

House System



Upon the discovery that Sir John Cass had been directly connected with the slave trade in Britain, it was decided that any continued link between his name and the school conflicted with our pledge to oppose all forms of racism, discrimination and inequality.

As a result, in August 2020, following consultation with the Board of Governors, staff, students and members of the community, a new name for the school was agreed and our school became Stepney All Saints Church of England Secondary School.

We also decided to introduce a House System, with each house name being carefully selected in order to reflect our commitment to being an anti-racist school, striving for ethnically-diverse equity.

At Stepney All Saints, there are seven Houses. These are; Equiano, Ignatius, Mala, Prince, Seacole, Tull and Windrush.

Our houses are named after people and/or events which have had an important role in shaping today's Britain. Their qualities, as British figures or organisations who have taken a stand against racism or who have done something of huge significance regarding the representation of ethnic minorities in Britain, reflect the values, ethos and beliefs of our entire school community.

House System



Why do we have a House system at Stepney All Saints?

The House system encourages collegiality and healthy inter-house competition, with the aim of raising achievement of all the students.

We encourage students to play an active role in the success of their House, which allows them to develop skills and talents.

House Badges

Students must wear the metal badge of their corresponding House group on their lanyard. Badges will be provided to new students on the first day of the school year. It is the student's responsibility not to lose their House badge.

The House badges help the students feel part of a team and help them easily identify other students who are in their house. They also act as a constant reminder to the students to try and earn points for their House.

Biographies



OLUADAH EQUIANO (1745– 1797)

Oluadah Equiano was an African writer whose experiences as a slave prompted him to become involved in the British abolition movement. At the age of eleven, Equiano and his sister were kidnapped and put on board a slave ship. Equiano was sold to an officer in the Royal Navy, and spent his teenage years on board Naval ships. During that time, Equiano had the opportunity to educate himself. He was then re-sold and worked in stores trading goods, saving enough money to buy his freedom.

During the 1780's Equiano became involved in the campaign for the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

CHARLES IGNATIUS SANCHO (1729–1780)

Charles Ignatius Sancho was a British abolitionist, writer and composer. Sancho grew up an orphan, and at around the age of two, he was taken to London, where he was forced to work as a slave. Ignatius taught himself to read and write and, once confident in his literacy, he spoke out against the slave trade, as well as learning how to compose music and write poetry on the subject. After his death in 1780, Sancho's letters were published in a book, which became an immediate best seller. His writing was used as evidence to support the movement to end slavery.



MALA SEN (1947–2011)

Mala Sen was a Bengali-British-Indian writer, journalist, film maker and human rights activist. Born in India, Mala moved to the UK, initially worked in sweatshops, sewing, to pay the bills. Stunned by the prejudice against immigrants, Mala joined a campaign group which fought to protect a community under attack by racists. The Bengali Housing Action Group was also founded, sourcing empty council flats for homeless Bangladeshis. They defined a safe living area for the community, thus establishing Brick Lane as the Bangladeshi heartland of Britain.



MARY PRINCE (1788-1833)

Mary Prince was a British abolitionist and autobiographer who was born into slavery. In 1828, she was brought to England. Prince was illiterate, but narrated her life story to an author who wrote her slave narrative which was published as 'The History of Mary Prince' in 1831. This was the first account of the life of a black slave woman to be published in the United Kingdom.



MARY SEACOLE (1805-1881)

Mary Seacole was a British-Jamaican nurse and businesswoman who set up the 'British Hotel' behind the lines during the Crimean War, after being rejected from Florence Nightingale's nurses because of the colour of her skin. She provided humanitarian aid for wounded servicemen on the battlefield, nursing many back to health.

WALTER TULL (1888-1918)

Walter Tull was a professional football player who gave up his career to serve as a soldier in the First World War. He was the first British black army officer and the first to lead white British troops into battle. He was killed in action aged just 29. Despite being nominated, he was never awarded the Military Cross due to racist rules. Campaigns are underway to change this.



THE WINDRUSH (1948)

The Windrush is the ship that brought some of the first post-war migrants from the Caribbean to the UK to help rebuild Britain after the Second World War. The ship carried 1027 passengers and two stowaways on a voyage from Jamaica to London. Jobs to rebuild the nation included the production of steel, coal, iron and food, as well as roles in running public transport and staffing the NHS.



House Points and Rewards



Students are expected to contribute to Inter-house competitions throughout the year. Individual and team efforts are rewarded.

We hold a number of inter-house sporting and subject department competitions. Points are also awarded for participation at enrichment activities, music lessons and SASS rewards. Each of these contributes points towards the final totals which decide the overall winning House.

Staff may also reward student achievement such as: sustained effort, exemplary work, high attainment or excellent class participation. Points are also awarded for participation at charity events and helping at school events.

The culmination is reached at Sports Day, where more points are won in each event, the overall House point total calculated and the winning House announced.

