



# ROKEBY RECORDER

DARE TO BE THE BEST



DIVERSITY AND



EQUALITY MONTH



Respect Success Passion for Learning Personal Challenge Harmony

Spring Term 2021 | Issue 15



Adedamola Otunuga, Year 11

## DIVERSITY MONTH AT ROKEBY

As we emerge from lockdown and welcome students back in to school, our first edition of the Rokeby Recorder this term is a celebration of some of the fantastic work completed during Diversity & Equality Month. Every department across school engaged students in curriculum activities that aimed to promote discussion and engagement with issues relating to diversity and inclusion and the importance of combatting discrimination, in all its forms, within society.

Our art and writing competition, sponsored by Pinsent Masons, resulted in over 100 wonderful submissions; here is a snap shot of just a few of them. Other activities across school included discussions around forced marriage using *Romeo & Juliet*; age and society through *An Inspector Calls* (English); learning Labi Siffre's *So Strong* in music; decolonising languages through representation of non European French and Spanish-speaking communities across the world; LGBTQ+ issues in the sports; equality and religion, human relationships and social justice in RE. All students also took part in Diversity Month assemblies and a P4C enquiry on exploring identity online.



Respect, Success, Passion for Learning, Personal Challenge, Harmony

# DIVERSITY & EQUALITY MONTH

## Ada Lovelace and Women in Computing

Women have played an important role in the development of computers in today's society. Many famous figures such as Ada Lovelace, Mary Coombs, and Dina St. Johnson have all ignored the stereotypes of women in the past and have managed to bring the balance of men and women in the technological world. The number of women in the tech industry has continued to increase but women still remain underrepresented in the technology field. Many have been placed in the books of forgotten history, for example, when women were dominant in computing during the 19th and 20th centuries. Nowadays, there are many famous women in tech industries such as the CEO of Yahoo-Marissa Mayer, who was one of Google's first employees.



Yoosuf Riyaldeen, Year 11 | Computer Science | Excerpt from essay on women in computing



Muhammad Ibrahim Abdul Majid, Year 10



Kelvin Appah Newton, Year 11

There was once a man who had a vision  
He wanted a world without any collision  
He had a dream that we would stand  
United together in this holy land  
He wanted us all to be equal  
And live without any evil  
Unfortunately, this man was killed  
But what he said, should've still stood  
Is it really hard to treat everyone equally?  
Can't we live like a family, and live peacefully?  
He fought for injustice, but then got killed  
Doesn't this show corruption, and censorship  
He cared for all, no matter their colour or race,  
But many disagree, such a disgrace  
His passion so profound  
He would not turn around  
He taught this suffering Earth  
The measure of man's worth  
He preached on how it should be  
But many disagreed, full of idiosyncrasy

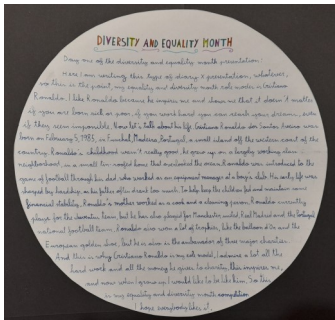
Aaryan Islam Year 10 | Entry for written competition | My Diversity and Equality Role Model: Martin Luther King



Pinsent Masons

The Diversity and Equality month art and writing competition was sponsored by Pinsent Masons. Next week members of Rokeby's Senior Leadership team will shortlist the entries and then a judging panel at Pinsent Masons, headed by Megan Cross, Diversity & Inclusion Consultant, will select the finalists.

# DIVERSITY & EQUALITY MONTH



My artwork depicts Cristiano Ronaldo. While Ronaldo is playing, scoring goals and winning, he never forgets his origins and who he was before becoming a star. In this drawing he is thinking about his steps to fame. His childhood was shaped by hardship. He inspires me because he shows that it doesn't matter if you are born rich or poor; even if it seems impossible you can still reach your dreams if you work hard.

