The Charter School
East Dulwich

Our school houses



Bowie



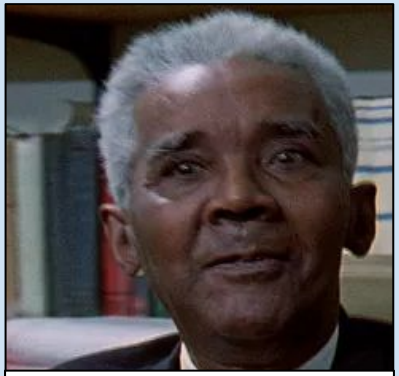
King



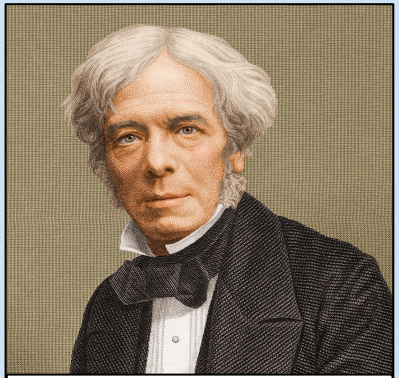
Marson



Jowell



James



Faraday

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David Bowie (Bowie House)

- David Bowie (1947-2016) was one of the most influential musicians of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.
- Born in Brixton, Bowie grew up listening to a wide variety of music under the influence of his parents and older brother.
- Bowie became a trailblazer of musical trends and pop fashion: a singer-songwriter, a pioneer of pop, rock, glam-rock, “plastic soul”, electronica and more.
- Following his death, Billboard magazine concluded that he had influenced more styles of music than any other performer.



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Ada King (King House)



- Augusta Ada King-Noel, Countess of Lovelace, (1815 – 1852) was an English mathematician and writer widely regarded as the world's first computer programmer.
- She was the first person to realise that Charles Babbage's mechanical computer, the first ever made, could be used for more than just number-crunching.
- She wrote and published the first algorithm to be carried out by a computer.
- Her work laid the foundations for all of what we today call Computer Science.

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Una Marson (Marson House)



- Una Marson (1905 - 1965) was a writer, broadcaster and social activist who helped promote women and minority rights in the UK from the early 1930s to the late 1950s.
- Marson was born in Jamaica but moved to London in 1932 to find a wider audience for her writing. She became the assistant secretary of the League of Coloured Peoples. She organised student activities, receptions, meetings, trips and concerts and editing the league's official journal, one of the first of its kind aimed at non-white groups .
- From 1939 onwards, Marson worked for the BBC World Service, making programmes mainly about the life and culture of the British colonies. She helped introduce British audiences to the work of writers from the Caribbean, Africa and the Indian subcontinent. George Orwell considered her one of the most important Caribbean voices in British public life.

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Tessa Jowell (Jowell House)

- Tessa Jowell, Baroness Jowell of Brixton, is British statesperson who was the Member of Parliament for Dulwich and West Norwood from 1992 to 2015.
- She held a number of important positions in government as well as in opposition. Her most senior position in government was as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. In this role, she was responsible for securing the 2012 Olympics for London and initiated the development of the Olympic Park in Newham.
- Baroness Jowell was an early sponsor of The Charter School East Dulwich.



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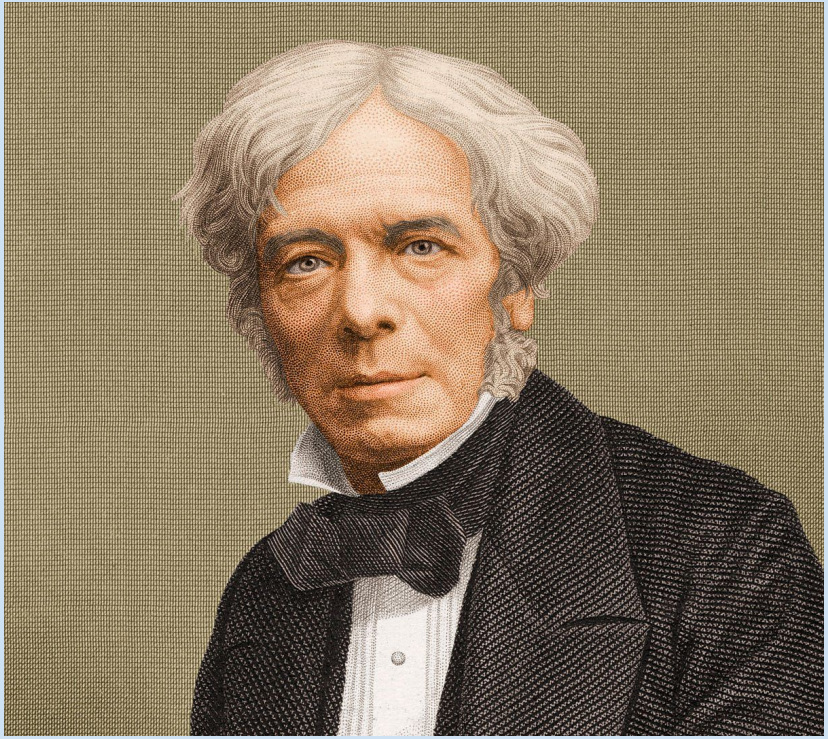
CLR James (James House)



