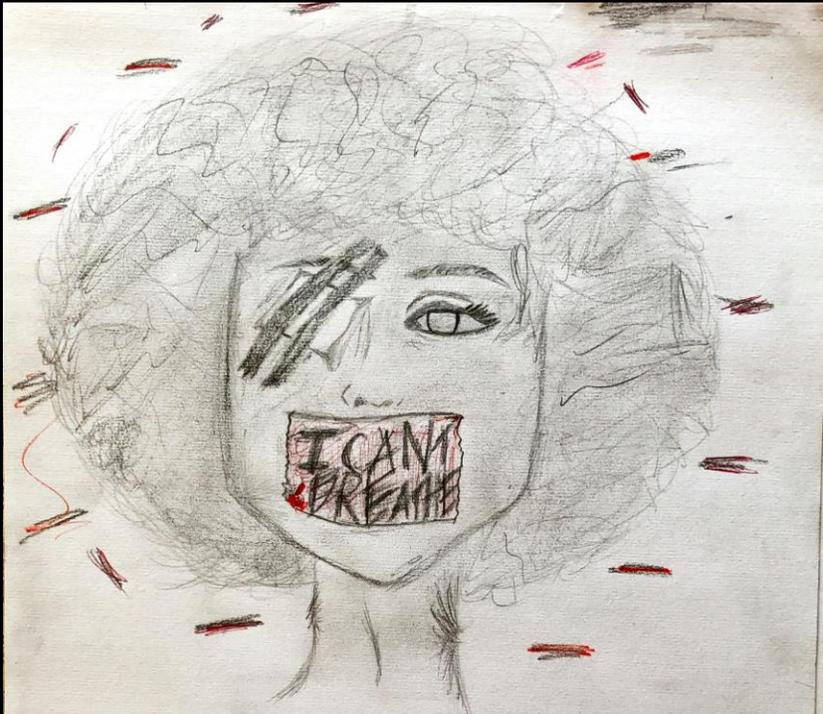


Throughout the course of last week, students were asked to consider their own response to the 'Black Lives Matter' movement whether that be through poetry, song, an illustration or a news article. The response from students was fantastic and highlighted the incredibly thoughtful and informed nature of our school community. Here, you can find a small selection of work from students from last week.

Brooke – Year 7



Charlie – Year 7

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” — Dr Martin Luther King Jr



Aaliyah – Year 9



B lack lives taken

L imited to freedom

A ll people deserve equal rights

C ant we just be equal

K illed for no reason

L ife is said to be precious

I nstead theirs can be gone in a second

V ery unfair isn't it ?

