

## School renovation



Year 4 pupil Aqsa Iqbal and year 6 pupil Christopher Mansaray on the building work site at North Beckton Primary School.  
Picture: THE TAPSCOTT LEARNING TRUST

**A Newham school has begun renovation works which will create a space designed for students with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD).**

The works at North Beckton Primary, which are expected to be finished in April, will redevelop the heart of the school and form part of a wider commitment to promoting inclusivity.

The school is investing in PMLD provision and working closely with the council to provide an inclusive curriculum and facilities.

Headteacher Alison Helm said: "We are committed to making our school a place where all students can thrive with their education in a positive, supportive environment."

The renovation design will ensure the school is fully accessible for all, making the classrooms wheelchair friendly and providing specialist learning spaces for students who need assistance.

The new unit will be made up of one large classroom and multiple feeder classrooms, as well as support facilities and equipment, including a sensory room, areas for physiotherapy, child and adolescent mental health services, counselling and music therapy.

## business

### Charity

**If you've got any unwanted Christmas presents, a Newham charity is looking to put them to good use.**

Whether you were gifted a book you're just not interested in, enough shower gel to last you the decade or one too many boxes of chocolates, Ambition Aspire Achieve (AAA) is appealing for donations.

Items such as toys, games, books, sports and craft equipment will be used in the charity's day-to-day work with disadvantaged children at its Canning Town and Stratford venues.

Other unwanted presents, such as perfumes, gift sets, chocolates and household items, will be used in community fundraising activities throughout the year.

Items can be dropped off at either the Terence Brown Arc in the Park, in Bethell Avenue, Canning Town, or the Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub, in Gay Road, Stratford.

For more information, contact Kevin Jenkins on 020 7511 4253 or email kevin@theaazone.com

# House price rise in the borough steepest in UK since turn of millennium

**The price of a home in Newham has risen by more than 400 per cent since the year 2000, the steepest rise in the UK according to new research.**

In its assessment of UK house prices since the turn of the millennium, the Halifax bank found that at the end of 1999 the average price of a house in the borough would have set buyers back £75,762.

However, by the end of November 2019, that figure had soared to £400,574, an increase of 429pc and the highest rise in the country.

Newham is one of two boroughs to see a rise of more than 400pc with nine of the top 10 biggest risers in London: Waltham Forest (418pc), Redbridge (346pc) and Barking and Dagenham (335pc) are ranked second, fourth and sixth, according to the Halifax.

**JON KING**

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Buyers in the capital need to fork out an extra £375,983 (239pc) now than they would have done in 1999 (£157,453) which the bank says goes some way towards explaining decreasing affordability.

In 2000, the house price to earnings ratio (average earnings in Newham as a proportion of average house prices in the borough) sat at 4.2.

However, by the end of 2019, this rose to 10.8, representing the second highest increase nationally in price to earnings ratio.

Hillingdon saw the greatest increase, from 3.9 in 2000 to 11.1 in 2019.

Halifax managing director, Russell Galley, said of the national figures: "The rise in house

prices in London since the turn of the century is well documented.

"A sharp decrease in affordability just shows how quickly the market has moved."

First-time buyers in Newham also face higher prices compared to 20 years ago.

In 1999, a deposit on a first home would have set buyers back an average £10,349. But by November 2019, an average deposit for a first-time buyer rocketed to £75,043, a 625pc rise, according to the Halifax.

This puts Newham third in the top 10 for increases in first time buyer deposits behind top placed Waltham Forest (737pc) and Lewisham (642pc).

Across the country, every region saw houses at least double in value. Buyers in Northern Ireland experienced the lowest increase at 139pc.

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### AUDITION

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**1 Salway PI, E15 1NF**

DM @ApeMediaLTD for more info Or just turn up !!

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