

# Lambeth Achievement Awards 2015



The 2015 Lambeth Achievement Awards were held on 18 January 2016 at the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre.

The aim of the awards ceremony is to raise achievement of Lambeth pupils through:

- **Motivating pupils through public acknowledgement of their achievements**
- **Improving pupils' self esteem, academic standards, personal motivation and social skills**
- **Creating the opportunity for the wider community to publicly recognise and applaud the contribution that teachers make to pupils' achievement**
- **Celebrating parental involvement and support with the children's learning and working in partnership with schools to raise achievement**

# Report from 2015 Achievement Awards

Lambeth pupils celebrated their success at an inspirational achievement awards ceremony hosted by the Education and Learning Service. The Lambeth Achievement Awards ceremony was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre. It celebrated both the academic achievement of the 855 young people as well as the support and commitment of their families and teachers. The event was attended by over 3000 young people, their families, staff and Governors across Lambeth schools and Local Authority (LA) officers.

Children and young people at each Key Stage (KS) were selected to receive awards for high achievement and progress. The ceremonies for KS1 and KS2 pupils took place between 09.15 and 14:05 followed by the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils between 15.00 and 17:00.

## KS1 Achievement Awards Ceremony

The 2015 KS1 Lambeth Achievement Awards were opened by Cathy Twist, Director of Education, Learning and Skills, followed by a presentation of medals to each pupil.



**Ava Gardner, (KS1) Bonneville Primary School with Cathy Twist**

The event was an opportunity for families, teachers Governors and LA officers to meet, share and celebrate together, ultimately strengthening relationships between schools and communities.

During the KS1 ceremony, Cathy Twist, Director of Education and Learning said: *'94% of Lambeth schools and 100% of our Children Centres are judged outstanding or good by Ofsted – this is a testament to the high quality of Lambeth schools'*

This year over 300 Lambeth pupils were nominated at KS1 to receive an award. KS1 results in Lambeth have improved faster than nationally over the last five years. We now have higher results than nationally in writing, while there is no gap in reading or maths. It is important that we continue to recognise and celebrate the excellent achievements of Lambeth's pupils.

## KS2 Achievement Awards Ceremony

Councillor Lib Peck, Leader of Lambeth Council opened the KS2 ceremony which followed with her presenting achievement medals to the KS2 pupils.



**Michael Nunekpeku, (KS2) The Elmgreen School with Councillor Lib Peck**

At KS2, Lambeth pupils have achieved higher than the national average for both reading and maths consistently since 2011. Particularly impressive at KS2 this year; in maths only one other LA in the country had a higher percentage gaining the expected level. Lambeth schools are achieving at higher levels nationally in each of the key indicators.

Improvement is apparent across the whole range of formal testing and assessment of our school children.



**Zinath Oloko, Pupil Speaker, St Gabriel's College**

During the KS2 ceremony, Zinath Oloko a KS3 pupil at St Gabriel's College and budding young poet gave a speech and recited two poems. Zinath advised the pupils that: *'School is a journey, for some, that journey may be about realising their dream for others it might be as simple as one day securing a desired job interview. We all go to school and have different journeys but today I'm going to tell you mine. My journey started when I got off the plane from Nigeria to London with a thick accent that made people laugh at me. I was enrolled in a school not far from my house and joined half way through year 6. I didn't really have many friends but since I was the 'new girl' people felt obliged to pull me into their cliques. I had to change and adapt with everything, even the little things like saying rubber instead of eraser, as they did in Nigeria. I think the hardest thing was learning the new slang my friends spoke. When I started secondary school, I have to admit that I was scared to the core. I knew no one and was going from being top dog in primary school to meeting my fellow underdogs of secondary school. On induction day I was glad no one from my school came because I wanted to start afresh now that I was well informed on life as a 12 year old Brit. Secondary school is not a walk in the park, but I've learnt to appreciate my friends, the new experiences and independence that comes with it.'*

Zinath is Head Poet at St Gabriel's College and was recently shortlisted for the Foyles Young Poets Award.

Musical entertainment during the KS2 ceremony was provided by the Durand Academy Wind Band.



