

Newsletter

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Week 4 2022-23

CATS CAMBRIDGE HOSTS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION (ISA) EAST REGIONAL HEADTEACHER'S MEETING



ISA EAST REGIONAL MEETING

Our Principal, Dominic, hosted the Independent Schools' Association (ISA) East Region's Headteachers' meeting at Elizabeth House on Saturday 1st October. The headteachers meet regularly to discuss developments in the independent schools sector. Part of the meeting agenda was a tour of the College.

All of the ISA heads were impressed with the facilities that CATS Cambridge as to offer. The group also discussed opportunities for the schools to work together to share best practice in the delivery of various parts of their curriculum.

Dominic has been invited to speak at the next meeting about CATS Cambridge's about the College approach to in-classroom and in-school research, an initiative in which all of the heads showed great interest. You can read and see more about the initiative on our Blog page:

https://www.catseducation.com/blog/view,introducing-cats-cambridge-research-community_2772.htm



ISA works closely with Headteachers and with other professional bodies to promote excellence in independent education. You can find out more about the ISA and how they represent the Heads of over 590 of the UK's best independent schools at: <https://www.isaschools.org.uk/about.html>

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

This week, CATS Cambridge entered around 50 students for the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge. This challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Senior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think; they are accessible in terms of content, yet still challenge those with more mathematical experience.

We are expecting quite a few of our students are able to achieve certificates in this challenge, with some of those entered being more than capable of progressing to the follow-on rounds; these include the British Mathematical Olympiad.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every year at CATS Cambridge we engage in a celebration of Black History Month. This is an annual observance originating in the United States, and has received official recognition from many governments, including Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. In the UK it is observed in the month of October, where educational establishments and thousands of people across the country engage in a wealth of programmes and cultural events.

Black History Month 2022 was introduced at CATS Cambridge this year with an assembly with an overview of the reasons for the development of Black History month, as well as a celebration of some of the key figures who have influenced the movement. This will be followed next week with an introduction to our challenge for the month. The challenge will focus on the national theme for the month which is "time for change – action not words".

We will explore the impact of such actions as pulling down statues and returning artefacts to their country of origin. We will contrast this with research into the numbers of influential positions in the workforce currently taken by Black people. Students will be undertaking independent research in order that they are engaging with Learning to Learn (our bespoke programme aimed at teaching the art of learning) as well as the overall theme of Black History Month.

The challenge this year is for each House to fill a large display board. The items that are displayed can be produced by students as individual or pairs or small groups. They can be photographs with an explanation, pieces of art, posters or interviews with someone concerning their lived experience.

At the end of the month we will have a whole school assembly to present what we have found through our research. Bringing the community together for such an event is very much typical of the rich diversity that CATS Cambridge is proud of as a truly international school. On the right you can see some of the art work by our students which embraces this value.

We look forward to sharing with you how this develops over the next few newsletters!

Rebecca Baker-Milne
Assistant Principal
(Personal Care and Pastoral Development)



"Zainab's A'Level Fine Art project led her to produce a set of sculptures which explored the effect of industrialisation on culture in Nigeria."



"I have decided to mainly focus on hair because, in my opinion, it symbolizes identity, especially for women. As females we tend to style our hair in different ways and whether we are aware of it or not our hair does speak for us. As a black girl, I tend to change my hair 8 or 9 times a year and every new style gives off a new identity, some hairstyles are said to be quite mature while others are more of kid styles. Hair can be used as a sense of expression too and that is why I have decided to focus on hair and its identity. My first step into hair was trying to manipulate braids and understand how to work with unfamiliar materials like charcoal and chalk..."

"My main focus is mostly on hair and how an artist can use hair and accessories instead of mostly portrait to identify a person. It's quite interesting how you can understand an artwork and the emotion it gives out without having a facial expression."

Precious studied UFP Visual Art 2021 to 2022

HIGHER EDUCATION

CATS College Cambridge – University Fair

On Wednesday 5th October students at CATS Cambridge had the opportunity to drop in and discuss University applications, specific courses and to collect course literature and prospectuses. It was an excellent turn out, with all of our A-level and UFP students engaging with admissions officers from the various institutions.

