

# Newsletter



George Green's  
School

Issue 5 - Friday 30th September 2011 YEAR 15

[www.georgegreens.com](http://www.georgegreens.com)

All Different, All Equal, Learn Today, Succeed Tomorrow

## The Fantastical First Story Festival

Last Friday, Pat and I joined fourteen creative and inquisitive readers and writers to Broughton Castle, Oxfordshire for the **First Story Festival** which celebrated the talent of some of Britain's most prolific writers including Philip Pullman author of the award-winning *His Dark Materials* trilogy and Jackie Kay whose most recent book *Red Dust Road* won Scottish Book of the Year.

We had the rare opportunity to learn about Philip Pullman's approach to writing and what inspires him as well as listen to a very moving and humorous reading by the novelist and poet Jackie Kay before meeting her. We also enjoyed a terrific poetry slam before creating our own group poems; many of these were shared at the end of the day with other schools from across the country.

The backdrop: Broughton Castle was equally amazing with its historical grandeur, rolling lawns and curling moat; not surprisingly, the castle has featured in a number of films most recently and fittingly, the new film release of *Jane Eyre*.

The journey to and from the festival was a long one and where patience could have easily been tested, the pupils took it all in their stride. They were superb ambassadors for the school in every interaction they had with novelists, poets and other pupils: asking questions, listening intently and contributing. As such, Pat and I felt incredibly proud and privileged to have spent the day with the following stars:

more on this story  
on page 2

Brooke O'Reilly, Courtney Newton, Zohra Masqood, Jen Le, Abbie Smith, Wajihah Miah, Jay Dobinson, Lamarr Redhead-Davis, Sakib Khan, Samuel Syed, Sabir Ahmed, Henry Downey and Mahir Hussain.

Big thank you also to Andrew for being our patient driver and chief photographer!

**Inspired?** Come and join other budding writers developing their ideas and craft in the **First Story Writing Group** on Monday in the LRC from 15.15 a.m. to 16.45 p.m. This year our very own Writer-in-Residence is Chrissie Gittins who has poetry, radio drama, short stories and poetry for children all under her 'writing belt'. She will be working with us over the next year to help nurture talent and creativity as writers, helping us to produce our second George Green's First Story Anthology – the first is about to be published so watch this space...

Please talk to any member of the English Department or Pat for further information about taking part in this incredible opportunity. **Ms Dalling**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## Our First Story Trip to Broughton Castle in Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Last Friday I was lucky enough to join 14 fantastic pupils and Ms Dalling for a trip to Broughton Castle just outside Banbury in Oxfordshire.

Broughton Castle is actually a medieval manor house first built in 1300. In medieval times, getting from one place to another people either walked or rode on horseback and the journey from George Green's in London, to Broughton Castle in Oxford would have taken hours if not days.

Well, for our intrepid group, our journey both to and from Oxford was like stepping back in time. Forget modern technology like "Tom Toms", with the sheer volume of traffic; cars, lorries coaches and mini-buses like ours, we would have been better off and probably quicker by horse and cart.

But travel nightmares aside, it was well worth the pain of leaving the Island and going all the way to Oxford (you know how us Islanders hate to leave the Island)!!!

What a fantastic day was had by all. The setting of Broughton Castle surrounded by fields and dotted with sheep and trees of stunning autumn colours, could not fail to inspire budding young writers (and older ones like me). The writing activities that were arranged for us were superb and I joined in these as eagerly as the pupils did.

We ate lunch on the lush green grass as the sun shone down on us and mixed with pupils from other schools and famous authors.

It was a brilliant school trip, one of the best I have taken part in. I hope you will be inspired to join our next First Story Group which starts on Monday after school, and I truly hope that if First Story have another Festival at Broughton Castle next year, I will be lucky enough to go again with another group of budding writers.

Hopefully, by next year's trip the traffic will have eased and we will get there and back within modern day timings. **Pat Jones**



Last Friday the First Story group of George Green's school were taken to Broughton Castle in Banbury, Oxfordshire where we attended a writing seminar designed to help us practice and refine our writing.



During our time there, we met some famous writers, including Philip Pullman, author of the famed "His Dark Materials" novels, as well as the "Sally Lockhart Mysteries". Whilst there he read a chapter from "The Amber Spyglass". After the reading he then settled into a Q&A session. He explained his ideas on many different subjects, and gave us hints and tips for when we are writing, and for me, proved himself to be the great writer I had always thought he was.