E verywhere you go

S cared

M eaning your colour will be used against you

A buse. Physical and mental

T oday we act

T oday we stop treating

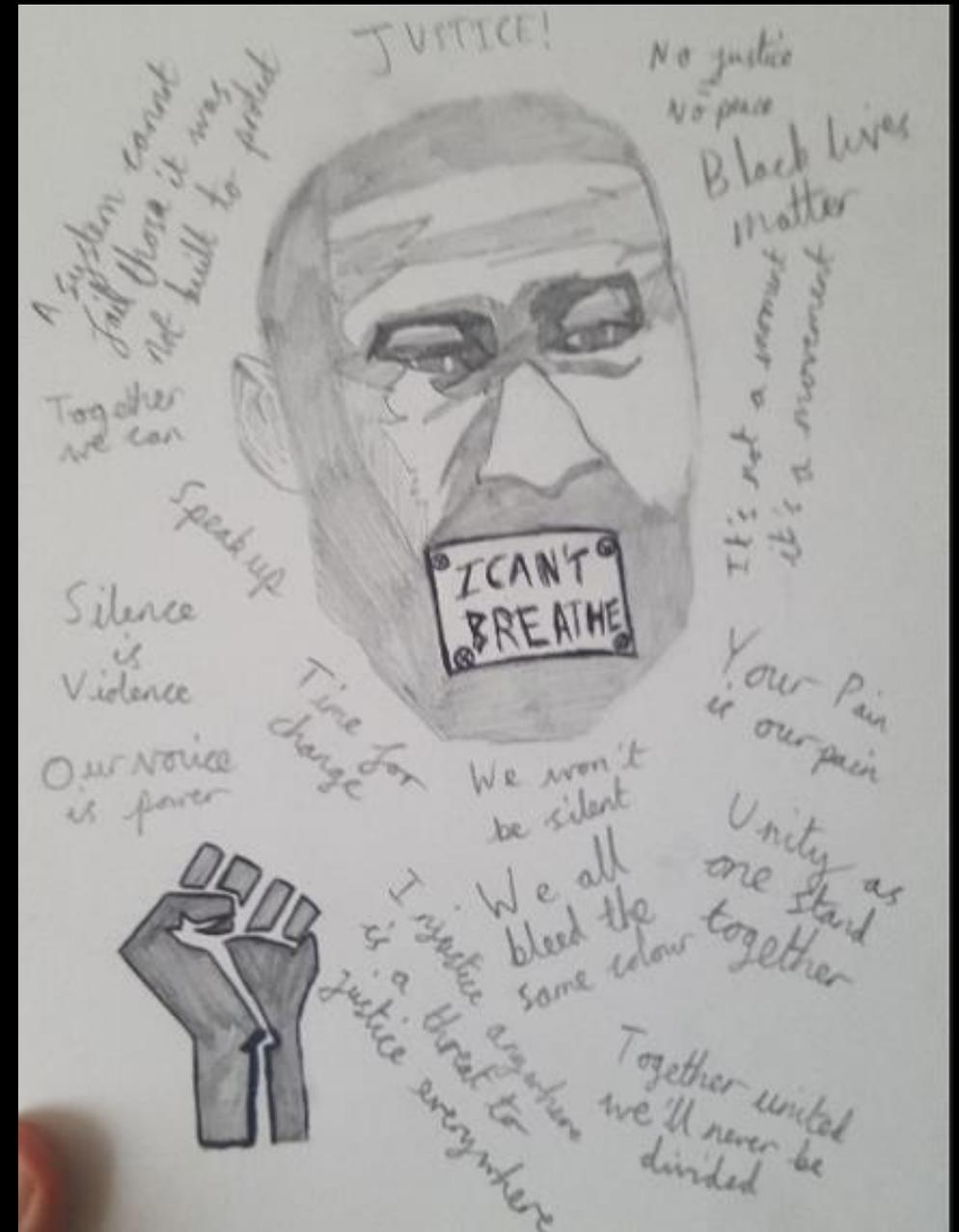
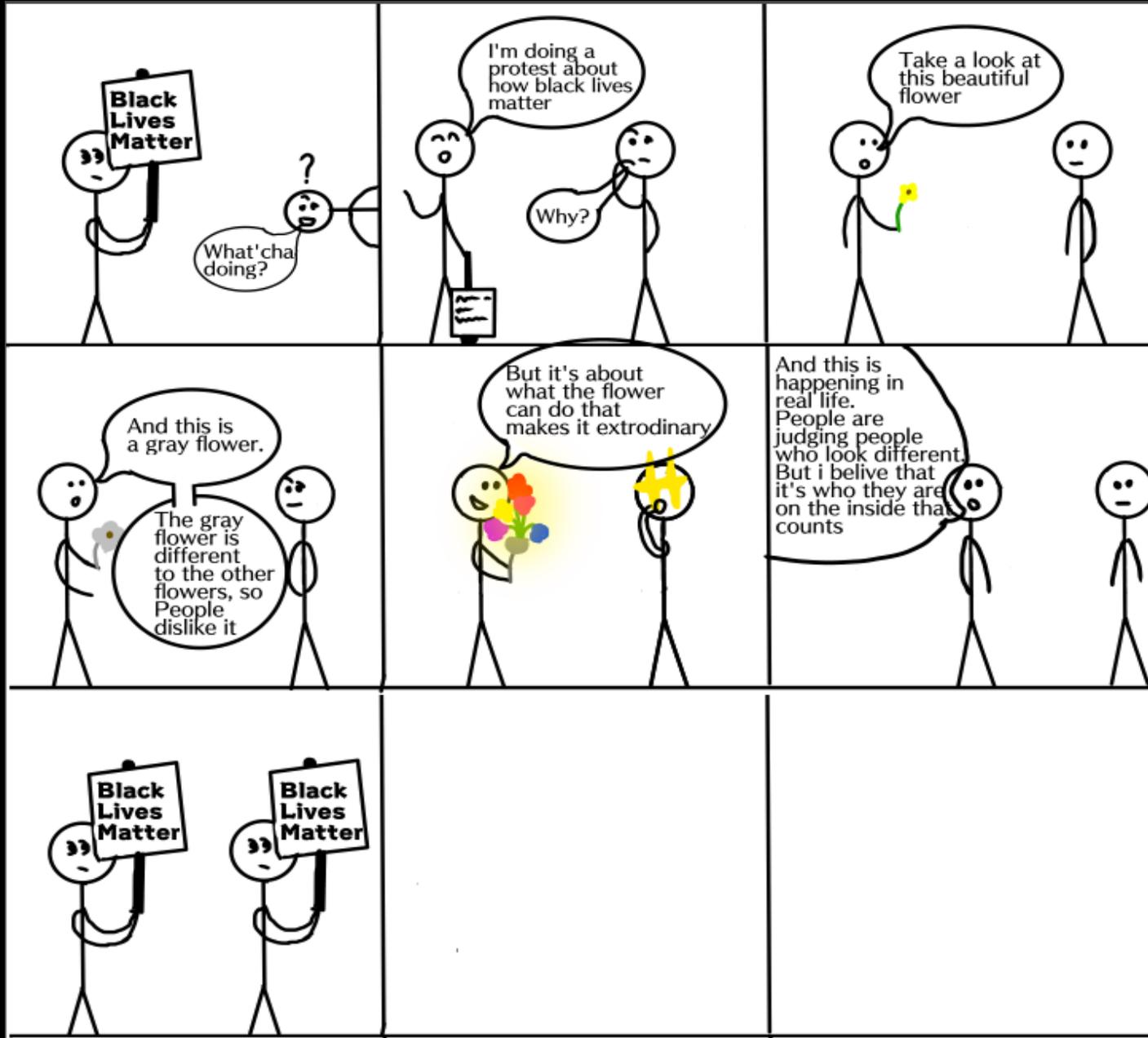
people differently for the colour of their skin

