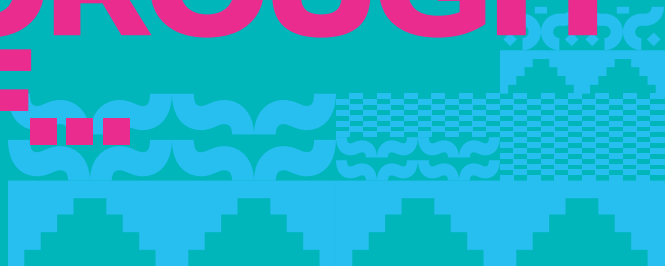


LONDON'S BOROUGH OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURE
LONDON'S BOROUGH OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURE
LONDON'S BOROUGH OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURE
LONDON'S BOROUGH OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURE
LONDON'S BOROUGH OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURE
LONDON'S BOROUGH OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURES OF CULTURE



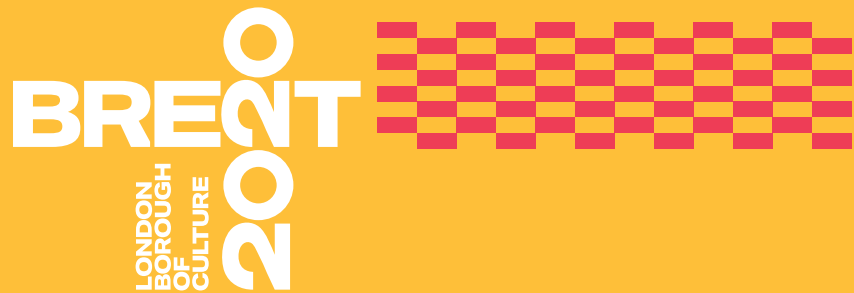
BRENT, THE BOROUGH OF...



BRENT
LONDON
BOROUGH
OF
CULTURE
2020



BRENT, THE BOROUGH OF...



Brent

MAYOR OF LONDON



CITY
LONDON



Wembley
Park

METRO
LAND
CULTURE

LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE IS A MAYOR OF LONDON INITIATIVE,
SUPPORTED BY THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S CHARITY, CITY BRIDGE TRUST.



FOREWORD: A LETTER TO OUR EDUCATORS

We want to thank all the educators, schools and settings who have played a vital role in our year for taking part, turning up, supporting us and working with us to ensure every child and educator could access the programme and opportunities it has brought in what has been a most extraordinary year none of us will ever forget.

Together, we brought joy. Bringing Brent's icons to your screens, art to the streets and crisis funding to artists. We got you talking about what-matters-right-now, got you dancing to reggae in your front rooms and created spaces to come together at a time when we have needed community more than ever.

Brent 2020 has ignited a movement in the borough, one where arts and culture become part of the fabric of our community. This starts with our young people and children and a commitment to assuring their cultural futures in the borough. As we move into 2021, we will not be the Borough of Culture but some of the Culture Fund projects delivered by our wonderful Brent partners will happen and will continue to remember Brent's history, heritage and stories – we only just scratched the surface this year and there is so much more to celebrate and to tell. We have also launched a Local Cultural Education Partnership to ensure **Brent's creative and cultural future** is secure.

We will always be the Borough of Cultures.

Lois Stonock,
Artistic Director, Brent 2020,
and the Brent 2020 team.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO

This is us.

This is Brent.

We are English and Irish, Indian and Windrush,

We are Somali, Italian, Romanian, Chinese.

We sing in temples, in pubs and in stadiums.

We speak on the high-roads, in the libraries
(shush),

and on the Bakerloo line.

From Stonebridge to Cricklewood

From Queensbury to Queens Park

From Kilburn to Kensal Green,

We are mixing, melding, sharing, cooking,
dancing, praising, raising, playing.

We are unplanned and unfiltered,

We are the first place people come to
and the place people stay.

We are the past, the present and the future.

This is us.

This is Brent.

We are not just a borough of culture,

We are the Borough of Cultures.

The Blueprint Collective





EDUCATORS' MANIFESTO

We have the best jobs in the world because we are The Brent Teachers of Art.

Our mission is to give our students access to joy, challenge, uniqueness, exploration and imagination through the activities that we set in our magical art rooms or creative spaces.


With our help, our students undertake journeys of self discovery and transformation. We challenge their thinking, we challenge stereotypes and create safe spaces for them to be individuals as well as feeling valued members of a community.

We thrive to make independent, confident and creative thinkers who care about society and their community and we hope that the lessons that we teach give each of our students the tools to be the masters of their own destiny.

Our art rooms are inclusive, they are for everyone and all can achieve in them.

As Picasso is claimed to have said, "Every child is an artist," and this is why we need to teach art and continue to fight for arts education in all our schools so that our young people continue to be artists.

Andria Zafirakou, MBE



Andria teaches at Alperton Community School and won the 2018 Global Teacher Prize. She is the founder of the charity Artists in Residence.



THIS IS THE BOROUGH OF CULTURES

JAN — DEC 2020
RENT2020.CO.UK



THIS IS LONDON'S BOROUGH OF CULTURES

THIS IS LONDON'S BOROUGH OF CULTURES

THIS IS THE BOROUGH OF CULTURES (repeated multiple times in yellow and blue)