Although I enjoyed all of the day and all of the activities that we took part in, my most favourite bit of the whole day was meeting Phillip Pullman.

**By Henry Downey 11M**



### GGs Team Pink

This Sunday GGS Team Pink will be doing 3 hours of aerobic exercise raising money for the Breast Cancer Campaign Charity. If you would like to donate please go to the following link:

<http://www.justgiving.com/GGPinks>

# GEORGE GREEN'S STUDY HALLS



Use the LRC for computer access to help your studies

Starting 3rd October 2011  
4.30 – 6.30



Targeted pupils for intervention by subject area - room 322

Open to all Year 10, Year 11 and 6th form

6th Form in 6th Form Common Room



George Green's School

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## Celebrating Our Community Day Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011 George Green's Humanities Specialist School

Come and cook with the community. Or would you prefer to dance? Do you want to get fit? Would you like to share your memories of the Isle of Dogs? Come and get healthy in our team sports or test your mental agility in our krypton factor work out. Or join our stress busting yoga or meditation sessions.

Come and celebrate our community at George Green's on Thursday 13th October 2011.



MENTAL AGILITY

# SATURDAY SPORTS CLUB



- Come and enjoy the experience
- Learn new skills and have fun
- Participate in tournaments
- Gain accreditations

10AM-12PM  
AGE 12-19

For more information please contact the Extended Services Team on 0207 987 6032 or visit our website page [www.islandsportstrust.co.uk](http://www.islandsportstrust.co.uk)

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

Well done to Deana Baker, Ben Davey, Charlie Kelly, Kieran Bushaway in L2L ICT. Great searching and saving. Top notch power point Deana. Excellent practise test by Kelsey Kelly in ICT. A special mention to Sophie Dinh for her homework. Also to Adebayo Oshilaja and Kirsty Howard for catching up.



# Exam Success stories

There were some remarkable individual success stories from last year's exam results. Lots of students collected an amazing amount of GCSE's (grade C and above).

**Syed Ahmed** managed to pass an incredible 16! Hot on his heels was **Jack McGuinness** with 15.

9 Student managed to get a total of 14 GCSE's, these where **Lota Bantic, Zohura Begum, Demi Collins, Samantha Gillespie, Yasmin Rahman, Sheen-Yee San, Ibrahim Sanusi, Abdullah Siddiquee** and **Poppy Turner Ellis**.

76 students gained 10 or more GCSE's.

147 out of 184 students gained 5 or more GCSE's

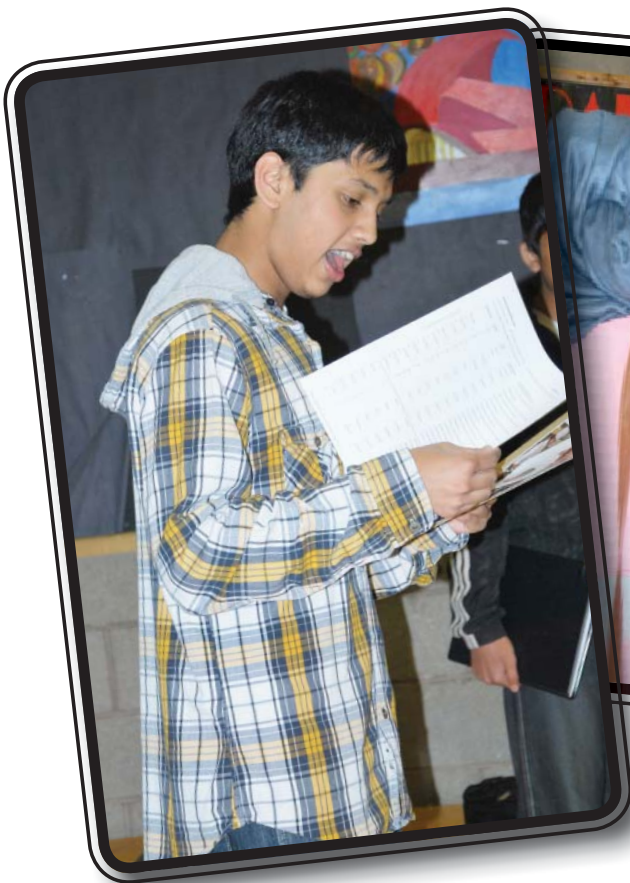
**Ruth Bloxham** managed an outstanding 12 GCSE's A\*'s.