E qual

R ights starts now



Lauren – Year 8



Evidence showing countless unneeded murders

Quotes from historical figures of every race

Useless pull overs in the US

Allowing killers to be let go

Letting violence pass over their heads

Ignorant morons unable to understand we're all humans

Terrific people standing up to this disgrace

Yelling for hope, peace and salvation

SILENCE

Silence is not the answer

I understand that now

Let's all shout together

Encourage love

Not hate

Cease the discrimination

End this madness now

Black Lives Matter Poem

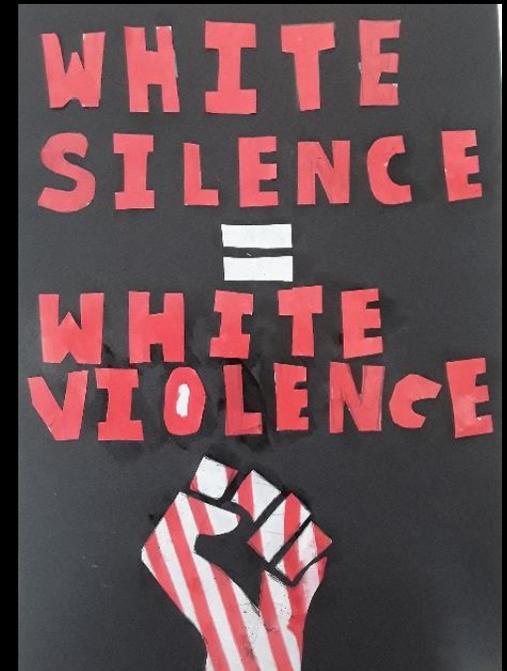
The more you look back at our history gets duller,
As some discriminate on their colour,
In the 1800s black people we did chase,
Just because of the place and the race,
Transporting the innocent people across the seas selling and
making them into a slave,
The people who 'own them' nothing they gave,
Many of them died in the process,
The conditions that they live in is an utter mess,
In recent times many have died,
From racist abuse that why we have black pride,
There are still white supremacists like the Ku Klux Klan,
They are the worst thing imaginable by man.

Marley – Year 8

I feel sorry,
We all do.
If you're black,
If you're white,
It shouldn't matter.
Something is terribly wrong with our world,
We stand divided yet not united.
The war is only beginning,
For our equality.

