



NORTHWOOD
COLLEGE
FOR GIRLS

G D S T

BLACK HISTORY MONTH WORK COMPILATION

Junior and Senior School

Autumn Term 2020

Message from Ms Jill Ferguson, Deputy Head (Pastoral Development & Well-being)

From Nursery to Year 13, celebrating diversity and the contributions people with different heritage have made to society, science, politics and the creative arts and literature, plays an integral part in our holistic approach to education at NWC. Our pupils, explore on all levels, the positive impact Britons from different cultural backgrounds and heritage have had on the evolution of our country through change and development across many fields. From the teaching about particularly influential Black individuals, pivotal moments in history and eminent Black professionals in their fields, the girls enjoy studying and exploring a range of topics. The rich curriculum and extra-curricular activities and pupil-led groups serve to widen the girls understanding of the impact of slavery on Black people in Britain and across the world and the resulting residual effects. In the Senior school, our pupil-led BLM group explores, examines and discusses the impact of racial bias and racial inequality in its different forms to highlight to our girls the importance of fairness, the importance of speaking out against prejudice and the need to strive for racial and gender equality. We pride ourselves on our vibrant community: interesting and interested in others, we foster compassion, joy and kindness.

Black History Month Competitions

Textiles

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
African Inspired Fashion Design Competition

Observe!!!
Visit The British Museum (Virtually- Of course!!)
Look at African Textiles- Particularly patterns, colours, Textiles techniques & processes

Explore!!!!
Weaving, Batik, Stitch- Work, Block Printing & Other Decorative Techniques

Research!!!
African Artists/ Fashion Designers

THE COMPETITION!!
Design your own Fashion Design inspired by African Cultural Patterns - Show where your inspiration has come from & Use Fashion Illustration!

Glittering prizes for the best entries

Textiles ran a 'Fashion Design inspired by African culture' competition.

History

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
History Essay Competition

To mark Black History Month, we are holding an exciting...

History Essay Competition

Years 7 to 9
Write a profile of a person or event that is important to Black history.
Word limit: 500 words (supporting images allowed)

Years 10 to 13
Write an essay analysing any aspect of Black history.
Word limit: 1,000 words (excluding references)

Deadlines and details
The **deadline** is the Friday 23 October (just before half-term).
There will **PRIZES** for the winning entries.
Please submit your essays via email to Mr Allen (s.allen@nwc.gdst.net)

History ran a Black History Essay competition.

Languages

NORTHWOOD COLLEGE
FOR GIRLS
GDST

Black History Month

To mark **Black History Month**, the Spanish department are asking you to design a creative project about an important historical black person in a Spanish speaking country.

For example:

Miguel de Buría **Pedro Camejo**

You may be as creative as you want (use ppt slides, write a letter, a summary of their lives, a profile of the person, etc.).
You may use a combination of Spanish and English.

Prizes for:
Creativity
Use of Spanish language
Depth of the research

Please submit your projects to
Mrs Silva-Mynett a.silva-mynett@nwc.gdst.net

Deadline: 23rd October

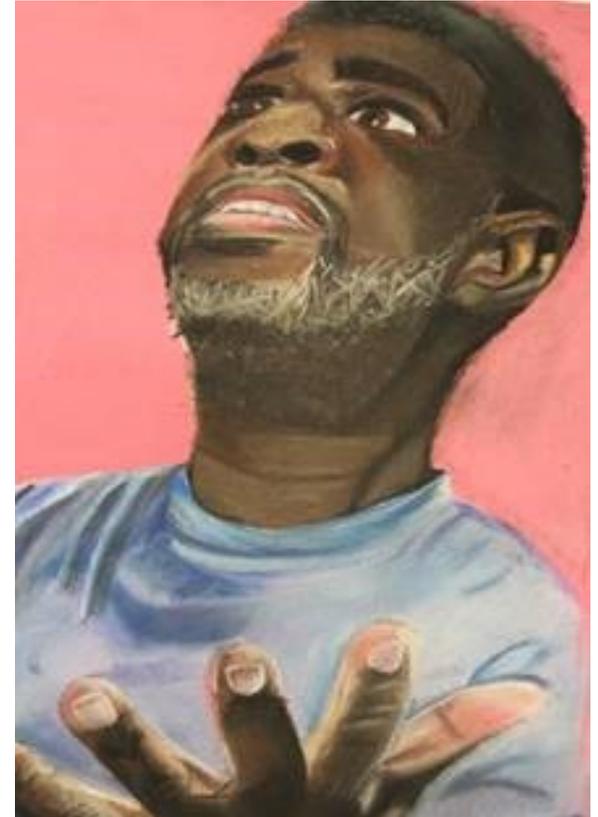
Languages ran a competition asking the girls to design a creative project about an important historical black person in a Spanish speaking country.

Art

Year 12 - Jada's theme is about identity and she is looking at the work by black artist's Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Kehinde Wiley's and Sonia Boyce for inspiration.

Year 9 - We have briefly studied the Pop Art work of Black artist Jean Michel Basquiat & various black street artists.