**Mohammad Tamzid Alam Afreen, Year 8** | Entry for written & artwork competition | My Diversity and Equality Role Model: Cristiano Ronaldo



My role model is author Mitch Johnson. I read his book 'Kick' during early lockdown. I found this quote from the book very powerful:

*There will always be something or someone stopping you from realising your true potential. Always a groundskeeper tending a fence. Always a goalkeeper guarding the goal. You have just got to see beyond him.*

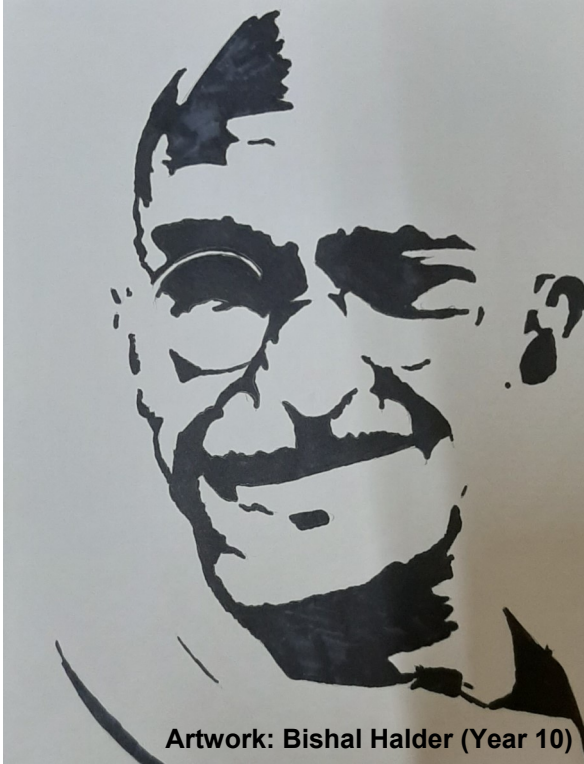
This is powerful because every single person, rich or poor, has a dream. However, poor people have the biggest of dreams. They can achieve it if they can see what's stopping them. But most people don't, it is because they look at other people and try to copy them. To achieve a dream that seems impossible, you have to make sacrifices, think it through and try again if you fail.

Mitch Johnson made such an impression on me. He understands the importance of equality throughout our world.

**Kaif Munshi, Year 8** | Excerpt from essay on Mitch Johnson's book 'Kick'; a novel endorsed by Amnesty International UK for its portrayal of children's rights.



# DIVERSITY & EQUALITY MONTH



Artwork: Bishal Halder (Year 10)

Mahatma Gandhi was the leader of India's non-violent independence movement against British rule and in South Africa he advocated for the civil rights of Indians.

Born in Porbandar, India, Gandhi studied law and organized boycotts against British institutions using peaceful forms of civil disobedience.

I find Mahatma Gandhi inspiring because he used non-violence to free India from British rule. He believed that everyone should be treated equally and people should stand up to anyone trying to destroy that by using non-violent means. In using resistance through mass non-violent civil disobedience, he became one of the major political and spiritual leaders of his time.

Gandhi believed that real freedom would come "not by the acquisition of authority by a few, but by the acquisition of the capacity by all to resist authority when abused".

This is why I am motivated every day to become a better person. I believe equality is right and Mahatma Gandhi to me is a one of the people who bought that to India.

**Viswajith Raviprasad Year 9** | Entry for written competition |  
My Diversity and Equality Role Model: Mahatma Gandhi

To me my mum is my inspiration  
and I show her nothing but appreciation.  
Ever since I was born she has been by my side  
which is why everyday I look up to her with pride.  
She will only say things that always benefits me  
and she cooks food for me and doesn't even charge a fee  
Day after day she shows love that is unexplainable  
and in return all she asks is to live a good life which is obtainable.  
The way she always helps her family and friends is a sensation  
which is why to me my mum is my inspiration.

**Haytham Abdullahi Year 11** | Entry for written work competition | My Diversity and Equality Role Model



## Dancing Bullet

It dances fiercely, unable to hit  
Got his determination a bit  
Improving his vision, already imagining it.

It dances ferociously, unable to thrash  
Unleashing its anger at last  
Yet his vision never faded away afar

It dances, piercing through his soul  
Many would mourn  
But the vision will remain forever printed on the wall.

