

# Northolt High School newsletter



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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Committed to excellence

## Partnership working

Congratulations to our Year 11 and 13 students who have now completed all of their assessments for their GCSE and A Level awards. We're so proud of their positive approach to their studies and their resilience in coping with the disruption they have had this year. These students will now move on to begin preparations for their courses next year and parents will receive letters on Monday detailing these arrangements.

You will all have received a number of messages this week asking you to give your permission for your child to have a COVID-19 PCR test. There are real concerns about the rise of the Delta variant in the Northolt area. The aim of the testing which will be taking place in school on Wednesday 16th June is to catch any cases of the variant early in order to contain the spread. Please support this measure by completing the consent form for your child, which you can access using [this link](#). We need your consent immediately so we can prepare appointments. Thank you in advance.

Finally, can I draw your attention to the article beneath this one about our Family School Partnership award? We'd love to have your feedback about the progress we have made in the last two years on improving our partnerships with parents. I know that you're all so busy but it would be great if you could complete the survey linked below. Thank you!

Ms M. Budd – Headteacher

## Family School Partnership Award – please share your views

We have been working towards the Ealing Family School Partnership Award in order to strengthen our engagement with parents. This short presentation linked [here](#) outlines what the award is about, what our priorities have been, the actions we have taken and what impact we have seen.



We now would like to get the views of our parents in order to evaluate the progress we have made. Please can you complete this short online survey linked [here](#).

Mr M. Haresnape – Senior Deputy Headteacher

## Dates for your Diary

- **Thursday 24 June** – Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening
- **Wednesday 21 July** – Last Day of Summer Term



*Seizing opportunity*

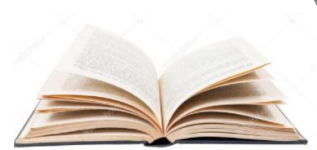
*Instilling ambition*

*Realising potential*

# Reading at Northolt High School

## Results of our Reading Survey Revealed

To celebrate World Book Day 2021 in March, our school library carried out a reading survey of students and staff. Students and staff enthusiastically let us know about their experience of reading. Our aim was to pick up some handy tips on developing good reading habits. We are delighted to share our findings with you now.



## How Much Do You Read Each Day?

The majority of students responding to our survey read for 20 minutes per day. This is the amount recommended to develop reading ability. Lots of students and staff read more than this. Many read between half an hour and an hour per day. Some students are reading as much as 4 hours per day. One book-loving student in Year 7 said she reads for 7 hours per day! Staff pointed out that they read for up to 5 hours per day for work and information - reading emails, marking student's work, carrying out research and reading the news.

## When Do You Read?

The favourite time to read for both students and staff is in the evening and night especially just before going to bed. Morning is also a popular time to read for both students and staff. Many students read after school. Lots of staff and students do not have a set time for reading and read when they find themselves with free time. Reading is the activity chosen by lots of our students when they feel bored. Lots of students listen to music while reading. Snacking is also popular while reading but please make sure that your child only does this with books they own. Every year, our library has to dispose of books damaged by food. Ms Jones in the Science department even manages to read in the bath but let's hope she's not dropping her library books in the bubbles! Ellie in Year 7 likes to draw what she has read. Mr Tarrant in the Art department told us that he sets off early when going to collect someone by car and uses the waiting time to read.

## What Makes You Choose to Read?

We received some thoughtful responses when asking this question. The main reason students choose to spend their time reading is that they want to know what happens next in their book. A number of students told us that they use reading to escape from everyday life. They enjoy being transported to another world for a while. Students and staff told us that they read in order to expand their vocabulary. Several students see reading as an investment in their future.



"It's a way to get out of this chaotic world and go into a new one" Hamda, Year 11

"Reading a book makes me feel like I am that character" Sukhmani Year 8

"A good book makes me feel devoted to the characters" Nicole, Year 10

"The different stories and worlds and the fact that I can see a little of myself in every character" Eleni, Year 8

## Influences On Reading

By far, the biggest influence according to our students are their Mums. So, we offer a big thank you to all the Mums helping to spread the joy and importance of reading. Other family members are seen as helpful influences and so are friends. TV Shows and movies also influence the reading choices of students and staff, as does the internet.

## Reading Tips

Our main aim in carrying out the survey was to gather a bank of reading tips to encourage our school community to develop good reading habits. You can access these tips by clicking [here](#).



Thank you to all students and staff who took the time to offer a tip.

## Descendants Award nominees

We were recently asked to submit our nominations for the annual [Descendants](#) Awards ceremony which celebrates the outstanding achievements of students of African and Caribbean descent from the borough of Ealing.