Year 8 - In Spring term the girls will be studying the architecture of Islam and African cultures as well as others



Art

Year 7 – We will be making masks inspired by African masks as well as others. We are creating a Black Artists poster to be displayed in the Art rooms.

In Year 7-9 Art club we have launched 'Inktober' this month and students creating work around the theme of Halloween by various artists including black artists. We are also looking at Day of the Dead artwork celebrated by afro Mexicans etc.

We have added Art history Time lines to all Year 7-9 sketchbooks which mentions art from Africa / Islamic Art/ Egyptian art



Keith Bowling (b.1936)
Bowling's art came out of London in the decades following the end of the Second World War, and set the stage for the further impact of black British art. 'Spreadout Ron Kijai was the first printing that Britain ever bought from a living black artist. Bowling became the first black British artist to be elected to the Royal Academy and he is the recipient of an OBE.

Sonia Boyce (b.1962)
Elected to the Royal Academy in 2020, Sonia Boyce's work has often dealt with themes of race and gender: a visual representation of her experiences being a black woman living and working in Britain. In 1988 she became the first British-born black artist to have a show at the Whitechapel Gallery.

Uzo Egonu (1928-1996)
Born in Nigeria - came to the UK in 1949
Uzo Egonu fused Western and African styles in exciting ways, drawing on the heritage of different cultural traditions to create something new. He was, perhaps the first person from Africa, Asia or the Caribbean to come to Britain after the War with the sole intention of becoming an artist.

Chris Ofili (b.1968)
The first black artist to win the Turner Prize, part of the Young British Artist movement in the 1990s, and no stranger to controversy: if you've heard of Chris Ofili then you may be immediately thinking of elephant dung, the Virgin Mary and offending the ex-bishop of New York, Rudy Giuliani, before it was cool. However, Ofili's work has evolved and changed significantly over the years.

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye (b.1977)
Lynette Yiadom-Boakye mainly paints portraits but her subjects aren't real: they're composites, made up from bits of real people and lots of photos taken from magazines - and her imagination. Her paintings are characterised by a lack of fixed narrative and unusual, mysterious titles: 'A Passion Like No Other, Celine by the Ocean, The Courtesy of a Saint'. Yiadom-Boakye described her works to the New York Times as 'suggestions of people... They don't share our concerns or anxieties. They are somewhere else altogether.'

Tam Joseph (b.1947)
Born in Dominica - came to London in 1955
Tam Joseph is another artist who has resisted attempts to pigeonhole his work as being only about issues of race, commenting ahead of the exhibition 'This is History' that 'I wasn't trying to develop a distinctly black art. I was trying to develop myself as a person, through my art... and indeed, he doesn't quite sit with the other leading characters from the black art movement of the 1980s. Nevertheless, one of Joseph's best-known works - which features on Art UK - is his 1983 painting 'UK School Report', an indictment of the racial stereotyping the artist saw in British schools.

Lubaina Himid (b.1954)
Born in Tanzania - moved to the UK shortly after
An important figure in the emergence and development of black artists in Britain in the 1980s, Himid established a reputation as a curator of black artists' exhibitions, both gender and non-gender specific. Her most recent work 'Between the Two my Heart is Balanced', while aimed in 1991, perhaps his particular poignancy today, with its depiction of migrants crossing oceans. There is a sense of connection with journeys undertaken from Africa.

Winston Branch (b.1947)
Born in Saint Lucia - came to London in the 1960s
Largely an abstract artist, Winston Branch was marked out early as one to watch, with his work shown in galleries such as the Art Lark, the Crypt of St Martin in the Fields and the Roundhouse by the time he graduated. Branch has lived and worked across Europe and the USA and was recently a key part of the Gendall Gallery's 'No Colour Bar' exhibition, where his three featured paintings hung at the entrance.

Keith Piper (b.1960)
Born in Malta - raised in Birmingham
Along with his contemporary Donald Rodney, Keith Piper made waves in the 1980s art scene. His first solo show was held at the Black Art Gallery in Finsbury Park, and he subsequently underwent a development of style - from a largely painting, collage and print-based practice to use of mixed media and installation and utilisation of technology - helped by the arrival of affordable computers.

Donald Rodney (1961-1998)
Donald Rodney was part of an influential Wolverhampton-based BLK Art Group. Along these other members, Donald was instrumental in pushing for greater representation of black art in Britain. The group's campaigning saw the landmark exhibition 'The Other Story' staged at Hayward Gallery in 1989. Featuring contemporary artists of African, Caribbean and Asian ancestry, the show revealed how these artists had been marginalised in the West and is described by the Tate as a key moment in the British black art's movement.

English

Centenary Library - Our librarians put on a fantastic Black history display, with recommendations on books by black authors

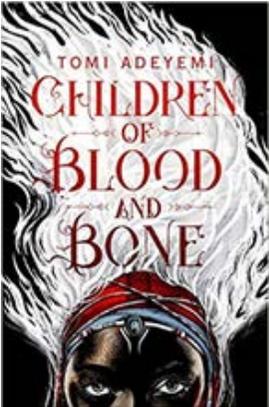


BAME Reading List - The English department created an extensive list of BAME Year 7-9 books which was distributed to all girls. Longer-term they have plans to create a longer list to share with the rest of GDST schools.