Charlie – Year 7

Daisey – Year 9



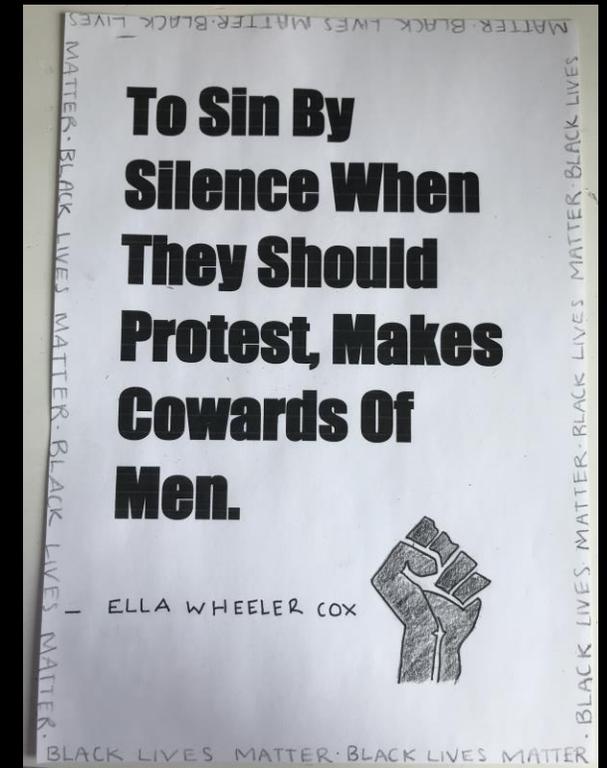
Prisha – Year 9

Extract from Black Lives Matter – An Essay

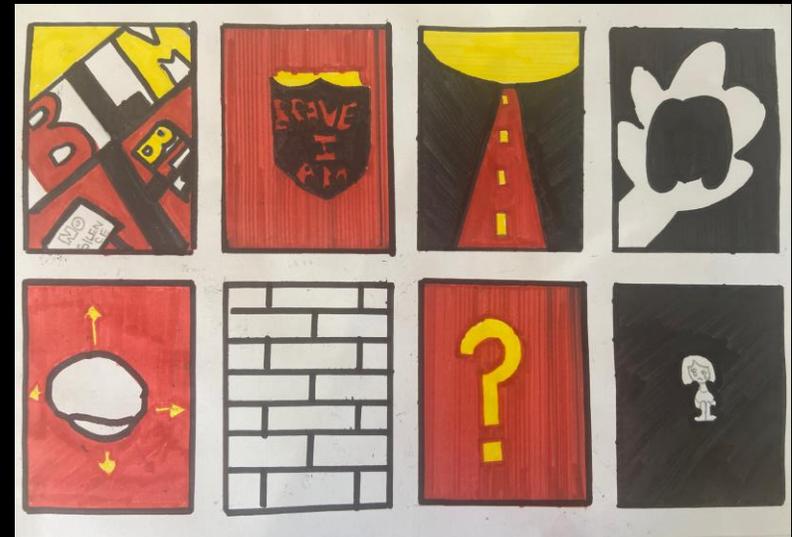
Breonna Taylor, Atatiana Jefferson, Aura Rosser, Stephon Clark, Botham Jean, Philando Castille, Alton Sterling, Michele Cusseaux, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, and so many more Black Americans were brutally killed by the police. Isn't the police actually meant for maintaining law and order in an area? Aren't they actually meant to protect us, rather than enforcing racism and inequality? Just because they have a higher authority than us, doesn't mean they get to decide whose lives and whose doesn't, whose race is superior and whose lives matter less than the others.

No one gets to make those decisions, because those shouldn't even be an option. All lives are equal, all races are equal. It doesn't matter if you're black or white. If you're at a traffic signal, and it shows the red light, everyone stops. If this is the case on roads, why not in real life? Why do black people still have to struggle for their justice? Because racism still exists. It existed in the 17th century when slavery was introduced in America, and it still exists. Because protests can only change the way how people act towards you, not the way they think about you. If someone is adamant that white lives matter more than black lives, you can't change that. Sure, they'll act neutral if they have to, but this pathetic idea will never leave their mind.

Olivia – Year 8



Macey – Year 8



Last week it was a pleasure to work with the English department on their 'Black Lives Matter' project. I thought it would be nice to share with you some work on the same topic by our A level photography student Ashlyn Smith.

Ashlyn's photographs were taken as part of her coursework project on "urban life". Previously, she had experimented with night photography as part of her project. This new collection of photographs by Ashlyn show an exploration of documentary photography, with an eye to the work of press photographers.

Her images are very successful because they have strong focal points and clear subjects. They give you a real sense of the event in Reading. I hope you enjoy viewing this alternative creative output from one of our rising stars at A level.

I hope you all enjoy the summer.







