

L.E.A.P. Update – Spring Term 2022

L.E.A.P. (Latymer Equalities Action Project) continued into its second term with a huge range of activities. We'd like to say a particular well done to the many students who have contributed huge amounts of time and energy this year. Here is a taste of what they got up to:

Festival of Food

The equalities highlight of the term has undoubtedly been the Festival of Food. A whole school event seeing participation from Year 7 to Year 13, this festival gave students the chance to celebrate their own heritage and learn about their peers'. There was a real buzz around school all day with students proudly wearing traditional clothing from a huge range of nationalities, ethnicities and religions. At lunchtime the Great Hall was packed with visitors sampling food from over 30 student run stalls and enjoying an eclectic mix of music. It's hard to do the variety of



food on offer justice in a short list, but savoury delights included dumplings, jollof rice, biryani, sushi and bagels, while sweet saw scones, matcha cake and laddu being sold alongside cassava cake, doughnuts and milk tarts. After all that food, pupils were able to quench their thirst with lassi, red lemonade or decaf tea and visit an educator from the Museum of London, who brought in artefacts from their current community project 'London Eats: Collecting Londoners' relationship with food

and drink'. Students got the chance to handle Roman and Victorian objects and learn about the different ways in which food intersects with and reflects identity, both now and in the past. The impressive £1500 raised will go to The Trussell Trust, a nationwide network of food banks, as voted for by students. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all the students, staff parents and carers who supported the festival – your enthusiasm was what made the event such a success and created the brilliant atmosphere.



Student voice, Laaibah Shahriar, 9W: 'I wanted to be as much a part of this event as I could, because it's a huge step for our student community and really brought everyone together. It was amazing to see and celebrate the cultural diversity at our school. I created the posters that were put up around school and ran a stall with my friends, which I really enjoyed. So many people came to buy food, and dressed up in beautiful clothes from all kinds of backgrounds - it was wonderful to see such enthusiasm! This was an incredible event which all went to a good cause. I'm so glad I got involved.'

Assemblies

This term has seen several Whole School Assemblies delivered by many different groups of student leaders. Jewish Society spoke about Holocaust Memorial Day in January, LGBTQ+ Soc about History Month in February and Feminist Society about International Women's Day in March. March also saw Ms Kaymer deliver an assembly giving the school an update on L.E.A.P., where East and South East

Asian Society were spotlighted and had the chance to talk about their society and the work they've done. These are important opportunities for the Latymer community to learn from each other in an engaging, informative, and empowering way, and have often been extremely moving.

Migration Museum

This trip saw a group of lucky Year 10s visit the Migration Museum in Lewisham on a cross-curricular visit. The Migration Museum explores how the movement of people to and from Britain across the ages has shaped who we are – as individuals, as communities, and as a nation. Students visited the current exhibition 'Departures' (an immersive exhibit exploring 400 years of emigration from Britain from the Mayflower to the present



day through personal narratives, contemporary art and a range of media) and took part in an educational workshop run by museum staff. The trip presented an exciting opportunity for enrichment beyond the curriculum, and students were very enthusiastic about the day.



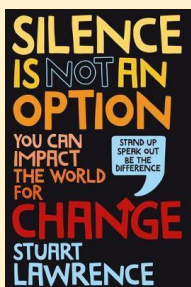
Visibility and Displays

A key focus this term has been on visibility around the school. It is important that our physical environment reflects the diversity of experiences in our community. As such we have a new L.E.A.P. noticeboard, raising awareness of activities and advising how to get involved and where to get support (both inside and outside of the school) if needed. We have also displayed a series of large celebratory posters in the Small Hall, which have been chosen with the help of student leaders. Finally, we have displayed a series of anti-sexual harassment and healthy relationship messaging across the school, but particularly in the toilets. All displays will be regularly reviewed and updated.

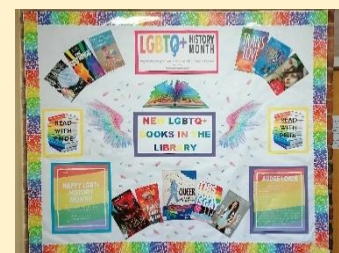


Library

The librarian Ms Bugg has worked on several exciting equalities projects this term. As well as keeping our book stock fresh and up to date with authors from diverse backgrounds she has made several displays



highlighting what is on offer. These regularly changing spotlights are a great way for students to diversify their reading and find a new perspective. Ms Bugg also arranged for Stephen Lawrence's brother, Stuart Lawrence, to speak to Year 8 about the work the Lawrence family have done over the past 28 years to end institutional and systemic racism. Year 8 were gripped during this powerful event and are excited to read Stuart's book, "Silence Is Not An Option", which is now available in the library.



Student Societies and Equalities Forum

Student Societies have continued to flourish, holding weekly meetings on subjects covering everything from the Jewish festival of Purim (including fancy dress costumes) to 'inter society' events hosted by East and South East Asian Heritage Society, LGBTQ+ Society and K-Pop Society.

As well as individual meetings and activity we have seen the termly meeting of the Equalities Forum, providing a space for student leaders to hear updates, feed back to the school, and test new initiatives. Some of the projects worked on include ESEA working with the librarian to get more books by Asian authors in the library, and with history teachers on a noticeboard telling the story of Home Office 213/926, and Fem Soc working with the Deputy Head of Teaching and Learning on a student survey.



Calendar of Celebration

Latymerians have continued to learn about festivals from around the world and across a huge range of religions, during weekly form time sessions. Festivals and awareness days commemorated have included Holi, Hola, International Women's Day and Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

Elsewhere in the school...

Equality, diversity and inclusion has been championed across the school by subject departments, with a few examples including:

- The PE department ran weekly self-defence classes, 'For Every Woman's Safety'
- The English department hosted a creative writing course for Year 9 with Anthony Anaxagourou (a British-born Cypriot poet, fiction writer, essayist, publisher and poetry educator)