Children of blood and bone

By Tomi Adeyemi

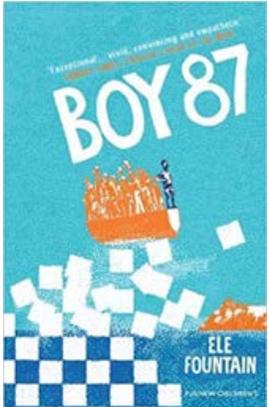
Zélie remembers when the soil of Orïsha hummed with magic. When different clans ruled – Burners igniting flames, Tiders beckoning waves, and Zélie’s Reaper mother summoning forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, anyone with powers was targeted and killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Only a few people remain with the power to use magic, and they must remain hidden. Zélie is one such person. Now she has a chance to bring back magic to her people and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must learn to harness her powers and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good. Danger lurks in Orïsha, where strange creatures prowl, and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to come to terms with the strength of her magic – and her growing feelings for an enemy.



Boy 87

By Ele Fountain

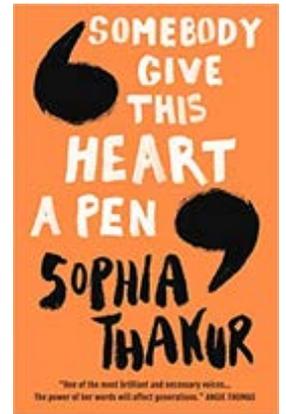
Shif is just an ordinary boy who likes chess, maths and racing his best friend home from school. But one day, soldiers with guns come to his door - and he knows that he is no longer safe. Shif is forced to leave his mother and little sister, and embark on a dangerous journey; a journey through imprisonment and escape, new lands and strange voices, and a perilous crossing by land and sea. He will encounter cruelty and kindness; he will become separated from the people he loves. Boy 87 is a gripping, uplifting tale of one boy's struggle for survival; it echoes the story of young people all over the world today.



Somebody Give This Heart a Pen

By Sophia Thakur

From acclaimed performance poet Sophia Thakur comes a powerful first collection of poems exploring issues of identity, difference, faith, relationships, fear, loss and joy. Intricate, evocative and dazzling – these are poems that explore the experiences that connect people; they encourage readers to look within and explore the tendencies of the heart.



'Oh My Gods'

by Alexandra Sheppard

Life as a half-mortal teenager should be epic. But, for Helen Thomas, it's tragic. She's just moved in with her dorky dad and self-absorbed older siblings - who happen to be the ancient Greek gods, living incognito in London! Between keeping her family's true identities secret, trying to impress her new friends, and meeting an actually cute boy, Helen's stress levels are higher than Mount Olympus. She needs to rein in her chaotic family before they blow their cover AND her chances at a half-normal social life.

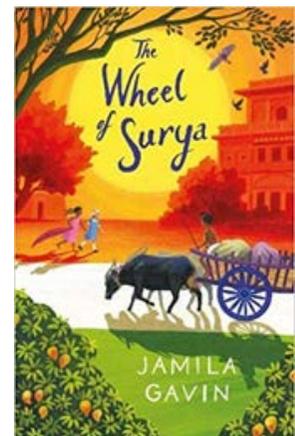


The Wheel of Surya

By Jamila Gavin

India, August 1947: Fleeing from their burnt-out village as civil war rages in the Punjab, Marvinder and Jaspal are separated from their mother, Jhoti. Marvinder has already saved her brother's life once, but now they both face a daily fight for survival. Together they escape across India and nearly halfway around the world to England, to find a father they hardly know in a new, hostile culture... A powerful story of culture, class, family and faith set against the backdrop of Indian independence and the Partition of India and Pakistan.

Perfect for fans of *The Bone Sparrow*, Morris Gleitzman's *Once*, and Katherine Rundell's *The Wolf Wilder*



Lessons:

- 3 BAME literary extracts per year group have been prepped and integrated into teaching
- The A-Level Girls have been working on an extract of *Girl, Woman, Other* for their prose unseen task
- The Year 11 GCSE A Level sample lesson after half-term will be based on *Wide Sargasso Sea*, which is a post-colonial reworking of *Jane Eyre*

Year 7-9 Example Lesson Work

Chapter 1
Happy Birthday, Michelle!

Michelle LeVoyugh Robinson's eyes fluttered open on the morning of January 17th. She had been counting down the days to turning eight years old for what seemed like a really, really long time, and it was finally here!

SHE JUMPED OUT OF BED, SO EXCITED TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND SEE IF SHE LOOKED ANY DIFFERENT TO THE DAY BEFORE.