The 13 universities that attended were:

Anglia Ruskin
Arts University Plymouth
Durham University
Lancaster University
St Mary's, Twickenham London
University of Birmingham
University of Bath
University of Glasgow
University of Kent
University of Liverpool
University of Stirling
University of Surrey
University of York



In other news, CATS Canterbury held a University Fair as well!

On the 30th September, CATS Cambridge students also had the chance to join the one-hour online University Fair, which gave them the opportunity to talk to universities before the in-person event taking place at CATS Canterbury.

HOUSE NEWS



Tigers

House Director,
Sarah Morgan



Students in Tiger house have been understanding what kind of learner they are and looking at their personal characteristics to identify strengths and areas for improvement. They completed The Buzz quiz and also considered personality traits as well as discovering their creative personalities. Students uploaded their findings to a Padlet so they could share with other members of Tiger house.

Mia, our House captain has been busy organising a team to play in the college volleyball tournament, we know that we are facing Lion House in our match. We have to win! PT representatives are also busy getting ready to have their first meeting with their students to come up with Ideas for changes that students would like to see in college, I can't wait to see their suggestions!



Jaguars

House Director,
Janet Johnson

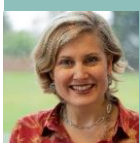


This week Jaguar PT representatives Yagmur, Igor and Mauro led meetings in their classrooms with their classmates. This was the first time some of them had tried to lead a meeting and certainly the first time in English. "It was a good experience" says Mauro. "Everyone had lots to say and everyone got involved" says Yagmur. Their deputy reps have compiled the input of the discussions and the next step is to take these to the student council.



Panthers

House Director,
Hayley Pienarr



Panther House Captain Meriel and Deputy House Captain Demir [photo: bottom left] proudly display the donuts that Panther House [photo: bottom right] were given for an outstanding 100% attendance.

Congratulations to all the students, as well as the Personal Tutors, who made this happen.



HOUSE NEWS



Leopards

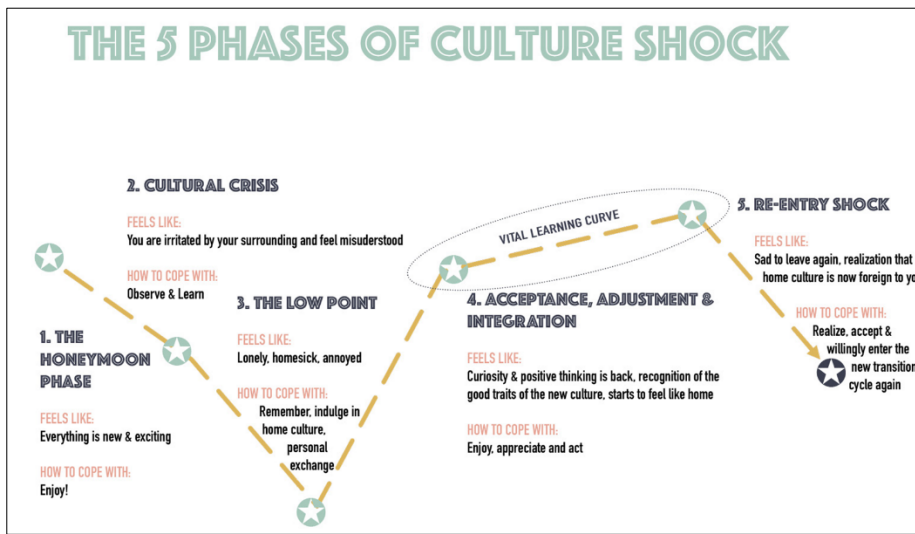
House Director,
Ruby Bell-Williamson



Working, learning, and growing **together** is regarded highly by Leopard House students, with values of teamwork and respect underpinning this mission statement.

In this week's assembly, we looked at the different phases of Culture Shock, and how to cope with these. Students shared their personal encounters with each other and their challenge this week is to have a conversation about Culture Shock with someone new, someone they have not spoken with before.