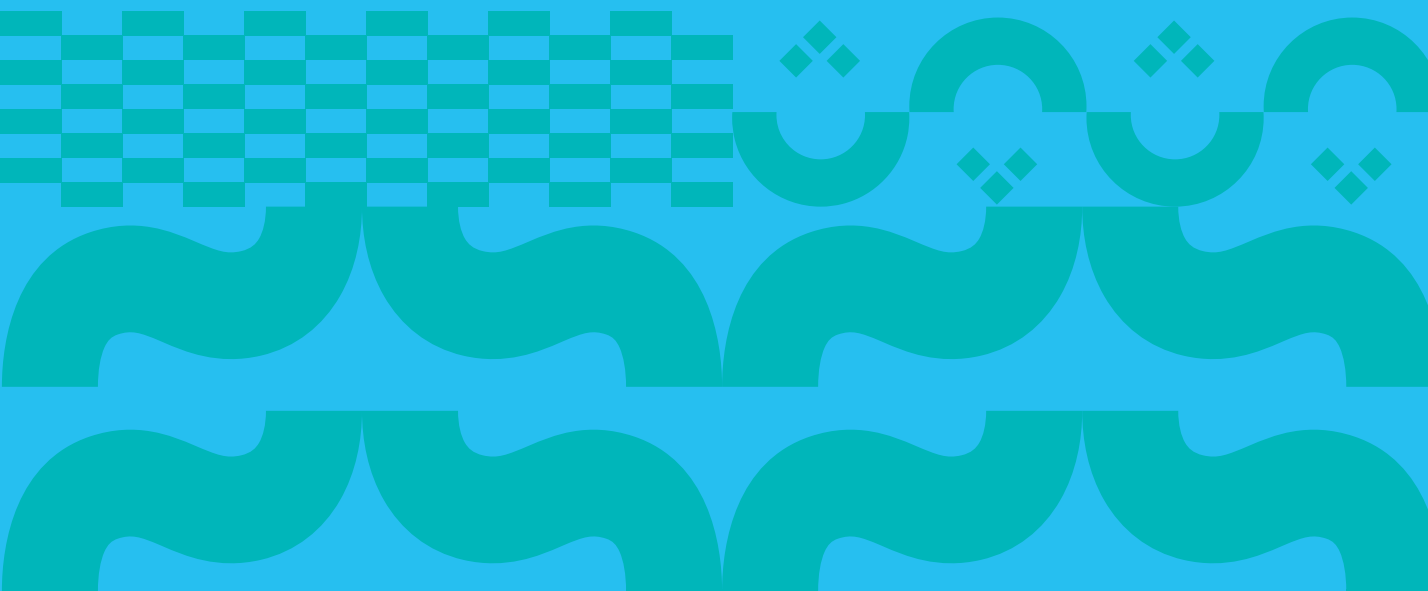
ABOUT THIS BOOK

Hi there! And welcome to our book. It's lovely to have you stop by...

On 1 December 2020, educators from across Brent came together for an hour-long online session where they worked together to create this book commemorating Brent's year as London's Borough of Culture.

Before you go any further, we'd love you to put some of these songs on in the background whilst you have a read.

We all know how much music can lift our spirits and souls. Whether it's a song that gets you going in the morning or a memorable school performance, these are the songs that remind us most of Brent, so see this as the soundtrack to our stories.



What was chosen and why:

Dawn Penn

Wide Awake In a Dream

"My favourite song from back in the day, and still does it for me now."

Maroon 5

Girls Like You

"This is my Friday jam!"

Ralph McTell

Streets of London

"This reminds me of the first school I taught at in Brent."

Justin Timberlake

Can't Stop The Feeling

"We coordinated a whole staff performance to show the children we were thinking of them in the thick of lockdown. The song often comes back in my mind as it sums up our purpose as educators and uplifts you in those low moments. Positivity breeds positivity."

General Levy

Incredible

"This reminds me of the young energy that we all work with. It's totally uplifting."

Cliff Richard & The Young Ones

Living Doll

"It was filmed in Queens Park in the 80's and my friend's brother is in the video. It reminds me of growing up in Brent and The Young Ones was a favourite TV show of mine."

Chucki Starr

Locked Away

"He's one of my favourite Brent locals!"

Janet Kay

Silly Games

"Lovers Rock always makes me think of Brent."

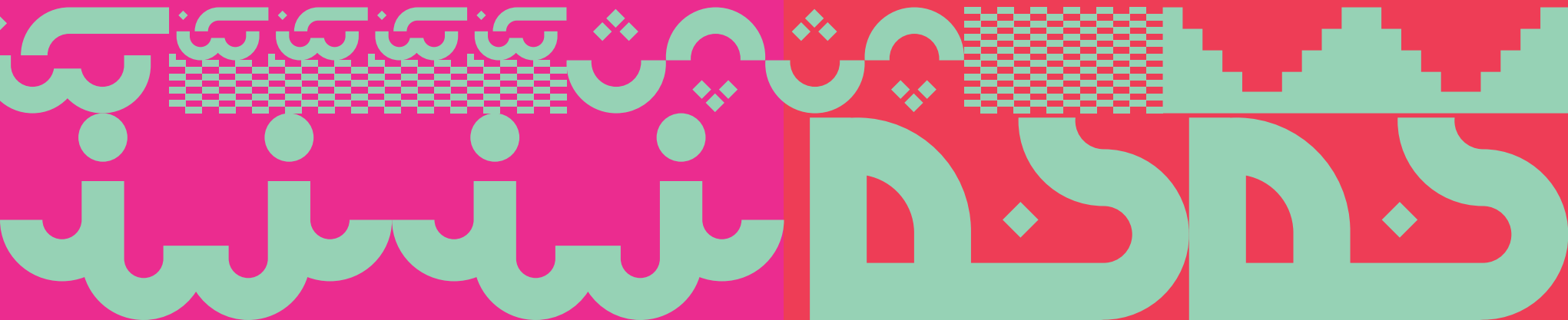
Bob Marley

Don't Worry, Be Happy

"Does what it says on the tin!"

CONTENTS

Our Home	24
Our Place	50
Our Stories	72
Our Future	102







THE

THE LIBRARY

The Library
Hendon Green
Opening times
Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm
Saturdays and Sundays
10am to 3pm
Brent



CHAPTER ONE

OUR HOME

People from Brent tend to be very proud to call it Home. And so in this chapter we explore what it means to the people who live, work and spend time here, from our educators to the young people we know.

We'll find out how they describe the borough, where they like to spend time, and the new spots that they've discovered during 2020.

OUR BRENT IS...