She examined her face very thoroughly, like a detective on the case, and determined that yes, she definitely did look older than she did just 24 hours earlier, when she was only seven years old. Like she used to do every day, Michelle arranged her stuffed animals around her bed. They all seemed to be smiling at her. She studied her Barbie dolls. They were all impeccably dressed and groomed. As a child, Michelle cared very much about her few personal possessions. Her dolls were her friends.

Michelle could hear voices coming from the rest of the house, so she threw on her school clothes, brushed her teeth and dragged out her big winter coat (it was January in Chicago, after all) to go and greet her family. Michelle lived with a lot of people. There was her mum, Marian, her dad, Frank, and her older brother, Craig. They shared a tiny space in the upstairs of a small bungalow-style house with other relatives, who lived in the downstairs part of the house. Sometimes it felt really crowded because it was hard to get privacy. But on days like her birthday, she was grateful to be so close to her family, whom she loved so much. There was always someone else around, and someone to talk to.

"Where's Aunt Robbie?" Michelle said breathlessly, as her mother handed her a piece of buttered toast with scrambled eggs.

"Well Happy Birthday to you, too, Miss Michelle!" Marian Robinson laughed, giving her daughter a big smooch on the forehead, which Michelle promptly wiped off with her forearm. Her eyes darted around the room, looking and listening for signs of Aunt Robbie.

"Is there a birthday girl here?"

There she was, Michelle's favourite aunt,




"I NEVER MISSED CLASS."

"I LOVED GETTING A'S."

"I LIKED BEING SMART."

"I LIKED BEING ON TIME."

"I THOUGHT BEING SMART WAS COOLER THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD."

Example Questions:

- Read the extract about Michelle.
- Does anything from her childhood resonate with you? Why? Share with your partner.
- Why did Michelle not want to date Barack at the start? What does this reveal about her?
- What new thing about the former First Lady have you learnt today?

Year 10-11 Example Lesson Work



When female flamingos lay eggs in the zoo, the eggs are taken from them and put into incubators. The zoo keepers give dummy eggs to flamingo couples to nest with, while the zookeepers watch their behaviour to figure out who will make the best flamingo parents. When the incubated eggs are almost ready to hatch they decide which couple will be given normal eggs and which will be left with those that never contained precious life.

Example Questions:

- How do the words of the Black Flamingo make you feel? Why?
- Although 'The Black Flamingo' was published in 2019, how might the words of the black flamingo relate to the information below?

The reproduction of enslaved people in the United States was the practice in slave states of the United States of slave owners to systematically force the reproduction of enslaved people to increase their profits. It included coerced sexual relations between enslaved men and women, forced pregnancies of enslaved people, and favoring women who could produce a relatively large number of children. The objective was to increase the number of enslaved people without incurring the cost of purchase, and to fill labour shortages caused by the termination of the Atlantic slave trade.

Geography

In Geography the Year 8s have been looking at the UK as a diverse country, including the cultural, ethnic and religious characteristics of our population. Celebrations of diversity through cultural events e.g. Notting Hill Carnival, music and food. The Windrush generation and the migration pattern of the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

Languages

Year 7s have created Black History posters in French celebrating the work of prolific Black men and women

The image displays three hand-drawn posters in French, each celebrating a prominent Black figure. The first poster is for Rosa Parks, featuring a large title 'ROSA PARKS' and a detailed paragraph of text describing her life and legacy. The second poster is for Will Smith, with a title 'Will Smith' and a paragraph of text, accompanied by a photo of him and a small image from 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air'. The third poster is for Martin Luther King, with a title 'Martin Luther King' and a paragraph of text, featuring a photo of him speaking at a podium. A fourth poster for Usain Bolt is also visible, with a title 'Usain Bolt' and a paragraph of text, accompanied by a photo of him running and a small image of him with a flag.

ROSA PARKS
Bonjour, je vais faire une présentation sur Rosa Parks. Elle s'appelle Rosa Louise McCauley Parks. Son anniversaire est le 4 février 1913. Elle habite à Tuskegee en Alabama. Elle a les cheveux courts, noirs et les yeux marrons. Je pense que Rosa Parks est branchée et intelligente. À mon avis, elle est géniale parce que elle est modeste. Rosa Parks aime la musique. Rosa Parks porte des lunettes. Elle n'aime pas le racisme et l'injustice. Rosa Parks a un frère mais pas de sœur.

Will Smith
Bonjour, je vais faire une présentation sur Willard Carroll Smith, Jr. Il est né le 25 septembre 1968 (52 ans). Il vit à Calabasas, en Californie, il a les cheveux noirs et les yeux bruns, il a également trois enfants, Jaden Smith, Willow Smith et Trey Smith. Will Smith est un acteur et rappeur américain, il est devenu acteur lorsqu'il est apparu dans l'émission télévisée The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. Il adore chanter et voyager. Il n'aime pas les insectes et les fruits de mer. Il adore passer du temps avec sa famille. Je pense que Will Smith est drôle et branché.

Martin Luther King
Il s'appelle Martin Luther King et son anniversaire est le 15 janvier 1929. Il habite dans une maison à Atlanta. Il déteste le racisme et la violence parce que c'est mal. Il a les cheveux noirs et les yeux marrons. À mon avis, Martin Luther King est intelligent. J'adore Martin Luther King!