THE 5 PHASES OF CULTURE SHOCK



Lions

House Director,
Amna Qureshi



Lion House Captain Assel [photo:bottom left] is researching volunteering opportunities for CATS Cambridge students to engage with the local community; Assel and I are in talks with the Cambridge City Foodbank to set up volunteering opportunities for 18+ students.

Assel has conducted a student voice survey to find out what type of volunteering opportunities students are interested in. She has reached out to several companies locally to see how students can support in various settings including supporting the elderly and those with learning difficulties. Assel has discussed her findings with the Student Council and with the students doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

She reflects that "it feels good to be helping people in Cambridge, and working directly with the people who need the support. I am excited about supporting other students in engaging with volunteering too".



HELPING THE COMMUNITY

COLLECTION POINT

Emergency food for local people in crisis

Please donate an item or two from the list.

Thank you !

SHOPPING LIST

- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Fruit juice (long life)
- Soup
- Pasta sauces
- Tinned sponge pudding
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Cereals
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tea bags/instant coffee
- Instant mash potato
- Rice/pasta
- Tinned Meat/fish
- Tinned fruit
- Beans
- Biscuits or snack bars




One in five people in the UK live below the poverty line and that number is set to increase as the cost of living rises.

Amna Qureshi, Lion House Director, has registered CATS Cambridge as a collection point for the Cambridge City foodbank.

The collection point is situated in Reception; staff and students have been advised on how and why to donate food.



Cambridge City foodbank

Providing 3-days of nutritionally balanced emergency food to those in crisis

Shopping List

- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Vegetables
- Pasta/Cook-In Sauces
- Breakfast Tea Bags
- Baked Beans
- Bars of Chocolate
- Snack Bars
- Tinned soup
- Tinned Fruit (in fruit juice)
- Sponge puddings
- Savoury Snacks

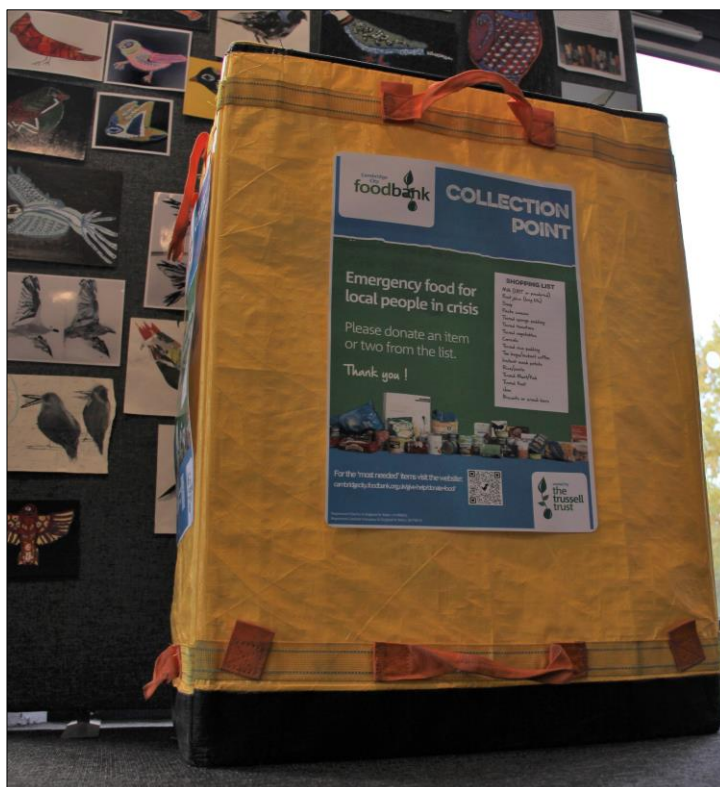
Currently we have plenty of pulses, tinned pasta

PLEASE NOTE: we CANNOT distribute ALCOHOL, BOTTLED WATER or INFANT FORMULA

ALL GOODS SHOULD BE UNDAMAGED & HAVE LONG "BEST BEFORE" DATES PLEASE

Thank you for your support!

