple
18. Stare in the mirror in a dark bathroom saying 'Bloody Mary'

How Many
have You
Done?!