**Artwork & Poem by Daiyan Khandaker (Year 10)**

# DIVERSITY & EQUALITY MONTH

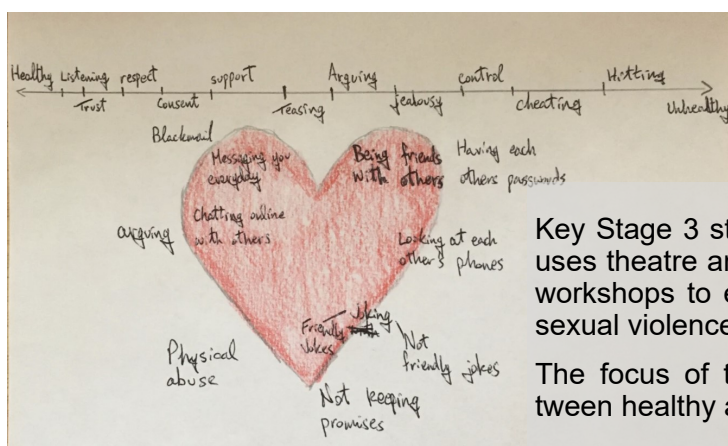


Abdul Ali, Year 11

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL EVENT

A group of Year 9 students attended a virtual holocaust memorial event. The theme was *be the light in the darkness*. The event encouraged us to reflect on the depths that humanity can sink to but not to forget the way in which individuals have resisted the dark and stood up to injustice. It was a reminder that in a divided world full of denial and misinformation, one must remain vigilant and informed about the hatred present today. There were moving testimonies given by holocaust survivors and some amazing performances from primary school pupils in Newham, including music and poetry.

Stefano Diarra (9B) said, "This event was a beautiful experience; I enjoyed the performance of the young musicians at the beginning and hearing the testimony of two survivors was really emotional."



Key Stage 3 students took part in workshops with Tender, a charity that uses theatre and the arts to engage young people in violence prevention workshops to enable them to recognise and avoid domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The focus of the workshops was on understanding the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships.

# DIVERSITY & EQUALITY MONTH



## FRENCH PARTNERSHIP

Through the British Embassy, Rokeby is paired with College Garcia Lorca in Paris and the two schools have been working together on a project aimed at inspiring French students ahead of the Paris Olympics in 2024.

Students have participated in three virtual exchanges with our counterparts in France, during which they spoke only in French. They took part in a meet and greet and shared an introductory video they had prepared about themselves and their hobbies. They also met with French athletic champion, Solene Ndama, ahead of her upcoming Tokyo 2021 and Paris 2024 competitions. During our last exchange, students gave three presentations, again all in French, and spoke about London 2012 and the subsequent transformation of our area following the games.

The boys really rose to the challenge - speaking French and doing it virtually! A really big thank you as well to Mr Ansah-Awuah, who taught his Year 9 class a break dance routine especially for the project, which we shared during one of our meetings. Break dancing will feature as a new sport in the Paris 2024 Olympics!



## PROTEST

KS3 Drama students explored the theme of *Protest*. Year 7 student Joshua Nikolov staged a toy protest to showcase the importance of difference and diversity within play. "Just like us, toy characters should represent different skin tones, genders, hair texture, height etc. We are all individuals and need to celebrate individuality and be accepting of others and their differences".

Meanwhile Zubair Ahmed (Year 9) created a poster to highlight the injustice faced by garment workers in Bangladesh.

"We need to take action; use our presence as the consumer and our collective voice on social media to tell these brands that they need to change".



## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Our partnership with College Garcia Lorca builds on our existing international links with Stone Bridge High School in the **USA**, Aburi Girls School in **Ghana**, Le Campigny school in Normandy, **France** and Veal Kasach in **Cambodia**.

We also have a very good working relationship with **Exeter University's** Modern Languages department which has resulted in reciprocal workshops on multilingualism and the involvement of university lecturers in presentations for school language events.

Our international work is recognised by the British Council who awarded Rokeby with [International School Status](#).

If you would like to find out more or get involved in any of our international work, speak to **Ms Wayoe** or **Mr Porter**.



*"I thought pregnancy was very simple. I have learnt to appreciate all pregnant women because they go through different challenges and health risks during this crucial period of their lives (Year 10 student)".*

## Food Preparation & Nutrition

Students focused on the healthy lifestyle and dietary requirements of pregnant women. They identified the nutritional needs, emotional and physical challenges, daily requirements during pregnancy at home and the workplace. Students discussed the Equality Act for pregnant women and also identified ways to support women at home, at work and in the community.

"Poverty is not an accident.  
Like slavery and apartheid,  
it is man-made and  
can be removed by  
the actions of  
human beings."

"I never lose.  
I either win or learn!"

"It always seems  
impossible until  
it's done"

"Social equality  
is the only basis  
of human happiness"

- Nelson Mandela

"No one is born  
hating another person  
because of the  
colour of his skin,  
or his background,  
or his religion. People  
must learn to hate  
and if they can learn  
to hate, they can  
be taught to love, for  
love comes more naturally  
to human hearts than  
its opposite"

"It is not our diversity  
which divides us; it  
is not our ethnicity,  
or religion or culture  
that divides us. Since  
we have achieved  
our freedom, there  
can only be one  
division among us:  
between who cherish  
democracy and those  
who don't"

Tasin Haron, Year 10