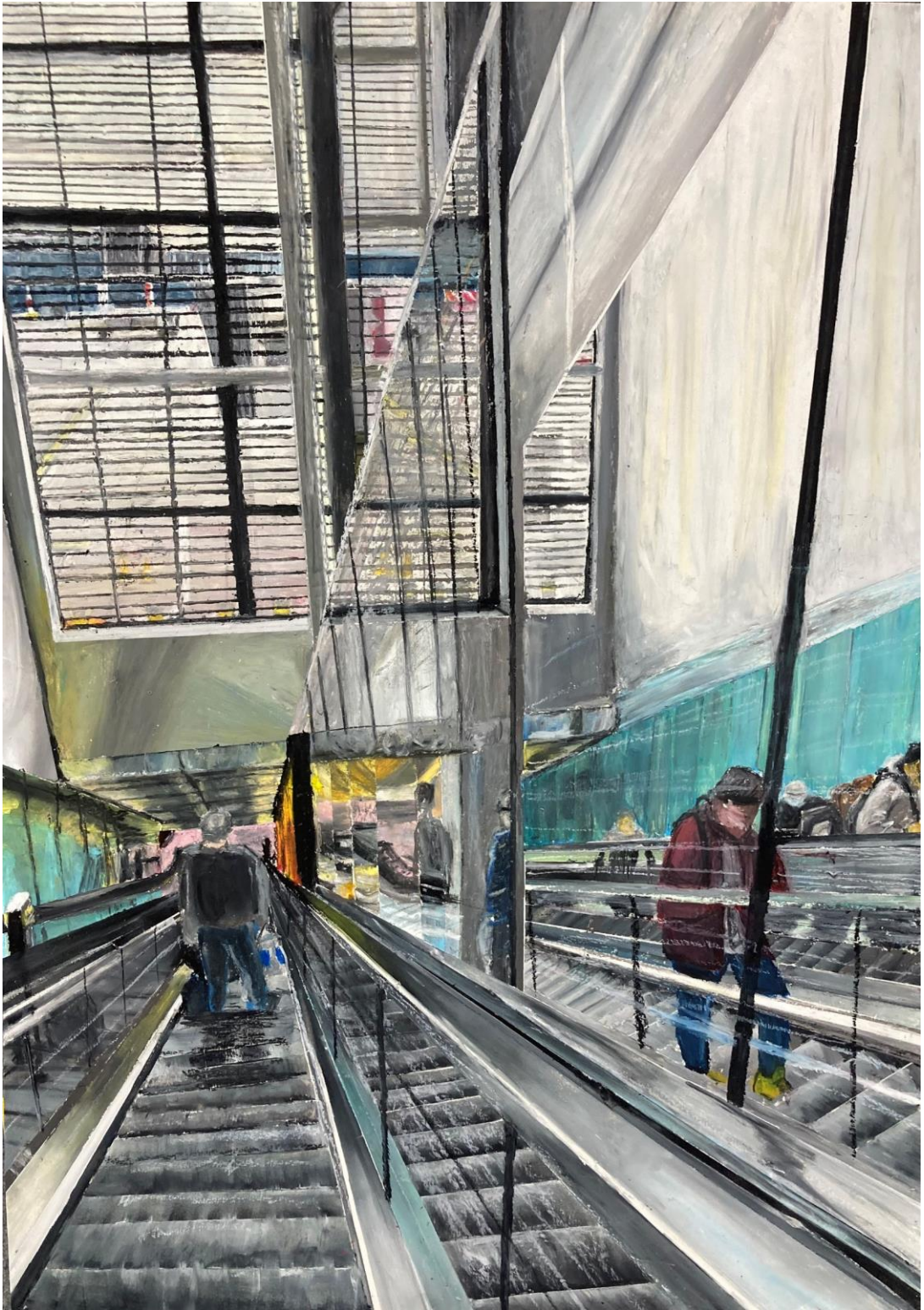
There is a donation point in Reception
If you have any questions please contact Amna Qureshi
aqureshi@catscambridge.com



You can find the collection point in Reception at Elizabeth House. Donations are appreciated but check the lists for what can be donated...

