





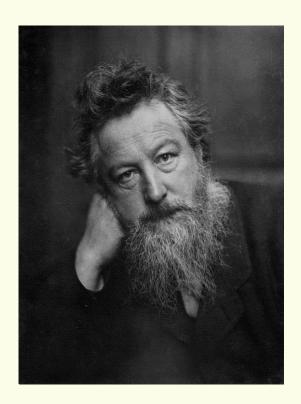
B.C.U.S.

UNION OF SCHOOLS



William Morris (Art and DT area)





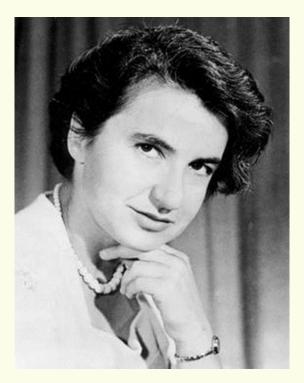
- 24 March 1834 3 October 1896
- British textile designer, poet, novelist, translator, and socialist activist associated with the British Arts and Crafts Movement.
- He was a major contributor to the revival of traditional British textile arts and methods of production.
- His literary contributions helped to establish the modern fantasy genre, while he played a significant role proliferating the early socialist movement in Britain.
- Morris is recognised as one of the most significant cultural figures of Victorian Britain. He was best known in his lifetime as a poet, although he posthumously became better known for his designs.
- The William Morris Society founded in 1955 is devoted to his legacy, while multiple biographies and studies of his work have been published. Many of the buildings associated with his life are open to visitors, much of his work can be found in art galleries and museums, and his designs are still in production.





Rosalind Franklin (New Science classrooms)





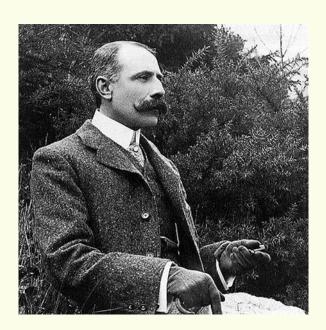
- 25 July 1920 16 April 1958
- English chemist and X-ray crystallographer whose work was central to the understanding of the molecular structures of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), RNA (ribonucleic acid), viruses, coal, and graphite.
- Although her works on coal and viruses were appreciated in her lifetime, her contributions to the discovery of the structure of DNA were largely recognised posthumously.
- Franklin is best known for her work on the X-ray diffraction images of DNA, which led to the discovery of the DNA double helix for which James Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1962. Watson suggested that Franklin would have ideally been awarded a Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with Wilkins.
- She died in 1958 at the age of 37 of ovarian cancer





Edward Elgar (New classrooms on the ground floor





- 2 June 1857 23 February 1934
- English composer, many of whose works have entered the British and international classical concert repertoire.
- He felt himself to be an outsider, not only musically, but socially. In musical circles dominated by academics, he was a self-taught composer; in Protestant Britain, his Roman Catholicism was regarded with suspicion in some quarters; and in the class-conscious society of Victorian and Edwardian Britain, he was acutely sensitive about his humble origins even after he achieved recognition.
- He struggled to achieve success until his forties, when after a series of moderately successful works his Enigma Variations (1899) became immediately popular in Britain and overseas





Mary Seacole (Yr 5 classrooms and music room)





- 23 November 1805 14 May 1881
- British-Jamaican business woman and nurse who set up the "British Hotel" behind the lines during the Crimean War.
- Seacole used herbal remedies to nurse soldiers back to health. She was posthumously awarded the Jamaican Order of Merit in 1871.
- Hoping to assist with nursing the wounded on the outbreak of the Crimean War, Seacole applied to the War Office to be included among the nursing contingent but was refused, so she traveled independently and set up her hotel and tended to the battlefield wounded.
- She became extremely popular among service personnel, who raised money for her when she faced destitution after the war.
- In 2004, she was voted the greatest black Briton.





Katherine Johnson (Computing rooms, main classrooms and textiles)





- August 26, 1918 February 24, 2020
- American mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics as a NASA employee were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. crewed spaceflights.
- During her 35-year career at NASA and its predecessor, she earned a reputation for mastering complex manual calculations and helped pioneer the use of computers to perform the tasks.
- The space agency noted her "historical role as one of the first African-American women to work as a NASA scientist".
- Her parents had to arrange for her to attend a different high school when she was younger as where she lived did not allow African American pupils to continue school past the age of 10.
- Johnson spent her later years encouraging students to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).





Benjamin Zephaniah (New Year 5 classrooms)





- 15 April 1958-
- British writer, dub poet and Rastafarian. He was included in The Times list of Britain's top 50 post-war writers in 2008.
- Is dyslexic, he attended school but left aged 13 unable to read or write.
- He became actively involved in a workers' co-operative in Stratford, London, which led to the publication of his first book of poetry, Pen Rhythm
- Zephaniah has said that his mission is to fight the dead image of poetry in academia, and to "take [it] everywhere" to people who do not read books, so he turned poetry readings into concert-like performances.
- He is a passionate advocate for human and animal rights and regularly supports anti-racism campaigns





Siobhan Dowd (Library and year 6 classrooms)





- 4 February 1960 21 August 2007
- British writer and activist
- Wrote four best sellers before her death: A Swift Pure Cry, The London Eye Mystery, Bog Child and Solace of the Road. The final two of these were published after her death.
- Her work has won the Carneige Award, Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and Costa Book Award.
- Before her death, she set up the Siobhan Dowd Trust. As part
 of her will, all royalities from her books go to the trust. The
 money is then used to ensure that children who would
 otherwise be unable to, have access to books. The trust gives
 large amounts of money to schools, libraries and other
 organisations that support young people to ensure that
 everyone can love reading.



