

Successful Open Evening

The Elmgreen School held its first Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students and their families in our new building on Tuesday 6th October. The evening was packed, with over 600 guests attending, by far the largest number for any of our open sessions. All were given a new school prospectus, a tour of the school and a talk delivered by governors and Mr Wilkinson.

Many visitors were impressed not only by the building, but by the staff and students who put on displays and activities, from a giant doodle in Art to experiments in Science. The students who volunteered to help out on the night were wonderful ambassadors, either guiding families expertly on tours, answering questions, or speaking confidently to an audience of more than 300. Well done to all those students!

There will be further open sessions on:

Saturday 10 October—9.30 – 11.00

Wednesday 14 October—9.00-10.30

Thursday 15 October—9.00-10.30

Year 7 Student Groupings

Year 7 students have made an excellent start to their year. During the last three weeks teaching staff have been assessing their ability and how they work best. This week all Year 7 students have been completing their CATs tests. This is an online assessment of their abilities in numeracy, literacy and reasoning. We have found that these tests, in addition to our own teacher assessment, provide us with the clearest early picture of each child's general ability and can indicate the types of support they might need. We have also tested each student's reading and spelling age during their English lessons.

We will use this information over the next week to regroup the students, where necessary, so that all students are in a group that gives them the best possible opportunity of reaching and exceeding their potential.

At The Elmgreen School we keep the groupings of students under constant review to ensure that the progress of all students continues to be as successful as Ofsted were keen to note in their visit in April 2009.



BESANT COLLEGE (Gold Tie)

Annie Besant (1847-1933)

Annie Wood was born in London in 1847. When her father died, in 1852, Annie's mother was unable to make ends meet and she was raised instead by her mother's friend.



However, it was her marriage to Rev. Frank Besant, at the age of 19, which was to be the making of her. She tried to help her husband's parishioners, who were in need; but she came to believe that to alleviate poverty and suffering, deeper social changes were needed beyond immediate service. She quickly realised the poor needed better living and working conditions rather than handouts.

Besant was a woman of action. She felt unable to reconcile the ideals of "Christian charity" with the lack of action she felt was happening in her husband's parish and so, following her principled refusal to attend Holy Communion, they were separated in 1873 and Besant moved to Lambeth.

This woman of action became someone who stood up for what she believed in, no matter what. She fought against social injustice, against imperialism, for women's rights, for Free School meals, and, perhaps most famously, led the Match Girls Strike in 1888.

She was also not afraid to change her mind and thought carefully and frequently about her beliefs; changing them if she felt they no longer fitted with her view of the world. During her life she was considered a radical freethinker, atheist, social reformer, Theosophist lecturer and writer.

How will Besant help build the identity of BESANT college?

Like Besant, we must aim to show conviction in our beliefs. As a college we believe that every student can and will achieve. Beyond this, Besant taught that what matters is what we learn and how this impacts upon what we believe. As a college we will strive to be life-long learners, who always think and reflect upon what we believe in and how we can make the best impact. Underpinning this all, Besant remained committed to social justice and equality for all. As a college we believe that through supporting one another and standing up for those who are treated unfairly, we will all be able to achieve our dreams.

"Not out of right practice comes right thinking, but out of right thinking comes right practice. It matters enormously what you think." (A. Besant)

"Better remain silent, better not even think, if you are not prepared to act." (A. Besant)

Miss O'Hana

Attendance

Please see below attendance figures for this week – congratulations Besant 4! (Mr Diaz's tutor group). The percentage runs from Friday 2 October to Thursday 8 October.

What can you do next week to help your tutor group's attendance improve?

