



# Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

## Week Commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021



**Ethos statement:** We believe that through individual commitment, self-discipline, integrity and respect for others, we inspire everyone to learn.

### Year 10 News – Ms Gavin

Year 10 have had a great start to the new academic year! They have settled into their option subjects. Ms Douglas and I have had some amazing feedback from staff about how many students have come back with a positive attitude and have thrown themselves into their studies.

As a year group, we are concentrating on and encouraging acts of kindness and I am pleased to say that I have seen this in numerous lessons. Students are supporting each other in their work by offering explanations and suggestion to each other to give a better understanding of what they are learning about. This is so nice to see.

We have also had a number of students who have started to gain positive logs for kindness. So far Suada Lala and Jaydan Parkes have the most.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and many more successes.

### Mindful Conversations - Easing the Transition to Secondary – Ms Ramirez

Moving from primary to secondary school might be exciting for some children, but for others it can bring worry and anxiety.

We understand that this transition to 'big' school' is tough for some. That's why pupils are supported throughout the process by a network of staff, including tutors, class teachers, Heads of Year, the school nurse, counsellors, and pastoral leaders. So rest assured that your child is in expert hands!

There are often four main concerns for children moving into secondary school to look out for:

- Getting lost
- Being around older pupils
- Managing the workload
- Making friends

With time, reassurance, and organisational pointers, most children adjust well to this new stage with a little support from us.

However, there are things you can also do to contribute to your child's smooth transition. Here are a few pointers for having conversations that help them move from dependency to being independent:

1. **Listen** - Ask your child how it's going - what has been easy and what is more challenging? Find out who their friends are, what teachers/subjects they like or dislike, and what they do during break. Avoid interrupting or correcting - this is *their* experience.
2. **Connect** - Whatever judgments you may have about their experience, keep them to yourself! Instead, try to put yourself in their shoes and acknowledge their feelings, positive or negative. This creates empathy; it shows them that you are interested in them, and that it is safe to talk to you about whatever they're feeling.
3. **Remember** - Think back to your own experience of transitioning to secondary and connect with the feelings you had. Tell them your stories!
4. **Role model** - Good habits are learned! Show them by doing - how you plan, organise and manage your own time at home and at work.

If you feel worried about anything that your child is going through, remember that we are here to support **you** as well! If these conversations bring your own emotions or anxieties to the surface, it is best to discuss them with another adult rather than adding to your child's anxiety. All you need to do is reach out to our Parent/Carer Liaison, Jemma Hughes by emailing her at: [Jemma.hughes@southfieldsacademy.com](mailto:Jemma.hughes@southfieldsacademy.com)

Together we can support your child, and you, to make a smooth transition to Southfields Academy!



## Thought for the Week

The planet does not need more "successful people". The planet desperately needs more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers and lover of all kinds. — Dalai Lama



### Year 7 Art – Ms Simms-Brown

I would like to highlight some ADT artwork, from Mr Reis Year 7 class last week. They have been working in a group to create some amazing Pop Art compositions.

The students worked in teams to create artwork inspired by their own understanding of Michael Craig-Martin's Pop Art creations and here are some images to share.



# KEEP IT ACTIVE



**MUAY THAI SELF DEFENCE**  
**EVERY WEDS SEPT 29 - NOV 3**  
**6:45PM - 7:45PM**  
**FROM 12+ YEARS**

**ST JOHN THE DEVINE CHURCH HALL, GARRATT LN SW18 4EH**  
**CONTACT 07990772751 TO FIND OUT MORE**



### Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Open Morning  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Open morning  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Open Morning  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Year 12 Meet the Tutor Evening  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Year 19<sup>th</sup> Careers Fair  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Year 11 Parents' Evening  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 – Academy Breaks for Half Term





## Southfields Academy celebrates Black History Month – this year's theme is Proud to Be . . . – Ms Atley



Southfields Academy is celebrating Black History Month through assemblies, history and PSE lessons and dedicated tutor time activities.

Staff were also asked for recommendations of artists, books or films that students and their families might like to enjoy this October.

### **Black and British: A short, essential history by David Olusoga**

This is the young person's version of his book, but I would recommend everyone to read it as a short introduction to Black British History. 9MSH are lucky enough to be reading this book as a class this month!

Here are a few staff recommendations:

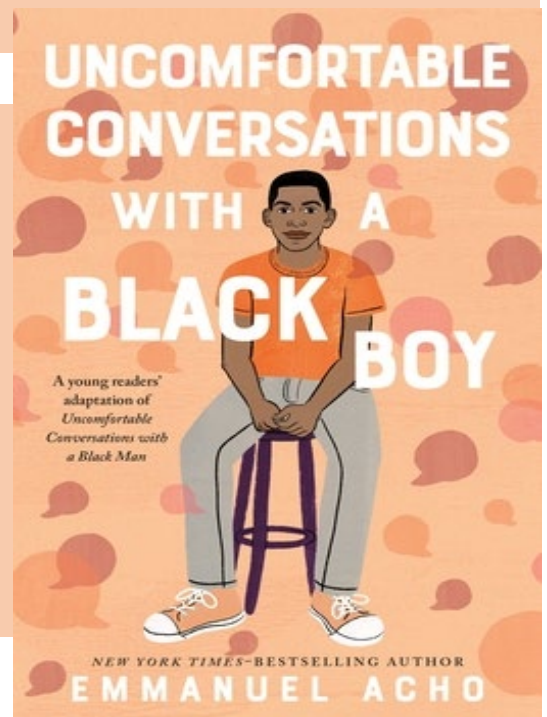
### **The film "Hidden Figures"**

The story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space

### **Uncomfortable conversations with a Black Boy by Emmanuel Acho**

Staff comment: "I loved this book - It was a super good reading which I did for my own children 11 and 14 as a night time 'family read', that gives so much for conversation starters about awkward, taboo, and uncomfortable topics that come up from questions that Acho uses as a great way to portrait what black people in modern times have to live with.

This is the children's version of his book for adults in which he talks of his own experience with race and racism (I listened to an interview about it) —from the time when he attended majority-white prep schools, about his time in the NFL as an outstanding player on majority-black football teams."



### **Kevin Hart's Guide to Black History**

This is a Netflix comedy special that is a fantastic watch for both adults and children. Presented in a family sitcom style with Hart teaching his daughter about both well-known and lesser-known important Black individuals, this is a really informative insight into African-American history.





## Noughts and Crosses series by Malorie Blackman

Malorie Blackman is also inspirational in herself, as she is the first black Children's Laureate, and advocates for the representation of black children in fiction.

## Steve McQueen's "Uprising" three-part documentary series on BBC iplayer

(Warning: it does contain upsetting scenes and racist language - so only recommended for KS4 and KS5). It is about the 1981 New Cross fire where 13 teenagers died, the cultural context, racism in Britain and the early 1980s, and those who campaigned against it.

Highly recommended.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000y3kq/uprising-series-1-1-fire>

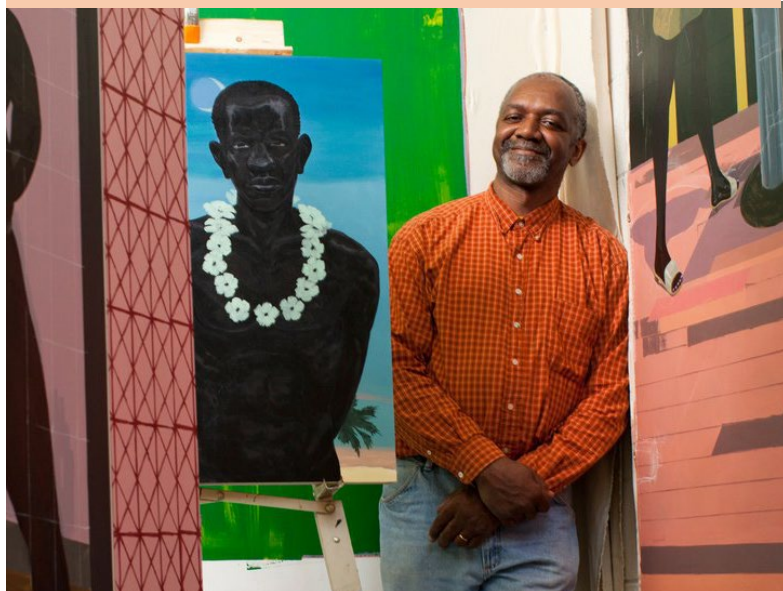


## David Olusuga's series on BBC iplayer Black and British a forgotten history.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b082x0h6/black-and-british-a-forgotten-history>

Check of the artwork of Kerry James Marshall.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/08/09/the-epic-style-of-kerry-james-marshall>



## Family Learning Festival 2021

In a series of workshops and courses, during the autumn half term and beyond, learn new skills together as a family, including coding and podcasts, and support children to achieve at school.

If you are interested in finding out more – please follow the link:

<https://www.wandsworthlifelonglearning.org.uk/guide/family-learning-festival/>





## Open Evening

On Thursday, the Academy held a very successful Open Evening. This was for prospective new parents and members of the community to visit the Academy and see us in action.

There were hair raising experiments and interactive experiences in science, wonderful student work on display in the DT courtyard, cookies to taste, being baked in the catering suite, athletic displays and dance from PE and of course a wide range of music, performed al fresco by students from the music department.



Many of our visitors took time to comment:

"The ADT and Science classes were awesome!"

"The Academy has so much more to offer than I first thought!"

"Viewing the SEND was amazing and I am even more impressed now than I was before."

"What a lovely school."

"I already thought that it was good, but it is amazing."

"I liked that the teachers gave fun tasters of their respective subjects."

"Very engaging staff and environment is very comfortable."

"We loved the whole tour, science labs, performing arts and outside facilities!"

"Very informative, great teachers, lovely environment."

"Love it lots!"

We would like to thank all the student helpers who gave up their time in the evening to demonstrate activities and show people around the site. You were all amazing and a credit to the Academy.