**Durand Academy Wind Band**

### KS3 and KS4 Achievement Awards Ceremony

The combined KS3 and KS4 ceremony was opened by Councillor Imogen Walker, Deputy Leader for Policy (Children's Services & Public Protection). This was followed by the presentation of medals to KS3 pupils by Councillor Walker.



**Katie Meagher (KS3), La Retraite Girls School with Councillor Imogen Walker, Deputy Leader for Policy (Children's Services & Public Protection)**

This year over 300 pupils were nominated at Key Stages 3 and 4. Councillor Walker said: *'Success at Key Stage 3 continues to provide a strong platform for further achievement. Overall at GCSE, Lambeth now outperforms the national average. Post 16 achievement has continued to improve and narrow the gap against inner London and national averages.'*



**Finn Allott, Pupil Speaker, The Elmgreen School**

Finn Allott a year 11 pupil from The Elmgreen School also gave a speech at the combined KS3 & KS4 ceremonies. Finn said: *'We are incredibly lucky to live in a society where education is free and compulsory for all. I know that sometimes school is hard and you don't feel motivated when you have to get out of bed on the coldest morning of the year so far but we are lucky. Lucky to be able to choose our own pathway. Lucky to not be held back by race or gender. Lucky to be educated in some of the best schools. For me, education is incredibly important for everyone to have, it is a gift which we are lucky enough to have been given. But how do we make sure we make the most of this gift?...This time last year I was sitting in your shoes. I was lucky enough to be nominated by my*

*school for a Key Stage 3 Lambeth Achievement Award and I would like to share with you what I have done since then to make the most of this gift. I am incredibly proud of the A grade GCSE results I have already secured in Science and RE and I am predicted to continue this success across my other subjects at the end of this year.” Finn is a Prefect at The Elmgreen School with a keen interest in Performing Arts.’*



**Sean Harriss, Chief Executive of Lambeth Council**

Sean Harriss, Chief Executive of Lambeth Council then presented medals to the KS4 pupils. Sean closed the ceremony with a speech, he said: *‘Lambeth has had a fantastic year in terms of school achievement – year on year our schools are improving, our children are obtaining better key stage results and the quality of education in Lambeth is improving. The success story in Lambeth is also further confirmed by a recent Ofsted report by Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Schools which has highlighted that Lambeth schools are among the best in the country.’*



**Luci-Anne Anson & Chad St-Louis, Bishop Thomas Grant School**

Musical entertainment during the combined KS3 and KS4 ceremony was provided by Bishop Thomas Grant School pupils; Luci-Anne Anson, Chad St-Louis & Christopher Luu.

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## Concluding Remarks

This event, now in its tenth year, is warmly supported by Lambeth parents, communities, teachers and Council leaders who welcome the opportunity to come together to offer encouragement and support to local achievers who excelled in national examinations and tests.



**Feyisa Demie, Head of Research and Statistics and Adviser for School Self-evaluation**

Feyisa Demie Head of Lambeth’s Research and Statistics Unit started the ceremony in 2005 as a celebration of a ground-breaking research project into raising achievement amongst Black African pupils. The research identified success factors into how Lambeth schools have helped Black African pupils achieve high standards and to buck the national trends. This was followed by two award ceremonies to celebrate educational achievement amongst both the Somali and Portuguese communities in Lambeth schools. The three events were such a huge success that the Council then saw the need to celebrate the progress in achievement across the board for all pupils. Year on year Lambeth achievement was improving and the Council was keen to acknowledge and celebrate this achievement with schools staff, pupils and parents.

Feyisa says: ‘I feel that recognising educational achievement is a motivator for our Lambeth pupils to continue to reach high educational attainment and reinforces Lambeth’s commitment to education. The award ceremony also helped to inspire pupils and to engage parents in their children’s education.’

The Award Ceremony is organised by the Lambeth Research and Statistics team. A special thanks is due to Aisat Ahmed and all of the staff that contributed to making the 2015 awards a success.

For further information about the Lambeth Achievement Awards, please contact Feyisa Demie, E-mail: [FDemie@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:FDemie@lambeth.gov.uk).