The awards are given in honour of the late [Dr John Roberts CBE QC](#) who was the first black QC in the UK. Queen's Counsel (QC) are barristers or solicitor advocates who have been recognised for excellence in advocacy. The awards are now in their 16<sup>th</sup> year and are supported by Ealing's education department.

Following input from staff and a competitive short-listing process, we are very pleased to say that we have submitted five very strong nominations from the school this year.

**Nominee:** Leshai (Year 13)      **Category:** Future Leaders

Extract from her nomination written by Ms Gadd:

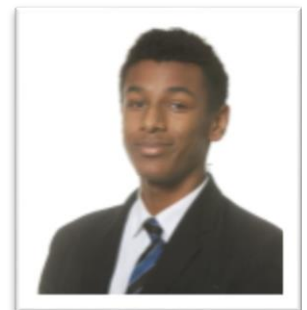
*"Leshai has high standards for herself and is an outstanding role model to other students. She led the planning and execution of our senior citizens' Christmas event. A lot of the attendees remarked on her ability to communicate well with people of different ages and different backgrounds. She is a real credit to our school - she always greets you with a warm and friendly smile - she has the same positive attitude to everything she takes on."*



**Nominee:** Lyriq (Year 10)      **Category:** Students who excel in all areas of their education

Extract from his nomination written by Ms De Sousa:

*"Lyriq is very humble and self-effacing. He is making exceptional progress across all subject areas. When presented with praise he is always bashful but clearly proud of his achievements. He has an inquisitive intellect, and constantly challenges himself in order to be and do better. He is everything a young man his age should be, he asks questions of the world around him. He's thoughtful, trustworthy, reflective and incredibly diligent in everything he does. Lyriq is always highly courteous and positive. He always has a smile on his face and sees the positive in all that he does. His calm demeanour puts you instantly at ease and he is well respected by peers and teachers alike."*



**Nominee:** Layla (Year 12)      **Category:** Students with entrepreneurial qualities

Extract from her nomination written by Ms Gadd:

*"Layla has been instrumental in our school's opening evenings and assisting with practical demonstrations. She employed her entrepreneurial qualities to encourage people to put our school down as first choice. In addition to this, she demonstrated great interpersonal skills by planning regular revision sessions with her friends and peers. Layla continuously demonstrates leadership skills and helps younger students with reading and developing their literacy. Outside of school, Layla used her initiative to organise work experience at a primary school in order to learn more about primary school teaching and helping younger students progress. She should be commended for the way she is managing this commitment with her academic studies."*

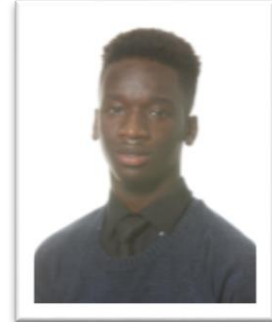


## Descendants Award nominees continued

**Nominee:** Kenneth (Year 13) **Category:** Students who excel in all areas of their education

Extract from her nomination written by Ms Gadd:

*"Kenneth has never missed a day of school in his entire school career – both primary and secondary school. This alone makes him exceptional, but as well as this, he has also participated in many co-curricular activities. He led peer mentoring of students in the lower school and his approachable nature means that a lot of students turn to him for support. He is a very good listener and younger students feel comfortable speaking with him. Kenneth plays a key role in the sixth form and has helped organise resources for other students. This also highlights his caring nature towards others. Without doubt, Kenneth is a real credit to our school."*



**Nominee:** Alina (Year 11) **Category:** Students who work hard and achieve against all the odds

Extract from her nomination written by Ms Vardon:

*"While school closures have been difficult for all learners, they have been a particular challenge for Alina. The lack of face to face contact time has been a great barrier but she has persevered in her learning in English. From attending additional online sessions to support her writing to having 1:1 meetings to review her work, Alina has demonstrated a real dedication to her work. In the latest assessment series, Alina has shown herself to be a courageous learner who is determined to reach her potential."*

## No Learner Left Behind Family Event

The Black Caribbean Parents' Forum has organised an online event for parents/carers of Black Caribbean children and young people at 6.30 - 8pm on Tuesday 22 June. Parents and carers are invited to attend the event, along with their children and will have the opportunity to:

- Hear a presentation about the History of Black People
- Find out about the No Learner Left Behind project
- Gain insight into the BCPF directory of resources
- Share thoughts about what topics the forum should focus on at future events

[More information and booking details.](#)



## Covid-19 Symptoms

You must keep your child at home if your child or anyone else in your household develops coronavirus symptoms. The main symptoms of coronavirus are: • **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) • **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) • **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If you are keeping your child at home you must contact Ms McMurdie, our attendance officer, on **02088648544 extension 705**. She will then be able to advise you further.