Usain Bolt
Bonjour, je vais faire une présentation sur Usain Bolt. Il s'appelle Usain Bolt et il a trente quatre ans. Son anniversaire c'est le 21 Août et Il est né à Jamaïque. Il adore le sport mais il aussi adore les jeux vidéos. Il a les cheveux noirs et il a les yeux noirs.

Il habite à Australie.

Il a un frère, il s'appelle Sadiki et une sœur, elle s'appelle Sherine. Sa mère s'appelle Jennifer et son père s'appelle Wellesley.

Usain Bolt C'est Super!

Music

This month the topics Music are covering are:

- Blues in Year 8 Music
- African music and samba Music in Year 9

Message from Mrs Ashmi Morjaria, Junior School Deputy Head (Academic)

In the Junior School, one of our key components of the curriculum is the Past-Present-Future link. Our Black History Month work has enabled our girls to understand this component more deeply. They have looked at hidden figures from the past like Katherine Johnson, seen the impact that they have made on present day heroes like astronaut Mae C Jemison and then started to discuss what this might mean for the future.

I have been blown away by 6 year old girls eloquently discussing the battles faced by Mary Seacole and 8 year olds talking about the Windrush Generation. Our year 6 girls were so moved by the story of Stephen Lawrence; they spoke to me about supporting the foundation and we have now raised £460.

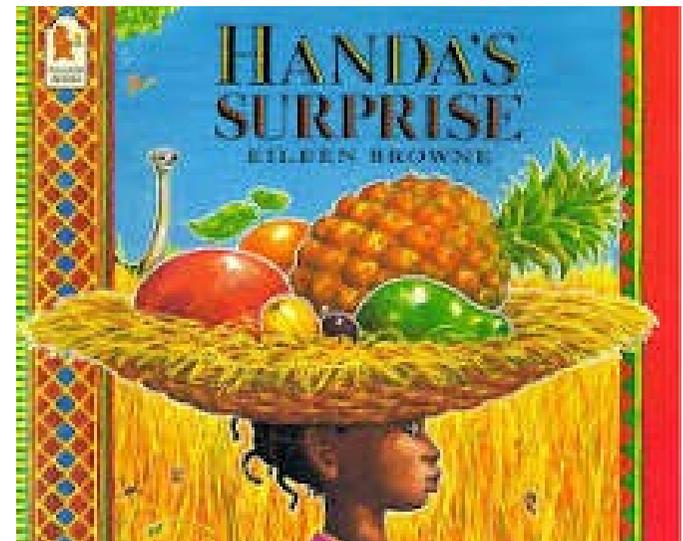
The girls in the Junior School have demonstrated that they are unafraid to ask questions, unafraid to challenge social norms and unafraid to be change makers. They are already making meaningful change and I am confident that they will continue to make the world a better place.

It has been a really special month and one that we look forward to building on throughout the year.

Early Years

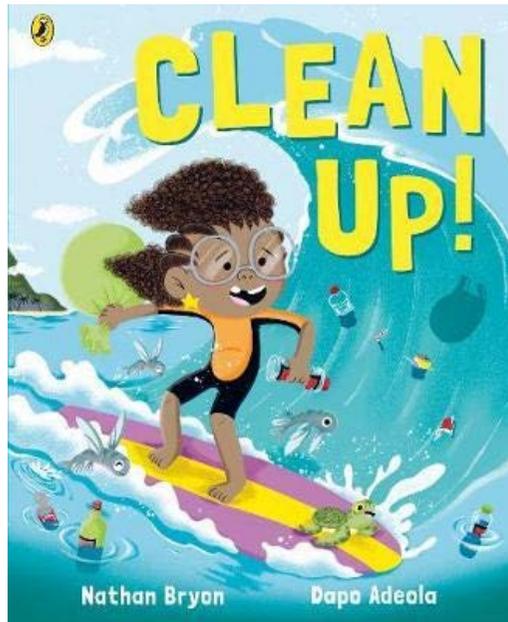
Nursery

The Nursery girls have been reading *Handa's Surprise*, a modern classic named one of the best culturally diverse picture books in the UK. Handa, who's part of the Luo tribe in south-west Kenya decides to take seven pieces of delicious fruit to her friend, Akeyo, who lives in the neighbouring village. But as Handa wonders, I wonder what fruit Akeyo will like best?, a series of sneaky animals steal something from Handa's basket, which she's carrying on her head... When Handa reaches Akeyo, will she have anything left to offer her friend? The Nursery girls have loved following Handa's journey and indentifying her fruit in order to learn about their primary senses.



Reception

The Reception girls have been discussing the key issues in Clean up! Rocket goes to visit her grandparents at the beach only to realise it has been polluted by plastic. This is a diverse, heartwarming, timely and empowering picture book, showing how we ALL can make a difference. The girls deepened their understanding of these key issues by sorting out rubbish in class, discussing the effect on wild life and creating 'Clean up' posters.



