



BLACK HISTORY WEEK AT THE CLEMENTJAMES CENTRE

In October 2011, the ClementJames Centre in Kensington celebrated Black History Month by hosting a week of activities for children from St Charles RC Primary School, supported by funding from TSF. Children learned about slavery, recent black history and famous black people, all in a positive, fun and hands-on environment. They had the opportunity to visit to the 'London, Sugar, Slavery' exhibition at the Museum of London Docklands, learn about Notting Hill Carnival through an art workshop, have a go at steel pan drumming, and make delicious and healthy smoothies from exotic fruits.

During the week the group also took part in a University Tree workshop, focused on encouraging students to start thinking about their future and to consider higher education. This was followed by a guided tour of Imperial College London, and their own graduation ceremony at the university, with many proud parents in attendance to share in celebrating their achievements.

'The project exceeded expectations and met all our objectives,' says project leader Emily Harle. The children's class teacher agrees: *'This has been a very positive experience. The children have consolidated their listening skills and had the opportunity to build further on their teamwork.'*

Sure enough, many of the students mention confidence, teamwork and listening in their feedback. *'I really improved my listening and concentration,'* says one. Another reports, *'I enjoyed working in teams because you can help people and then you know your friends more.'* And, a sentiment shared by many of the participants: *'I really enjoyed learning how to play the steel pans!'*