

Creating a buzz

Julia Johnson, Assistant Head: Teaching and Learning at Emanuel School in Battersea reflects on the importance of a vibrant teaching and learning culture

If there's one thing 2020 has proven, it's the need for schools to be communities where pupils regularly experience joy and wonder. From their first day at Emanuel, pupils feel the tangible buzz of a happy classroom while learning skills needed in a rapidly evolving world. They could be coding in computing, design and robotics, or learning about perspective for the new photography A-level. Our unique ethos curriculum provides an introduction to philosophy, politics and rhetoric which pupils love for the chance to "express your feelings and learn how to be a better person" (Max, year seven) and "face a problem and solve it ethically" (Jessica, year eight).

Pupils delight in ideas beyond the curriculum, with more than 400 submitting independent projects as part of a competition to explore how our world might adapt

in response to the pandemic. A society established in memory of historian and Old Emanuel, Tony Judt, allows sixth formers to deliver papers on interests ranging from



Emanuel is clearly on the up and there's a tangible buzz about the place. Pupils and staff are proud of their school, and parents rave about the 'newly aspirational culture'.

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Mesopotamian religious belief to the ethics of cochlear implants. Entrants to the Emanuel Essay Prize, inaugurated to foster independent writing, cover topics from Nigeria's emerging male ballet scene to the future of LGBTQ+ activism and the contradictory presentations of hope in classical mythology.

We pride ourselves on being a reflective, innovative community. A group of staff is currently engaged in research into remote learning with the UCL Centre for Educational Leadership, and staff are always thinking of ways to share their passions, whether through science podcasts or the maths department's burgeoning YouTube channel. It's richly rewarding to see sixth formers recreating the buzz of an Emanuel classroom in their weekly teaching of subjects from Latin to filmmaking to pupils from 18 state primary schools. At Emanuel, the future is certainly bright. 🌟