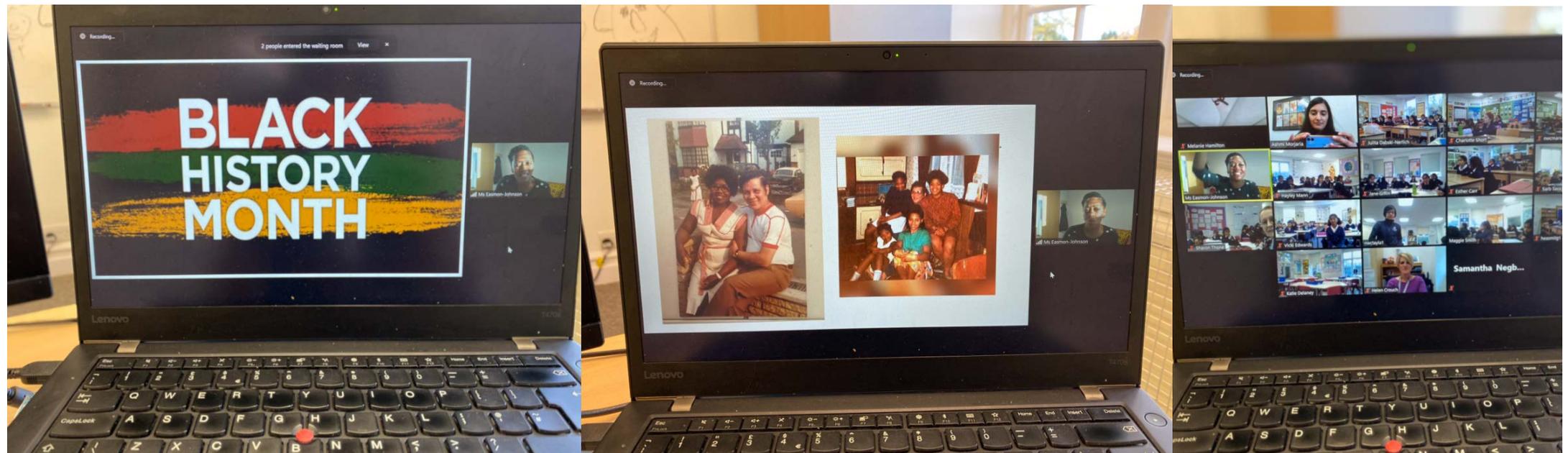




Junior School

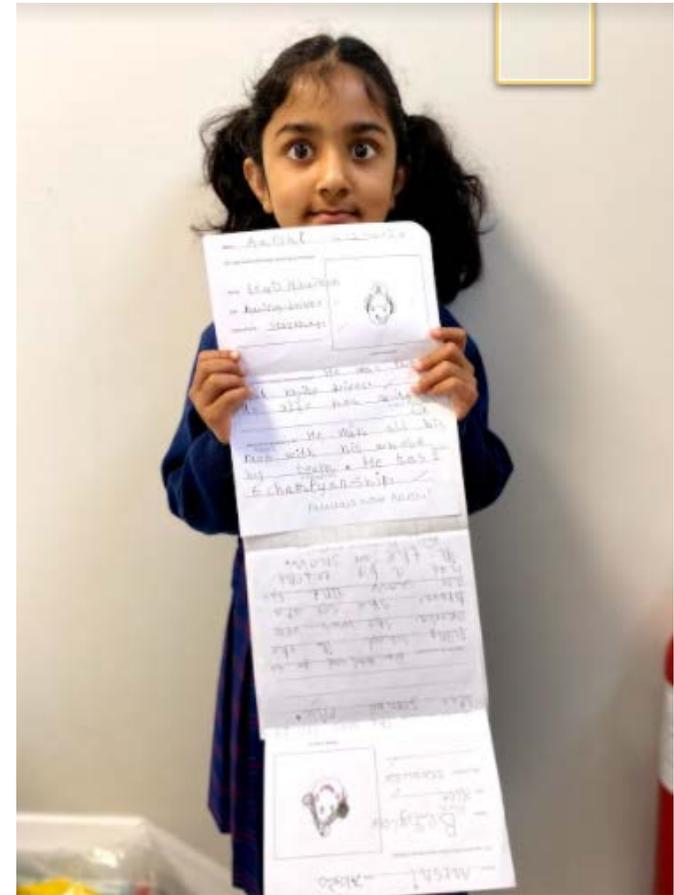
Black History Month Assembly

The Junior School girls got to experience a powerful virtual assembly from executive head teacher Miss Easmon-Johnson, who talked about her journey, life, challenges and how to positively move on. This talk was very inspirational and has inspired our girls to smash glass ceilings. Thank you to Miss Easmon-Johnson and everyone involved who made this assembly possible.