Brent has not only been 2020's London Borough of Culture, but it's the London Borough of Cultures. These are the words that spring to mind when us educators from across the borough think of Brent.

friendship
kind
creative
motivation helpful wonderful
large noisy vibrant
colourful special people
diverse
family roots friendly
happening home
surprising delightful
education government

INSPIRATION IN AN HOUR

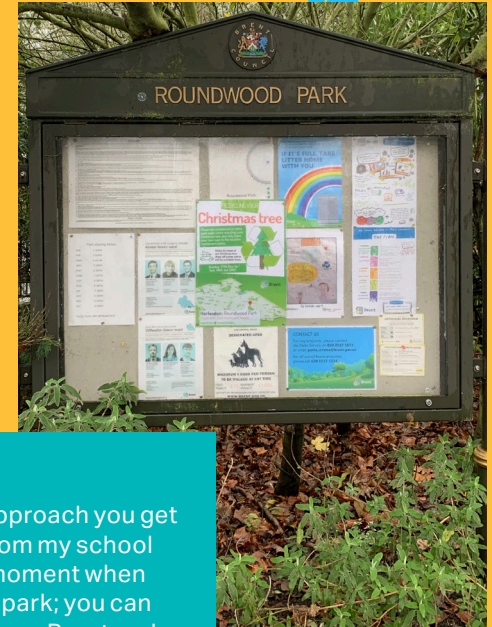
Whatever your mood, the weather or the time of day, Brent is full of inspiring places to spark creative thinking and ideas.

These are some of the spots that deserve a moment of your time – even if it is just a quick stroll during your lunchbreak!



Fryent Country Park
NW9 9SE

"With multiple entrances to this vast space, it's super easy to access. When there you feel like you're out of London, with fruit orchards and the natural environment for all to enjoy."



Roundwood Park
NW10 3SH

"I love the unassuming approach you get when you walk up to it from my school and then that amazing moment when you reach the top of the park; you can see Wembley and all across Brent and then there's the cemetery; it's like the past and future all in one view."



Stadium Shopping Arena
HA9 0FD

"I love popping to the shops there, they've always got everything you need."



BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
NW10 8LD
"The pinnacle of modern Brent – it's an architectural marvel. A place that's both inspiring and uplifting."



Lexi Cinema
NW10 3JU
"A wonderful local cinema, but you may end up spending a bit longer than an hour in there"



Welsh Harp
NW9 8SE
"A little sanctuary within the busy life in Brent. A place to walk, picnic and be calm. Spot wetland birds that you wouldn't usually see in a city (I think Bill Oddie used to bird watch there)."



AND SOME FOR YOU TO DISCOVER...

Blue Ginger Restaurant

HA3 0XS

"This Kenton restaurant has such yummy food. Don't miss out on the chilli paneer."

The Wembley Stadium area

HA9 0WS

"I started working nearby in 2015 and it amazes me how the area has changed in the last few years, plus I love the Civic Centre building structure."

Fenwick's at Brent Cross Shopping Centre

NW4 3FN

"I love the way the clothes are displayed – the symphony of colours, textures and forms."

SECRET SPOTS

We also love seeking out those hidden nooks and crannies, and Brent's packed full of them.

These are the places that you only discover after spending some real time in the area.



"From **Kingsbury Lane** on a clear day, in the far distance, you can see the Apex of the Shard as far afield as London Bridge!"



"In front of **College Green Nursery** on Hardinge Road there is a tree trunk where neighbours have set up a small world, according to festivities at the time of year and seasons. For Christmas, fairies and elves have taken up residence. It makes me happy to see the detail that's gone into every little piece that makes up the scene."

"The **coffee shop at Willesden Green Library** is one of my favourite spots to take a breather in. Calming, a good place to chill and reflect with a book, and a coffee – not forgetting a croissant."



"In **Wembley Church** I feel God's presence. It makes me feel safe and secure, free from the world and all that's going on."

"**All Saints' Queensbury** is a secret haven of calm and makes me feel safe, peaceful and tranquil. When there, I feel like all is well and remember the bigger picture."



"The **launderette on Preston Road** has amazing light. I love photographing the area, and of course the washing machines too!"

"**Willow Nursery** feels like one big family. Warm, welcoming and filled with the beautiful sound of children, always leaving me proud."

"Sitting outdoors and watching the ducks always feels so surreal at the **Grand Junction Arms pub** by the canal."



"The place is **Harlesden Gardens**. It looks and feels like real London, like a place that feels like home but is only a stone's throw away from where the action is. The impression it leaves on me is 'if this is good enough for Louis D Theroux, it's good enough for me'."

WHAT HOME MEANS TO US

We asked the children and young people we educate, from early years through to secondary school, to respond creatively to the theme of 'My Home'.

Some even sent us in a self-portrait to accompany their art!



In Brent Multiculture people live.

There is Education Service Support.

Wide range of learning Places and close Partnership

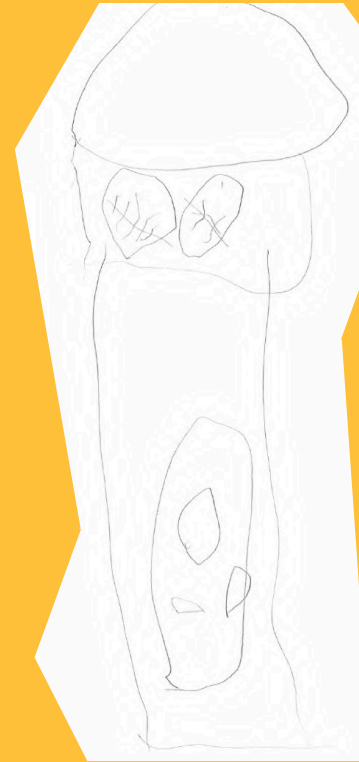
I am proud to be growing up in Brent because I live in Brent for 10 years. Brent has good facilities eg. Schools, swimming pool, cinemas and a big stadium