Very well done and best of luck in the future.

**James Mackay**

Learning Manager for year of entry 2006.





### From Angela RS, Head of Year

Who would have thought that the little children that descended on George Green's all those years ago would have done so well?

All that moaning about... "Miss I hate Science, it's too hard", "Miss what's algebra going to do for my life".. "I left my homework on the bus... NOT"

Jade with her A in RE, Jack getting his grade C in Maths, a subject he wanted to give up on and Parul got her English.

You know the reason you all got those grades, because you tried, you didn't give up, and that is what makes me proud... I want you all to pass that knowledge onto the current year 11.. explain to them why it's best to do the work, to put the effort in... because, like you, they will be rewarded with GCSE's, except, because they have listened to you, even more will have GCSE's.



## WELCOME TO OUR LRC CORNER

I hope you have all had a good week. I apologise for the LRC being closed for a couple of days this week. This was due to the very important Head to Head Practice Interviews for the year 11's, and I must say they all looked very smart indeed coming in to be interviewed.

The LRC should be back to normal next week.

We do not have a poem or book review for this week, I promise I will have something for you next week when things get back to how they should be and I am not out and about taking trips to Oxford and having meetings at Canary Wharf.

I have got a lovely selection of new books for you though, and now that all our Year 7's have been given their library cards, I am sure I will be very busy next week issuing books left, right and centre.

Here is a selection of the new books for this week:-

In the fiction section:- "The Runaway Troll" by Matt Haig, "Fire Star" by Chris d'Lacey, "Xisle" by Steve Augarde, "Wolven" by Di Toft, "Ruler of the Realm" by Herbie Brennan, "City of Thieves" by Ellen Renner and "Shadowmancer" by G.P. Taylor.

This week in the non-fiction section we have a selection based on the Medieval era:- "The Black Death – 1347-1350" by Cath Senker, "Medieval Europe" by John Haywood, "Castles and Dungeons" by Tony Stone, "Medieval Britain 1066-1485 and "History in Art – Middle Ages" by Fiona MacDonald.

Well that is it for this week. Enjoy this unexpected sun shine and I will see you all next week.

Pat  
LRC



## PREFECTS CORNER

### Prefects Corners

Congratulations to the Year 11s who've completed their Head to Head Practice Interviews this Tuesday & Wednesday! You may have been extremely nervous before your interviews but hopefully, you've learnt how to approach your interviewer and answer some questions that future interviewers may have for you!

### Secretly Spotted:

Well done to Syeda Begum from 10A who has had a positive change in her behaviour since the start of this term, as noticed by one of the Prefects. Well done Syeda, keep improving your behaviour!



From the Prefects of George Greens

## BADMINTON CLUB

*Monday's & Wednesday in the Sport Hall  
from 3.30 - 6pm.*

*So come along and test yourself  
against the best.*

*Badminton Club in part of our 'On Track'  
programme and delivered by  
The Island Sports Trust*

*PS Do not forget your Trainers!*

In partnership with: The Island Sports Trust & Tower Hamlets School Sports Partnership supporting Change 4 Life



**Play it. Love it. Live it.**



## BoxFit



BoxFit every Thursday at  
George Green's School. Sessions run by  
qualified instructors

Activities Hall 4.15pm (4.30 Start) till 5.30pm

Get yourself fit this summer with BoxFit

Developed in  
partnership with  
The Island Sports Trust  
& George Green's  
School



Cost £3 per session  
Spaces are  
limited

Age 16+

For More Information Please Contact Sola Awoberu or Carl Kemp On 0207 987 6032 ext 505  
Or email: [info@islandssportstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@islandssportstrust.co.uk) or visit our webpage at [www.islandssportstrust.co.uk](http://www.islandssportstrust.co.uk)

# Head to Head Practice Interviews for Year 11 pupils

Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th September 2011.

On Tuesday 66 pupils were interviewed and on Wednesday 105 pupils had an interview.

The Head to Head is a regular feature in the school calendar. During the two day event each Year 11 pupil is offered an appointment time for an individual interview with a volunteer. This year David Burgess arranged for business volunteers to join us from Aberdeen Asset Management, the Army Careers Service, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Credit Suisse, Lloyds Banking Group, Morgan Stanley and Perrett Laver. Thank you for all of your support and expertise.

