

ARCHIVE LEARN'T

Case Study: Eastlea Community School and Newham Heritage Centre



This Resource Offers

An example of a schools programme facilitated by a local archive service. This case study focuses on the partnership between Newham Heritage Centre and Eastlea Community School in Canning Town, London, to engage students with Newham's local history and culture.

Archives and Educators working together to create a new archive audience, for the future.

One in a Series

This resource is the fourth in a series designed to encourage and support archives in collaborating with the education sector. The series consists of the following resources:

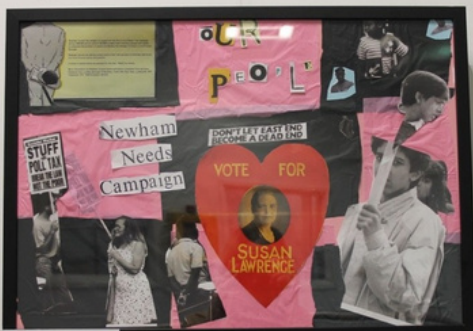
- 1- Why your archive should work with young people
- 2- Archives as an educational tool
- 3- Ways to contact educators
- 4- Case Study**
- 5- Additional Resources



The Project

Eastlea Community School is a co-educational secondary school for 11-to-16-year-olds based in Canning Town, Newham. In March 2025, a class of Year 9 History students worked with the Newham Heritage Centre team on a project exploring Newham's heritage. Over six weeks, the students uncovered Newham's history by learning what an archive is, examining reproduced archival material and photographs of museum objects, and discussing what archives can tell us about the past.

Alongside this, the students worked with an artist to bring their learning and creativity together to create new collages inspired by what they had learnt from Newham's archive using reproduced material. The collages were displayed at Canning Town Library following a launch event.



Politics and Social Change
Artists Billy Rory, Anthony, Azzah, Eudra, Eno



Culture
Artists Billy, Gloria, Diana, Victoria, Taylor, Ollie

Collages inspired by Newham Heritage Centre's collections which were made by the students, displayed at Canning Town Library (2025)

Student Testimonials

Students were asked what they had learned during the project, with their answers focusing on Newham's heritage and the purpose of an archive:

Heritage can mean culture. I enjoyed learning about Newham's past

I never knew we had a heritage centre. We learnt how the heritage could be about the past

I learnt the meaning of heritage, and more about Newham and its history and culture. I learnt a different style of art and how to express the true meaning of Newham in art

We learnt about an archive and what it keeps, like newspapers, photos and recordings

We learnt about heritage, archives, newspapers, documents, and video. I loved this project with my whole heart. I enjoyed the trip that we took, and made a beautiful collage

We liked looking at the items in the archives and were able to touch them