This is my small house
warm and cozy house

House is small but it is
my house

clean and tidy is my
house lets keep it clean

This is my small house
warm and cozy house



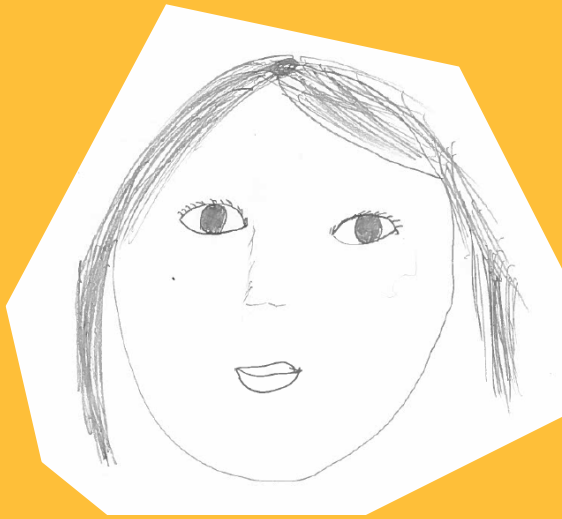


Q:- 3 words to describe Brent

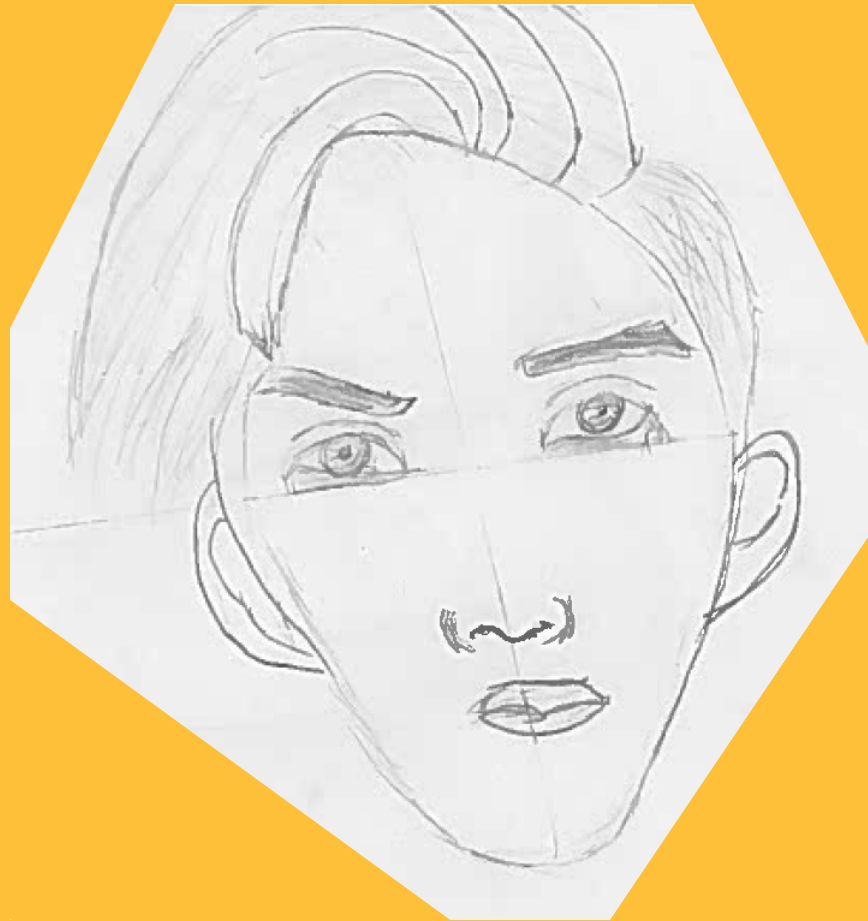
- ① diverse different races, religions, cultures.
- ② Crowded with lots of peoples arounds
- ③ lots of shops easy for shopping

Q:- I'm proud to be growing up here because, I get lots of opportunities and the society is diversity and job opportunities





ننننن



بازی با رنگ و خط

BRIGHT SPARKS

Home is where the heart is, and we're proud that such a wide range of young people can call Brent theirs.

We had a think about why all the children, whether 3 or 17, will be proud to be growing up in the borough.

They can be themselves! In such a diverse community they don't have to fit into a particular stereotype set by the rest of the community.

The schools in Brent offer many opportunities for their futures.

The young people I work with are lucky enough to be surrounded by friends, family and the security of feeling connected to their communities.



I think that the young people I work with are proud to be growing up in Brent because it's a real place. It's real London at it's most diverse and dynamic. It's no longer a place to escape from but a place to aspire to be.

Brent is simply the best place to be!

Young people have access to support groups like SWAY where they can go after school to hang out, and therefore can engage with productive ways to spend their time.



NOT JUST A BOROUGH OF CULTURE THIS IS THE BOROUGH OF CULTURE

JANUARY 2020

EXPLORING THE STORIES, ART AND EMOTIONS THAT HOLD LIFE IN BREXIT TOGETHER.

BREXIT 2020
LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE

FOUNDING PARTNERS

MAYOR OF LONDON
CITY OF LONDON

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
HERITAGE FUND

Infosys
Navigate your next

Wates

MAYOR OF LONDON
LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE IS A MAYOR OF LONDON INITIATIVE SUPPORTED BY THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION





CHAPTER **TWO**

OUR PLACE

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic has affected us as a collective, there have also been nuances in how we've individually experienced 2020.

Here are some of the things we discovered about ourselves, and our surroundings.



I love nights in!

2020 has taught me about the sheer importance of people. Every conversation in the staff room, by the photocopier, in the corridor is worth something and it all adds up.

I've realised how important social interactions and touch are to me.

I've learnt to appreciate how much I already have in my life, and how lucky I really am.

The importance of routine to give purpose has been the best lesson of this year for me.

I value the people and spaces around me more.

This year's taught me that you never know what's going to happen or how something may play out. My sister died in July this year. I used to phone her every day and now she's gone. This year I am stronger than I've ever been.

I've learnt that we as a community still need to develop a stronger sense of social responsibility.

I now know how to stay at home! Before I was always out and about, shopping or gallivanting about town, so I've learnt how to stay put.





GOOD NEWS

We can probably all agree that 2020 was a barrage of difficult news headlines.

We wanted to celebrate the snippets of positivity that have shone through the cracks. So we created some upbeat headlines for the year that's been!

***2020: THE YEAR
I REALISED...
I LOVE SCHOOL!***

***2020: THE
YEAR THAT
SHOWED US...
HOW AMAZING
WE ARE
AS A
COMMUNITY!***



*2020: THE YEAR I
ACHIEVED
IN WAYS I NEVER
KNEW I COULD*

*2020:
THE LAY IN
OF ALL
LAY INS!*



*2020: THE
YEAR I
LEARNED
HOW TO
SPEAK
GREEK!*

*2020: THE YEAR
THAT I
CELEBRATED
CARERS &
THE VALUABLE
WORK THEY DO!*



*2020:
SAY NO AND
PUT YOURSELF
FIRST
SOMETIMES!*

*2020: THE
YEAR-LONG
LESSON IN
GRATITUDE*



*2020:
ENJOY LIFE
AT A
SLOWER PACE*





RESOURCEFUL RESILIENCE

In times of change and transience educators have to be extra resourceful. Whether drawing on emotional strength or continuously injecting creativity into learning, we're curious about where our best resources come from.