Group	% Attendance
B4	98.9
S4	98.8
B2	98.3
J4	98.2
S5	98.1
J1	98.1
B1	98.1
S2	97.7
B3	97.4
B5	97.4
B6	97.4
S1	97.3
W1	97.3
J6	97.2
S6	97.1
S3	96.9
J3	96.8
J5	96.6
J2	96.4
W6	96.2
W2	95.2
W3	94.7
W5	94.3
W4	93.9

Attendance marks (Attendance Year 2009/2010)

Week Beginning	Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
28/09/2009	/	\	/	\	/	\	/	\	/	\
05/10/2009	/	\	/	\	0	0	/	\	1	-

JAMES COLLEGE (Red Tie)

CLR JAMES — a brief history

Cyril Lionel Robert James was born in Trinidad in 1901. He spent his early years as a sports journalist focusing on cricket. He became an icon of black liberation struggles and in 1933 moved to London and began campaigning for the independence of the West Indies from Britain. In 1942 he worked with groups supporting Black Civil Rights in America, but in the 1950s was expelled from the USA for his political views. James was probably most famous however as an author, publishing books on a mixture of political, social and sporting issues. His novel *Minty Alley* was the first novel by a black Caribbean ever to be published in the UK. His semi-autobiographical account of cricket and colonial life in the West Indies, *'Beyond a Boundary'*, has been voted the greatest ever book about cricket and the third greatest book about sport. By the 1960s James had become a teacher and later a university professor. He lived in Brixton from 1968 until 1989, the year of his death.



How will CLR James help build the identity of our College?

CLR James never lost his faith in the ability of a group of people to bring about change. James College, as a group of people, is dedicated to supporting students improving their life chances, by making positive steps in their learning.

CLR James valued education and the way this empowered people to stand up for what they believed. We also believe in the power of education and the sharing of our knowledge.

CLR James held strong values, which shaped his actions. In a similar way, James College believes in ensuring that every student has the opportunity to achieve. Our beliefs will strengthen and underpin all of our actions.

We believe that every student in James College will experience the feeling of success when achieving something for the first time, in the same way that CLR James became the first black Caribbean author to have a book published in Britain.

Finally, CLR James valued the collective identity of people all over the world, as well as the strength brought by independence. In our College this translates into us developing as individuals, positively influencing others, as well as contributing to the underlying identity of The Elmgreen School and wider society.

Miss Gibson

School Library News

With National Poetry Reading Day falling on Thursday, this week poetry has been enjoyed in schools, libraries and other public spaces up and down the country. The best way to read poetry is aloud – it brings it to life – so here at The Elmgreen School we decided to host poetry reading sessions in the library every lunch time this week. The sessions were open to staff and students to come and share their favourite poems. We've had



funny poems, sad poems, epic poems, school poems, poems written many years ago and contemporary poems that reflect how we live our lives now. The poetry readings were a huge success and it was great to see so many students making the time to come and listen or read with us. If you didn't manage to come along, do come and have a browse through our poetry collection. From Shakespeare, to Wordsworth to Benjamin Zephaniah we have a huge variety of poetry past and present. Meanwhile, to listen to poems read by poets, visit www.poetryarchive.org/childrensarchive.



October is Black History Month

Details of school activities will
be published soon.

sleuth ONLINE THE BEHAVIOUR TRACKING SYSTEM

At The Elmgreen School we use a system called “Sleuth” to track students. Students are frequently rewarded for “getting it RIGHT” with a positive Sleuth entry, which leads to positive points on Sleuth; whilst incidents which disrupt learning are also recorded and incur negative points.

Points so far:

	College	Points
1 st	James	3471
2 nd	Besant	3428
3 rd	Szabo	3391
4 th	Wilberforce	3247

Congratulations to James College! As you can see, it’s a close run competition – so look out for how your college is doing this time next week.

Daily Breakfast Club Reminder

The official school opening time for students will be at 8.00 am. If, however, you need to your child to attend earlier, the school will be running a breakfast club from 7.40 am. Students will be supervised, able to get on with work or quiet reading and will have the chance to get something to eat. A register will be taken and you will be able to check they have been attending. We will need a permission slip in order to be able to manage numbers.



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Breakfast Club—7.40 am daily

I would like _____ (name of student) to attend the breakfast club

College _____

Tutor Group _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Please print name

Please return to Mr Russell via the School Office