

## Press Release

For immediate release

### Young Harrow Author at Tate Exchange

Encouraging and supporting families to share stories, dream and play, celebrating voices of colour is the message behind Tate Exchange's *Blast Off Stories!* in collaboration with New Beacon Books. On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December 13-year-old Elijah Frederick joins in the annual story telling oasis for families of all ages. Taking inspiration from *Blast Off*, the 1973 pioneering children's book about a young black girl who dreams of becoming an astronaut, written by Linda C Cain and Susan Rosenbaum, the series of afternoons welcomes families for a moment to sit back, relax and read together.

From 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> December, children and families are invited to drop-in at anytime to discover a selected number of brilliant stories by writers of colour. *Shifted Code* by Elijah Frederick will be featured in the collection selected by New Beacon Books, where you get to discover more about his debut fictional story. Based on a tormented genius Tadeo, who is isolated and excluded by everyone in his class, we learn how Tadeo would have to deal with the misery of working together on a computing project with his bullies.

With only 1% of children's books published in the UK in 2017 having a BAME (Black or Minority Ethnic) as a main character (CLiP, Reflecting Realities Survey), the selection by New Beacon Books is a great way to showcase more diversity in the literacy world. The study conducted earlier this year looked at children's books published in the UK in 2017 to establish how many featured BAME characters. The findings reported that there were 9115 children's books published in the UK in 2017 and of these only 391 featured BAME characters.

Visit Tate Exchange this Christmas, read books together and listen to a special reading of *Shifted Code* and other titles with Elijah Frederick on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 1pm. Discover how Tadeo manages to deal with his bullies whilst using his computing talents and meet the youngest author to join *Blast Off Stories* this year!

*Blast Off* takes place at Tate Exchange, Blavatnik Building, Level 5, Tate Modern, Bankside London SE1 9TG. Check website <https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/tate-exchange/workshop/blast-stories> for more information. *Shifted Code* is stocked online and in stores visit [www.elijahfrederick.com](http://www.elijahfrederick.com) to purchase your copy.

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### NOTES TO EDITORS

**Elijah Frederick** is the author of *Shifted Code – From Digital to Reality* and has published his book at just 13 years old. Born and raised in West London, Elijah was a junior blogger, competition winner and contributor across a variety of publications. Contact: Candice Bryan, Publicist Website: [www.elijahfrederick.com](http://www.elijahfrederick.com) Email: [info@elijahfrederick.com](mailto:info@elijahfrederick.com) Phone: 07930 637 902

**New Beacon Books** was founded in 1966 by John La Rose & Sarah White. It was the UK's first black publisher and specialist bookshop. For over 50 years New Beacon have stocked and sold poetry, fiction, non-fiction, history and an array of children's books from Africa, the Caribbean, African American authors and homegrown talent in Britain. Contact: Vanessa La Rose, Manager Website: [www.newbeaconbooks.com](http://www.newbeaconbooks.com) Email: [newbeaconbooksuk@gmail.com](mailto:newbeaconbooksuk@gmail.com) Phone: 020 7272 4889

**Tate Exchange** is a space for everyone to make, play, talk, and reflect and to discover new perspectives on life, through art. *Blast Off Stories* welcomes families of all ages. Contact: Jean Tormey, Curator: Early Years & Families Website: [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk) Email: [jean.tormey@tate.org.uk](mailto:jean.tormey@tate.org.uk) Phone: 0044 7768 773 706