We've collated all the different things we turn to, to keep doing what we do.

My colleagues, the
Twittersphere, and
my students.

Psalms from The Bible,
humming along to songs,
and painting.

Plenty of coffee,
my go-to playlist and
Google when in doubt!

Willow Nursery
resources,
Pinterest and Art.

Friendships, my 15-year-old teaching
toolkit, and my travel mug that always
has a hot drink in it.

The children's
smiles, my
amazing staff
team and my
bullet journal.

Walks with Poppy,
our school dog,
sunrise over
London and
listening out for
children coming up
the stairs into class.



Guitars, ukuleles, violins, pianos, and actually, literally anything that will make a sound! Music doesn't have to have expensive instruments to be interesting. There's a technique in everything if you look for it. Oh, and plectrums.



Cups of tea and laughter in the morning as we set up the nursery ready for the children to arrive, outdoor space and playdough.

Loud music to wake me up each morning, time out to draw and visits to galleries and museums.

Perusing libraries, wandering around parks and drawing on my spirituality.

Brainteasers, interactive learning tools and creative, dynamic resources.



OUR IMPACT

Our jobs can be demanding and challenging, yet there are always those moments of reward that can lighten up our day.

These are the moments when we most realise the impact of what we do...

When I see the smiles on children's faces, when a joke is shared. Or that return hug at the end of the day when they dash to meet their carer, then return back for a hug and say thank you.


My reward is when progress is made, whether small or large. It's great when work reaches a varied audience and doesn't fit stereotypes.

When I see pupils after they come back from summer holidays and how they're welcomed by the staff, it's always a joyous occasion.

When I see the progress that children make. For example, we had a pre verbal, partially sighted, non-mobile child who responded with a vocalisation and a HUGE smile when taking part in a "bucket time" session. It brought tears to my eyes.



When the pupils are excited and eager to learn through the experiences we have planned. Even in moments they may not fully grasp a lesson. But I feel my impact mostly when I realise that we are the most stable community in some children's daily lives.



When I see the joy these children experience from coming to school. They rush in through the gates and leave with so much to tell their family.

I always feel the impact of what I do when I bump into children I taught years ago, who are now grown adults and parents, and we realise that I'm now teaching their own children.

When you get to see how children progress through the school year, growing with confidence. Also, when parents tell you, "My child says that you taught him/her that, thank you!".

When you see the joy on a child's face when they engage fully in experiences that you have planned and created. Also, when you see a child reach a development milestone especially when it has been a challenge to get there. Utterly rewarding.

When a child steps forward to show me a skill that they probably haven't shared with anyone else. As a music teacher, I get to see these things regularly but I find it really special when a child offers something new. They want to contribute and stand out.

OUR STORIES

**What's the untold history of Brent,
and what's in store for the borough?**

**We started looking back at some of
the most prominent things that
happened in or affected Brent over
the past 100 years – exploring
social, cultural, political and
personal moments.**

**And even in these unpredictable
times, we gazed deep into our crystal
balls to make some predictions for
the next 100 too – make sure you
come along for the ride!**



1968

BRENT LONDON BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTION

1980

MOVE TO THE AREA AND BEGIN TO FOSTER LOVE FOR ALL OF THE DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES HERE

1984

IN MARCH, OVER 150,000 PEOPLE GO ON STRIKE TO PROTEST AGAINST WIDESPREAD CLOSURES IN THE INDUSTRY. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, NO MINES IN BRENT BUT THE AREA CONTRIBUTES TO A NATIONWIDE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT FOR THE MINERS

1988

BECAME A PIRATE RADIO DJ IN A NOW DEMOLISHED TOWER BLOCK IN STONEBRIDGE (AWESOME YEAR!)

1992

EXPLOSION AT STAPLES CORNER CAUSES FEAR AND HEAVY DISRUPTION TO TRAFFIC

2007

WEMBLEY STADIUM REOPENS AND THE AREA EXPERIENCES HUGE GROWTH INCLUDING LEISURE, SHOPS AND HOUSING

2012

THE OLYMPIC TORCH IS LIFTED

2015

THE YEAR MY SCHOOL BURNS DOWN AND 600 STUDENTS ARE DISPLACED AS A RESULT. WE CARRY ON REGARDLESS, KEEP THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND WITHIN WEEKS ARE BACK TO TEACHING THEM. WE DON'T GIVE UP

2018

KATE MIDDLETON VISITS ROE GREEN JUNIOR SCHOOL TO HIGHLIGHT AWARENESS OF THE MENTALLY HEALTHY SCHOOLS WEBSITE. MY DAUGHTER WAS ECSTATIC

2020

APPRECIATION FOR BEING ABLE TO COME TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY GROWS

2020

THE YEAR I REDISCOVERED ME

2022

WE MAKE IT OUT OF LOCKDOWN, FOREVER

2025

EACH AND EVERY PERSON WILL BE TREATED WITH EQUAL RESPECT

2027

BRENT HAS A BLACK CHIEF EXECUTIVE

2028

ONE OF OUR STUDENTS INVENTS THE CURE FOR CANCER

76

2030

BRENT IS THE FIRST BOROUGH IN LONDON TO ERADICATE GANGS AND KNIFE CRIME. THROUGH ITS INVESTMENT IN MENTORING PROGRAMMES, YOUTH WORKERS, YOUTH CENTRES, AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES, BRENT HAS GIVEN DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN HOPE, VISION AND PRACTICAL HELP TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

2035

BRENT BECOMES THE MUSICAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD – WITH SO MANY PEOPLE FULL OF MANY TALENTS AND INTERESTS, IT’S INEVITABLE

2038

BRENT OPENS ITS OWN MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

2040

NO MORE GANGS!