- Cyril Lionel Robert James (1901 – 1989), was an Afro-Trinidadian historian, journalist and playwright who lived for most of his life in Brixton.
- James was one of the most influential voices in postcolonial literature. His 1936 book Minty Alley was the first novel by a black West Indian to be published in Britain.
- His history of the Haitian Revolution, The Black Jacobins, is a one of the most important pieces of writing to emerge from the African Diaspora.
- An avid sportsman, James' study of cricket, Beyond a Boundary, is often named as the best single book ever written on any sport. James was also a tireless political activist, campaigning against colonialism and in support of workers' rights.

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Michael Faraday (Faraday House)



- Michael Faraday was one of the greatest scientific discoverers of all time.
- Faraday was born in South London to a poor family. He received little formal schooling and was apprenticed to a local bookbinder at age 14. He educated himself by reading books on a wide range of scientific subjects.
- His scientific discoveries helped define the modern study of both physics and chemistry. His work included the basis for the use of electricity as the main power source for virtually all modern technology.
- Faraday ultimately became the first and foremost Fullerian Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Institution, a lifetime position.

Runners-up

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CS Forester (Forester House)



- Cecil Louis Troughton Smith (1899 – 1966), known by his pen name "C. S." Forester, was an English novelist known for writing tales of Eighteenth Century naval warfare such as his 12-book Horatio Hornblower series.
- Two of the Hornblower books, A Ship of the Line and Flying Colours, were jointly awarded the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for fiction in 1938.
- Forester also wrote several Hollywood screenplays including The African Queen filmed in 1951.
- Forester was educated at Dulwich College and lived on Underhill Road in East Dulwich for 12 years.

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Agnes Dawson (Dawson House)

- Agnes Dawson (1873 – 1953) was a British politician and trade unionist.
- She was born in Peckham and became a teacher and headteacher in Camberwell.
- Dawson was also heavily involved in the National Union of Women Teachers.
- She won Camberwell North election in 1925, and quit teaching to become a full-time politician.
- She became vice-chair of the Labour Party between 1931 and 1934.



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Phyllis Pearshall (Pearhall House)



- Phyllis Isobella Pearsall MBE (1906 – 1996) was a British painter and writer who created London's first popular indexed street map.
- She was born in East Dulwich and travelled widely in Europe before returning to London in her late Twenties to become a portrait painter.
- One day, while trying to find the address of an appointment using a very out-of-date street map, she became lost for several hours.
- This led her to produce the first updated map for 17 years. Her design was immediately popular and has remained in use since 1935. She went on to found the Geographer’s A-Z Map Company.

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Sir Peter Mansfield (Mansfield House)

- Peter Mansfield (1933 – 2017) was an English physicist who was awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
- Mansfield was born in Dulwich to a working class family. He attended William Penn School, on the site of The Charter School North Dulwich.
- He did poorly at school and left aged 15 without any qualifications. However, he took evening classes while working as a printer's assistant and later won a place at the University of London. He eventually became professor of physics at Nottingham University.
- Mansfield was one of the inventors of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), which is today used very widely in diagnosing many, many different types of disease.



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Olive Morris (Morris House)

- Olive Elaine Morris (1952 – 1979) was a British community leader and activist in the feminist, black nationalist, and squatters' rights campaigns of the 1970s in the United Kingdom.
- Morris was born in Jamaica but moved to South London while still a young child. She attended schools in Southwark and Lambeth and later studied at the London College of Printing (now UAL).
- She became active in community groups from her early teens, working to improve the condition of tenants living in rented homes, promoting women’s rights and raising the profile of the Afro Caribbean community in London.



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William Blake (Blake House)

- William Blake (1757 – 1827) was an English poet, painter, and printmaker. Blake is considered a seminal figure in the history of the poetry and visual arts of the Romantic Age.
- As a boy he'd take long walks through South London from his home in Soho. At the age of 8 or 10 he saw his first vision of angels in a tree on Peckham Rye, "bright angelic wings bespangling every bough, like stars".
- Blake was not famous during his lifetime but became one of the most celebrated poets and illustrators in England after his death. His most famous work, the illustrated poem Jerusalem, was later set to music and became a second national anthem according to many music scholars.