ART SHOWCASE

Kayra – UFP Visual Arts
Title: Fragmentation





The Backpage

**Louise
Chamberlain
Vice Principal**

Black History Month 2022 – “time for change: action not words”

The theme this year encourages reflection on the past and looking forwards, considering what action can be taken to achieve a better world for everyone. CATS Cambridge sits in the (metaphorical) shadow of Cambridge University. World renowned scholars and ground-breaking work have long been associated with the University. The Cambridge University Press has been publishing without a pause since 1584 but the authors published by it have diversified only relatively recently, reflecting changes in wider society which have led to greater diversity within the academic community. The earliest record of scholars in Cambridge dates back to 1209, so there are over 800 years of history to reflect upon.

At the end of September, the University of Cambridge shared the findings of research into its historical links to enslavement, particularly of people from West Africa. There were prominent 18th century abolitionists within Cambridge's university community, campaigning for the end of the slave trade and emancipation of those enslaved by it. One of these, William Wilberforce, was at the first meeting of the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade, a society that colleges and individuals within the University sent money to. The University Senate petitioned Parliament on the issue in 1788 and again in 1792. However, Cambridge University was also involved in the Atlantic slave trade from direct investment in it and accepting investment money from it for its own development to providing an education to the sons of wealthy slave estate owners and employing academics known to support slavery.

When this research was published, the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University, Professor Toope said “It is not in our gift to right historic wrongs, but we can begin by acknowledging them. Having unearthed our university's links to an appalling history of abuse, the report encourages us to work even harder to address current inequalities – particularly those related to the experiences of Black communities.” In recent years, the University has made significant efforts to recruit students from under-represented groups including Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and British Black students. In the spirit of “action not words”, Cambridge University is now planning to increase the number of postgraduate scholarships and bursaries for Black students, to invest more in its Black Advisory Hub and to enhance recruitment from students of African and Caribbean heritage. Efforts will be increased around the professional development of Black academic and professional services staff, partly to support talented individuals and partly to increase representation within university staff. A public

work of art to recognise the contributions of Black Cambridge scholars or graduates is being made possible by a generous donation specifically for this.

Anglia Ruskin University is hosting a range of free online lectures during October including the Oludah Equiano Annual Lecture on Race Justice with Angela Saini at 19:00 UK time on 13th October and Time for Change: Actions Not Words, a view from the legal profession with award winning barrister Natasha Shotunde at 19:00 UK time on 25th October.

Kettles Yard, a local art gallery, has an exhibition showcasing the work of Howardena Pindell over six decades articulating empowerment through her art.

For all students considering which university to move onto from our intentionally inclusive, diverse learning community here at CATS Cambridge, it is worth exploring the actions for change that the universities and university cities you plan to go onto are demonstrating during Black History Month. Be where diversity is celebrated as a strength!



Louise Chamberlain
Vice Principal
CATS Cambridge

Are you in the city? We recommend a visit to the:
Kettle's Yard
University of Cambridge,
Castle Street, CB3 0AQ

Howardena Pindell (b.1943, Philadelphia, PA – image: right top) works across painting and film. She is an activist, critic and teacher who spent over a decade working at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, as one of the institution's first Black curators. Largely known for her monumentally scaled abstract canvases, Pindell has expanded the definition of what abstract painting can be through her inclusion of glitter, paper circles made from punched holes, and the layering of mixed media and scent. She rose to prominence through the late 1970s and early 1980s and had a major solo exhibition at the Studio Museum, Harlem in 1986.

Throughout her career Pindell has exhibited extensively. Notable solo and group exhibitions include: the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Whitney Museum of American Art; PS1, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; Museum Brandhorst, Munich. In 2020, an exhibition of new work at The Shed, New York articulated Pindell's response to racism and white supremacy against the backdrop of the Black Lives Matter movement and growing international outrage at anti-Black state violence in the US and elsewhere, in the wake of the murder of George Floyd.