2050

ONE OF THE CHILDREN I HAVE TAUGHT BECOMES PRIME MINISTER

2055

ALL SERVICES RUN SMOOTHLY, FAIRLY AND SAFELY FOSTERING CLEANER, SAFER AND RESPECTFUL BRENT. BRENT WILL BE EVIDENTLY GREENER

2060

TAKE EARLY RETIREMENT, MOVE OUT OF LONDON AND START FOSTERING CHILDREN LONG TERM

2120

PAUSE TO LOOK BACK ON THE LAST 100 YEARS OF UNPREDICTABILITY!





سنة
العمل



سنة
العمل



BRENT ICONS

As of December 2020, Brent only has one blue plaque! We're setting out to put a wrong to right and big up all the people and things that deserve recognition.

So, let's celebrate...





**ANDREA
BEDEAU**

Inspires me to think
outside the box and not
pigeon-hole myself.

An incredible educator

All the teachers of

**STONEBRIDGE
SCHOOL**

Who have to battle through the
storms of each day and still have
a smile to share.

CLARY SANDY

A wonderful artist and
costume Maker who inspired
me to become a teacher and
educator.

Founder of Mahogany Arts

BRENT MAYOR

He's made me feel that I can
join politics and contribute
as a prominent member of
society.

2019-2020

**CAROLYN
DOWNS**

She has been a true warrior and mentor throughout 2020.

Brent Council's Chief Executive 2015 -

Site of Music House

**TROJAN
RECORDS
HQ**

They inspire me to seek out new music in the nooks and crannies of local scenes. You never know what you'll find.

12 Neasden Lane, Willesden NW10 2XH



THE VALUE OF CREATIVE EDUCATION

There's nothing like a global pandemic to make us appreciate the things that sometimes pass us by.

So here we share what 2020 has taught us about the important value of creative education.

Creative education is both enriching and exciting. It supports us to work collaboratively and to improvise, and that undoubtedly improves an educator's resilience.

It's so important because it gives children an amazing opportunity to share their ideas. Creativity is also a fantastic life skill.

2020 has taught me that the value of creative education cannot be underestimated. It is so important! One of the most enjoyable creative things I did this year was making masks out of the pockets of my blouses, just so that they would match.

Creative education is priceless, supporting people's wellbeing. This year we have had to be creative in our teaching, encouraging daily home learning and supporting parents to support their child's development using things from around the home. Without creative education we are just left with rote learning and where's the fun in that?

It's so very precious because it has kept pupils, parents, staff and the entire school community connected, learning and upskilling in ways we did not fully explore prior to Lockdown.



Adding meaning to a person's life. Because it is important to help young people find that thing that makes them feel special. Something that brings them closer to others through a talent or skill and something that will teach them self-reliance and resilience through difficult times.

This year I've gained a better understanding of how to support parents with educating their children at home. We've had to pivot, creating and sending homework via email to families.

It's essential for children's development, behaviour and progress. It helps them to open their minds to different opportunities and possibilities. Creativity has no limits; it shows that the arts has no limits either.

Creative educators are so aware of pupil needs and go above and beyond to meet those needs. We have not closed throughout lockdown and all our teams have worked tirelessly and cohesively – support staff, teachers, therapists, parents, and senior leaders. It's been a partnership of caring and support for all stakeholders.

Creative education is magical because it allows you to be innovative, dynamic and different!

The Covid era has taught us to be more creative, using Zoom and other social media. In addition, we've had the opportunity to look inwards to reassess and revamp ourselves.



CREATIVE JOURNEYS

It's not always the end point that matters most. There's beauty in the process too – and what a joy it's been to witness how the young people we work with are transformed by education.

Here we celebrate what those journeys mean to us as educators.

The most inspiring, creative journey I've seen a child go through is an awakening in understanding of addition. This child struggled with the concept for a whole term in Year 1 then suddenly one day – whoosh... "I got it!" That eureka moment!

The children never fail to surprise me because through moments of creativity a true reflection of who they are filters through, and sparkles like stars in the night.



I once taught a young girl who was in my Year 4 class, who was a selective mute. All through the time she was at our school, she never spoke once at school. When she got to Year 6, on her graduation day she came looking for me, with the most beautiful bouquet of flowers, and a card, which read: "Miss Oriade, if there was a Nobel Prize for Teaching, you would get it!"

Going to London zoo with the kids was wonderful – they got to use the overground as transport and they absolutely loved it.



I've seen a child using the large wooden Community Playthings blocks to create an amazing large-scale model of an airplane, outside. Other children started to gather round and he allowed them to join in his play. In doing so, he invited other children to go on a journey with him. This was a huge deal for this child as he found collaborative play a challenge.

We had a child whose mark making was developing and whilst his friends could draw faces and their pictures could be identified, he was not at that stage yet. He didn't want to engage in painting and drawing until we introduced portraits by different artists like Picasso and he discovered that he could represent his ideas in different ways. He spent ages on that first portrait and then was happy to create through drawing and painting after, as he had been introduced to abstract art, cubism and surrealism.

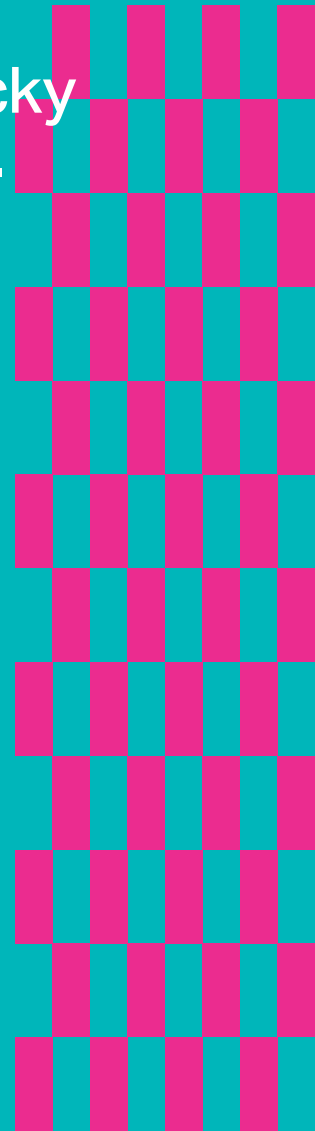
I had one child starting at school having just arrived in the country, with very little knowledge of English and in a very different environment to their home country. To see them over the course of 4 years develop into a confident, friendly, bubbly child whose thirst for learning is clear has been a WOW. They can communicate with their peers and they make an effort in every lesson despite parents who may be unable to fully support them.

