### **Stormont House School Matters**



## Our vision Achievement for all in a unique world-class school

Stormont House School, Downs Park Road, London E5 8NP. Tel No (020) 8985 4245 Website: www.stormonthouse.hackney.sch.uk Email: info@stormonthouse.hackney.sch.uk

# Celebrating 'Black History Month' at Stormont House with Ms Powell Musician, Writer, 'Spoken Word' Poet, Singer and Rapper

On the 19th November Stormont House welcomed Ms Donna Powell to perform at the weekly whole school assembly. Ms Powell performed two of her compositions and told the students how she was inspired by 'Musical Youth' and 'Michael Jackson' – her stage name is from one of Michael Jackson's best known albums, BAD – meaning 'Good'. After the assembly, Ms Powell ran music workshops with Year 10, 11 and 12. Everyone had fun and learnt a lot – creating lyrics about themselves and the writing about things that are important. Chardonnay (10M) reported that all of the participants grew in confidence as the workshop progressed, they were even brave enough to perform their work in front of the class. Chardonnay decided to write about herself and what she likes to do in her spare time. Everyone decided that they would like Ms Powell to come back to Stormont. It was a real pleasure to see her perform as she was able to share what had inspired her, she was very encouraging giving everyone tips on how to take the next step on their musical journey.

Ms Powell was very impressed with the enthusiasm and ideas that came from the students. She stated that she had loved spending time at Stormont House getting to know everyone, she felt there were some amazingly talented students who took part in the workshops. Congratulations to everyone who took part!







### Stormont Celebrates Black History Month with the Hackney Museum

Over the last couple of weeks students from Year 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to participate in workshops inspired by the Hackney Museum's "Roots, Rhythms and Records" exhibition! The workshops are based around the current exhibition which looks at the stories and sounds of African and Caribbean music in Hackney.

During the workshops, the students explored themes from the exhibition through various interactive activities facilitated by Josie Stevens, Museum Heritage Officer, or Donna Powell, Performance Poet, Rapper, and Singer. There was a mixture of individual, pair, group and whole class activities as students examined the different genres of African and Caribbean music, they were able to discuss the different reasons that people make music, and compared ways young people listen to music in the past and in the present day.

Inspired by this opportunity, some of our students have begun to explore their own lyrics, it is fantastic to see the talent they have, and their enthusiasm for making their own music.



#### **Skills London**

Skills London 2018 is a hands-on skills and careers event attracting young people from across London. The exhibition is for visitors aged between 15-24 and the expected number of visitors over the two days is 30,000 people! Year 12 got to talk to representatives from different employers, colleges, training providers and careers & guidance advisors. The students had the opportunity to experience skills demonstrations and interactive exhibits. For example 'Just IT' had a stand where they demonstrated how science works in technology by using water melons as controllers for a games console to play Tetris.

Excitingly this year the school and our Year 12's were instrumental in improving Skills London's approach to young people with SEND. The students chose the colour of the new lanyards that SEND people are given at the event so that exhibitors know a young person has additional needs and may need extra support when approaching their stall, without the young person having to explain. The students also chose a thumbs up emoji that is on exhibitors stalls that had SEND friendly courses or employability opportunities.

By engaging in the event, students were able to take part in taster activities and the exhibitors are able to access London's future workforce; inspiring them, entertaining them and most importantly informing them about the genuine opportunities available to young Londoners. Not only did students come away with lots of freebies but a lot of the students felt they had a better idea of what they wanted to do in the future and what options were available to them.



#### **Term Dates for your Diary**

**Reward Outing Day Years 7-12** 

**Christmas Jumper Day** 

**End of Autumn Term** 

**Spring Term Start** 

**Spring Half Term** 

**Staff Training Day** 

**End of Spring Term** 

**Staff Training Day** 

**Summer Term Start** 

**Summer Half Term** 

**End of Summer Term** 

Friday 14 December

Monday 17 December 2018

Friday 21 December 2018 - School closes at 1.15pm

Monday 7 January 2019

Monday 18 to Friday 22 February 2019

Monday 18 March 2019 - School closed to students

Friday 5 April 2019

Tuesday 23 April 2019 - School closed to students

Wednesday 24 April 2019

Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2019

Friday 19 July 2019