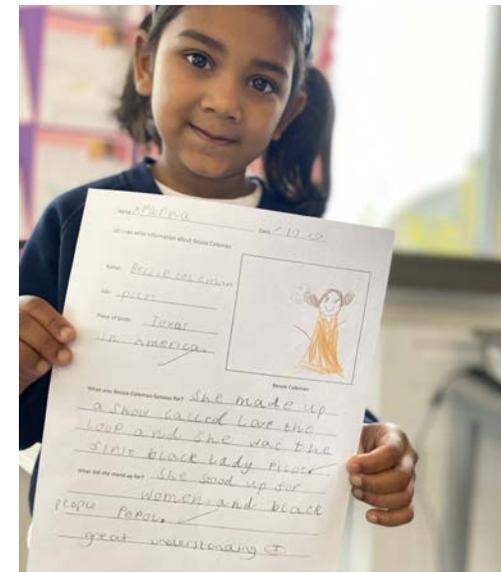
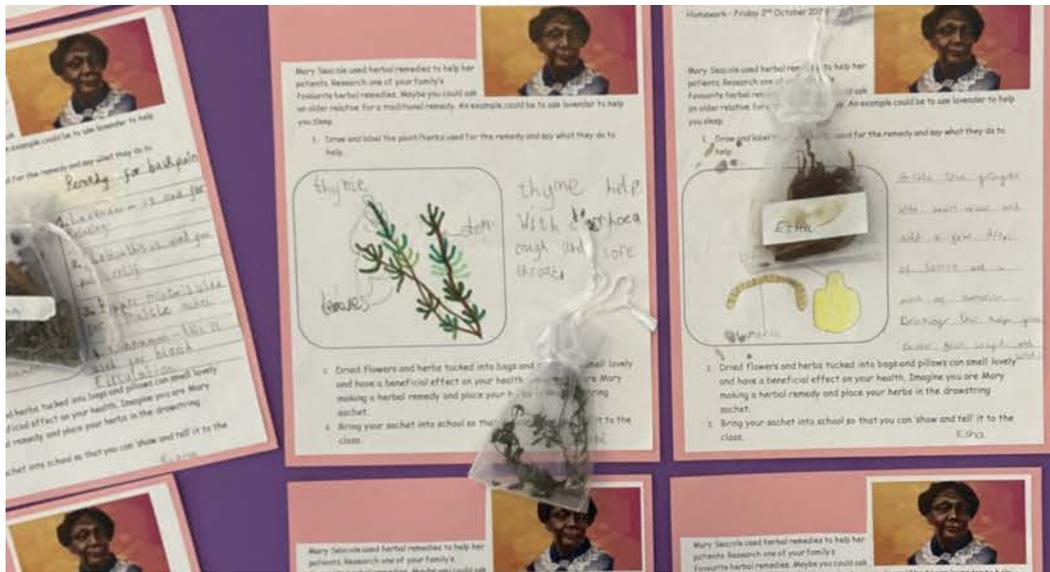
Year 1

Year 1 girls have been looking at past and present prominent black figures. They focused on the work of Lewis Hamilton and Bessie Coleman, the first African-American to hold a pilot license.



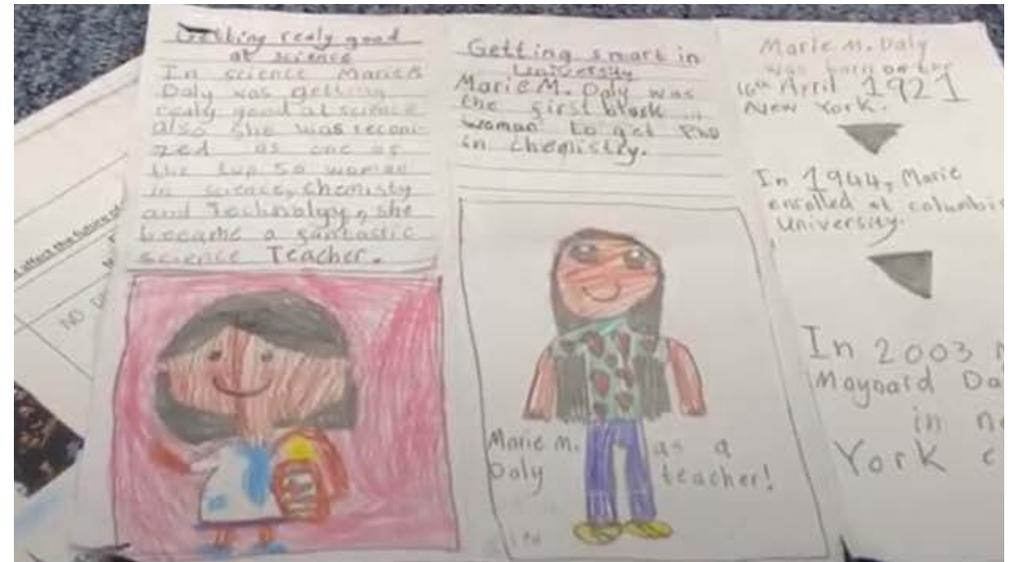
Year 2

Have been working on the work of Mary Seacole and the remedies she used. The children are going home to source a safe herbal remedy and return it in a small gauze bag. It is also good for past, present, future as we have suggested they look to their elders for these traditional remedies that we still use today! They presented their herbs in speaking and listening.