My guitar student, Jay, went from knowing nothing about the guitar to auditioning for School of Rock in the West End!

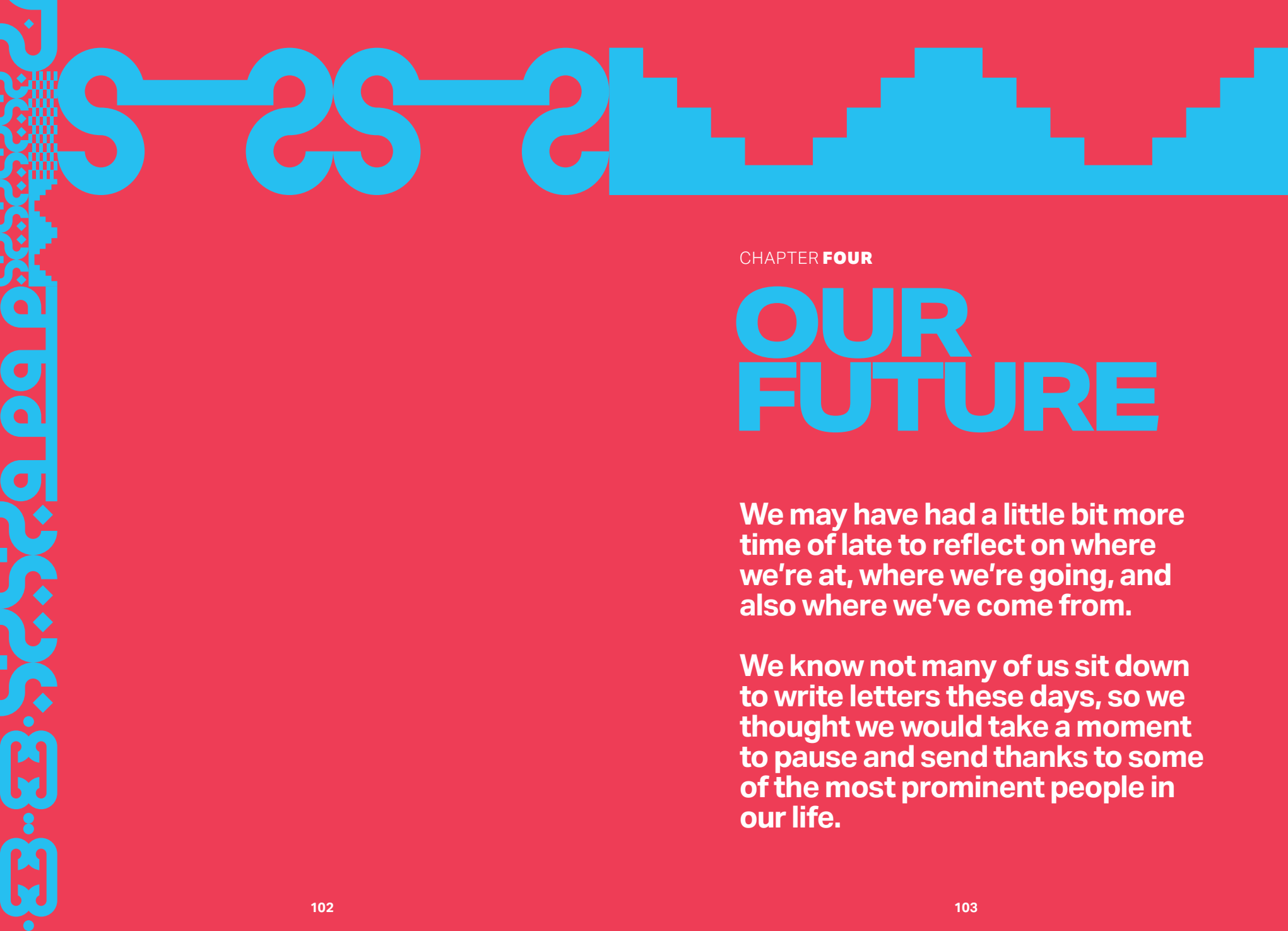
I worked with a child suffering from cerebral palsy, who used to attend Willow Nursery. He did a 2 mile walk from Alperton to Wembley Stadium to raise money for Children in Need. Later he came to visit the nursery and recalled his experience, and he recognised the staff members that took care of him.

I've loved introducing my children to Mahogany Arts, and one particular child called Max was put in touch with them 10 years ago. His contact with the organisation has built his confidence to go to university, study ceramics, and he now works as an artist and visits Mahogany Arts to help other children on their journeys.

Witnessing students that have been re-integrated back into mainstream school or gone onto successful post-16 pathways after a rocky educational journey.







CHAPTER **FOUR**

OUR FUTURE

We may have had a little bit more time of late to reflect on where we're at, where we're going, and also where we've come from.

We know not many of us sit down to write letters these days, so we thought we would take a moment to pause and send thanks to some of the most prominent people in our life.



SIGNIFICANT FIGURES

We'd like to raise a glass to all of us – the educators that keep young people's minds growing, bodies moving and horizons broadening.

We've written thank you letters to the people around us that buoy us, whether someone from our past or our present.

To my fellow educators,

Thank you for the love and care shown and given to our children. Thank you for your hard work and inspiration that supports their growth, learning and development. We celebrate all that you are doing for them.

Dear Dawn,

Thank you on behalf of all our staff both present and those who have left the school. In difficult times you showed us how to persevere, because that's we do in our school.



Dear Miss Lindsay,

Thank you for being a teacher who showed me the importance of justice and seeing the good in people. You made me want to work with children.

To my dog walking partner Becky and our school dog Poppy,

I could not have coped this year without you both. You made me laugh and kept me sane(ish). Poppy you were always there to give me a smile, lick and a wag.

To Mum, my first and best teacher,

I love you! Thank you for everything you ever taught me. Even though you never lived in Brent, I take you to school with me every day. I think about you a lot in my teaching life, most especially because you nurtured my creativity and exposed me to so many beautiful fabrics and taught me how to sew. You encouraged me to paint and always dressed me in beautiful clothes in my favourite colours. I hope the angels are looking after you. Mwah!

Dear Nicola,

Thank you for being there when those moments were hard to overcome.