The interviewers made some encouraging and positive comments about the Year 11 pupils:

"Very engaged and seemed very interested"

"...they did listen to my advice about their CVs"

"their demeanour always improves through the course of the conversation"

"...easy to see the confidence growing, also links school/grades/behaviour with future prospects"

"I hope that they use the experience to improve and understand that they do have the potential"

Our pupils made these comments following their interviews:

"...I have had practice and I know what to expect and how to improve"

".... I know what type of questions I can come up with then I'll be really confident and prepared"

"I know what to write on my CV and to pin point my talents and tailor my CV differently depending on the job"

"I know what to improve on my CV. I know more about what employers will ask and how to structure my answer"

Firstly, I'd like to say thank you to the school for arranging these continuous sessions of individual interviews for pupils such as me in Year 11. I had a fantastic experience AND it was my first ever formal interview! The interview was definitely helpful as it helped me to develop my skills of communicating with the interviewer as well as deciding what I should improve next time I have an interview. Although the interviewer didn't point this out, I concluded that I should gesture with my hands less! I believe that next time, Head to Head Practice Interviews should be carried out twice in order to give students a chance to improve and demonstrate their positive changes at the second interview. I think that it would, if possible, be best to have the first interview during the last half term of Year 10, and the second during the first half term of Year 11. Overall, I believe that the Head to Head Practice Interviews are a great opportunity for us students, as a whole and a great learning curve!

Tanzina Khatun

Both Shirley and I are very pleased with the outcome of this year's Head to Head interviews. Most if not all students attended their interview and gave excellent first impressions to the volunteers. Both Shirley and I would like to give a big "Well done" to every student that took part in Head to Head this year, including: Josh Giannini, Georgia Baptiste, Kelly Jones, Edward Bellinger, Leslie Juch and Mohamed Belghrous. These guys rarely get positive special mentions; but I am happy to say they were AMAZING during their interviews.



## Jack Petchey Winner September 2011

We are delighted to announce that Tommy Burns L2L9 is the Jack Petchey Winner for September 2011. Tommy received so many nominations for his work that he carried out over the summer, he has shown commitment to the premises team throughout the holidays and every task he was set he completed with great skill. He has proved himself to be a real star and a credit to himself and his family. We are all very proud of you Tommy keep up the good work!!



## Coffee Morning

### MOTIVATIONAL COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October '11  
10.15-11.30am

Leading a healthy life can be a challenge, but [Dee our local Health Trainer](#) is

here to help, come and have a coffee and chat and enrol onto some healthy activities from Pilates to Zumba. Dee will be registering parents/carers onto the NHS programme and subject to income you may also be entitled to a FREE leisure pass (bring along proof of benefits and ID)

For more information call Charlotte 0207 987 6032 ext519 (Parent Support Partner)  
Or call Dee 07502047430 (local NHS health trainer)

Well done to **Foundation Learning 1!** On Tuesday we travelled to the all new and exciting Westfield shopping centre! We evaluated it's disabled access and practised our Money Management skills by shopping for Esther, Pat, Ms Bowman, Mr Gibbons, Emma Grove and Dawn George! Well done **Adebayo, Hasan, Rubel, Sophie, Kirsty, Jennifer, Abdi, Hafsa, Sharif, Musa** and **Quddoos** and a big **thank you** to **Kerrin** and **Lisa** for coming with us.  
Katie

## ALL PARENTS/CARERS WELCOME

Island Schools working in Partnership



## WALKING WEDNESDAYS

9.30am – 10.30am

Come join us here at George Greens every

Wednesday Morning and together we will get fit!

We meet in George Greens reception at 9.15am and then start our walk around the Island at 9.30am for 1 hour.

For more information please Contact: Charlotte Constantinou 02079876032 ex519

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Advance notice for future review evenings:

Years 8, 11 & 13 September 26<sup>th</sup> 2011

Years 7, 10 & 12 November 10<sup>th</sup> 2011

Years 9, 11 & 13 January 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 (NOT January 7<sup>th</sup> as stated in last week's newsletter)

Years 10 & 11 March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012 (NOT March 23<sup>rd</sup> as stated in last week's newsletter)

Years 8, 9 & 12 May 10<sup>th</sup> 2012

Years 7 & 10 July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012

**Please also note** that next Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October we are having our open evening for prospective pupils and parents, therefore school will be finishing for pupils at 1.15pm.



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