To Mary Daly,

I'm so grateful for the laughter we share on a daily basis, with tears of happiness, moments that happen so randomly and unexpectedly but remain so special.

To Meera Shah,

Thank you for teaching me so much.
You are my inspiration.

To Sharine,

I am grateful that you and I began our teaching journey together and shared educating and beyond. I have learnt so much from you and am grateful for your honest feedback and motivation.

Dear Norma,

Thank you for supporting me through the setting up and running of the nursery, I'm eternally grateful to you.

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for lying about my age. I would have never even come back to education let alone go to one of the top art schools in the country (Wimbledon School of Art) and become an educator myself. A million thank you's to you, and Queen's Park Community School.

To late Edi O'Farrel ,

I am grateful for all you did beyond being a manager. Supporting me throughout my challenging traumatic days and equipping me with the survival guide for life.



A LETTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

This book wouldn't be complete without keeping the young people we work with front and centre, and so we've written them thank you letters to let them know all of the things we're grateful to them for.

To the young people
I teach and your families,

Thank you for your resilience, honesty and strength. It's amazing and inspiring how you all managed to remain so wonderful throughout lockdown.

**To the young people
I work with,**

I want you to know that these primary school years are where all the magic seeds are planted. Enjoy school, dream big and please, please share with us when you are not okay.

To the children I teach,

Remember that you are unique and you are going to do great things in your life. You can do anything that you set your mind to.



Dear young people,

Remember – there is NOTHING that you can't do. No matter how long it takes, never give up on your dream.

To all my young budding artists,

I want you to know that I am so proud of you. You continually surprise me on how quickly you learn new skills and techniques. Thank you for all the beautiful Art and Design work you have done. You've enabled me to display it around the school and make our space beautiful because of it.

To the children I teach,

You will always have my backing. Whether it's a small, creative step or imaginative leaps that make you a pioneer. You are the best – keep working hard!

To all the parents and children,

I want you to know that you are all valued and unique. We recognise your talents. We see you.



**To the young
people I work with,**

**I want you to
know that you are
our future. Be
proud of who you
are and where you
live. Be respectful
to others and our
environment.**

To the young people,

I want you to know that
you inspire me every day and
you are all amazing.

To all of the young people
I work with,

I want you to know that
what we do now in our day to
day lessons may not reflect
what you will ultimately
become in the future but
it will shape a part of whoever
you become.

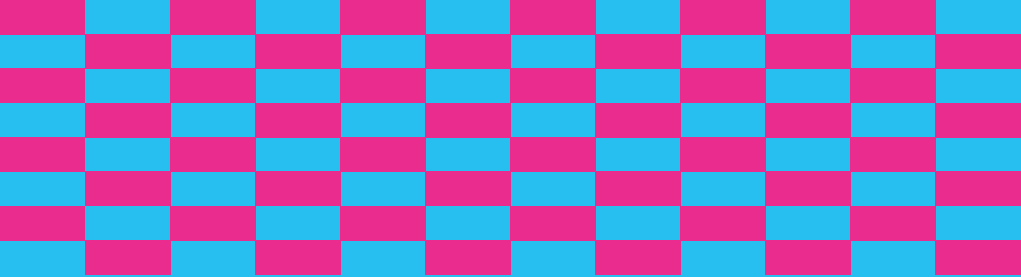




Despite a global pandemic, despite the uncertainty and fear unprecedented in Brent's history, we worked together to remember the borough in our year as Brent 2020, London Borough of Culture as a place that comes together for its community.

This book brings together the learning and reflections of our educators – Brent Key Workers – who have relentlessly adapted and supported children and young people across the year and, despite everything, have continued to prioritise art and culture in their classrooms.

THIS BOOK WAS WRITTEN BY...



Alicia Marco-Agulló
Willow Children's Centre

Andria Zafirakou
Alperton Community
School

Bola George
Brent Council

Deepa Vithlani
Elsley Primary School

Dina Oldham
The Stonebridge School

Gemma Lewis
Brent River College

Jonny McCourt
St Joseph's Roman
Catholic Primary School

Karen Zajdel
Willow Nursery

Margaret O'Connor
Manor School

Nicola Cummings
Queens Park
Community School

Nkiru Egbochuku
Wembley Central
Nursery School

Susana Duarte
Willow Nursery

Toyin Oriade
The Stonebridge School

Wendy Kelly
Jelly Tots Nursery

Image credits to
Roger Brown
for A New Direction

A NEW DIRECTION

A New Direction is a London-based non-profit, generating opportunities for children and young people to unlock their creativity.

We work with partners across education, culture and the creative industries, local government and business, to support children and young people to be creative and experience culture, while identifying areas of inequality and campaigning for policy change.

A New Direction led the Education Programme for Brent, London Borough of Culture 2020 developing creative and cultural education opportunities across the borough.

The Education Programme was produced by Alice Edwards, Chris Webb, Corinne Micallef, Dhikshana Perring, Karen Thomas, Karen Zajdel, Marina Lewis-King, Rebecca Branch, Scott Burrell and Titania Altius.

The education resources were co-created with 58 Cultural Leads and downloaded 891 times.

335
individual
educators
took part

Educators came from 120 different settings including nurseries, primaries, secondaries, Pupil Referral Units, SEND Schools and childminders.

We held
5 CPD
training
sessions

7 Cultural
Leadership
sessions

4 Cultural Networking events for educators to connect with artists and organisations

The programme was
further supported by
65 Cultural Champions.

WHO IS B+A?

B+A is the fastest, most creative management consultancy in the world. With studios in London, Portland Oregon, and Shanghai, we answer three questions for our clients:

**What's going on around us?
Where should we go next?
and
How do we get the best
from our people?**

We work for a world of cultural, charitable, and profitable enterprise and so have clients in these three sectors including Nike, Google, VSCO, and the Barbican Centre.

This book was written using our trademarked BookInAnHour™ process. Like everything we do, it's Bespoke and Accelerated (that's what the B+A stand for), to ensure maximum engagement, creativity, forward momentum, and usefulness.

We've loved being part of this process and we can't wait to hear stories of how you've used this book, so don't hesitate to contact us anytime.

**All the best,
Giulia Macgarr and Robi Wood**

projects@bandaequals.com

**B
+ A**