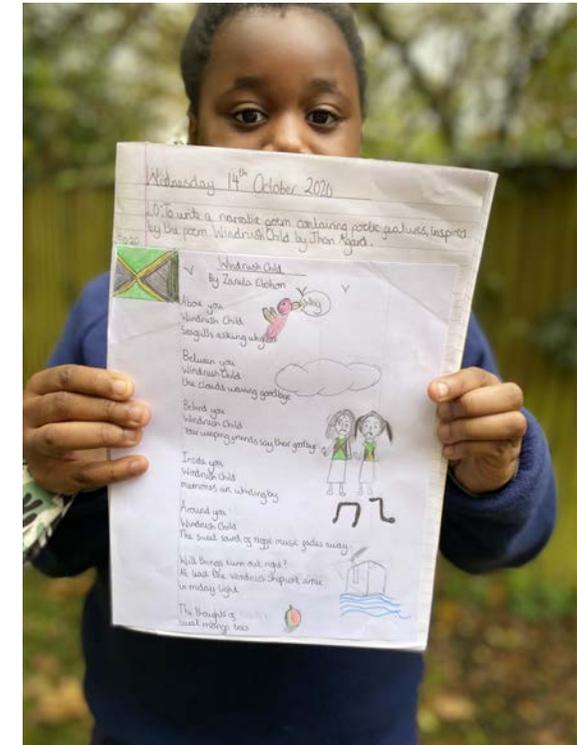
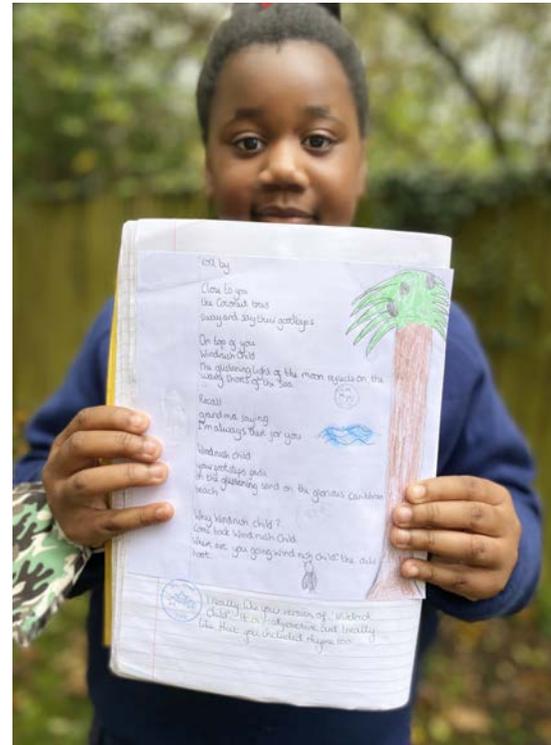
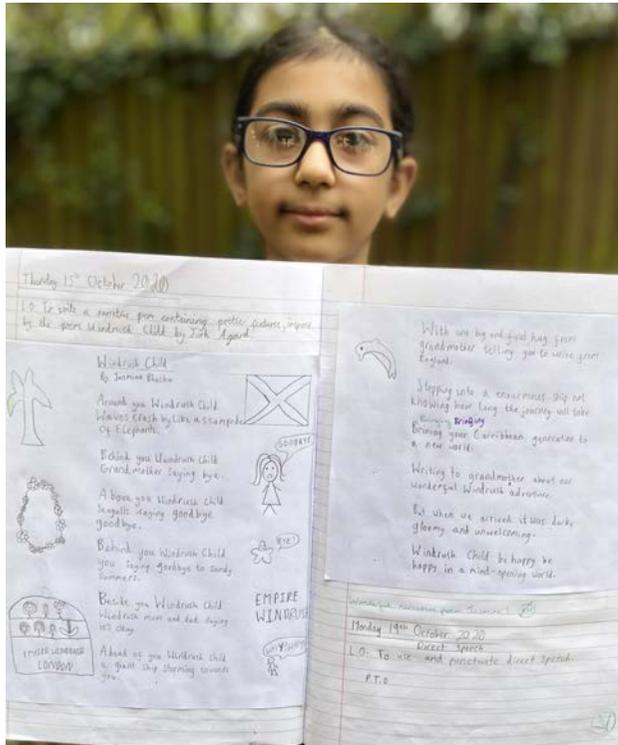
Year 3

Year 3 have looked at Marie Maynard Daly, the first black woman to receive a PhD in Chemistry. The girls designed their own posters to explain why her work is fundamental to how we live now.



Year 4

Year 4 girls learnt about the Windrush Generation and produced their own Windrush Poems. See an example of their creative work below



Year 5

Year 5 are studying the 'hidden figures' of Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson and their rise to prominence at NASA. They have all written an 'essay' comparing Katherine Johnson to a 'hero'. In science the girls are doing a black scientists quiz where girls match up scientists with who they are and what they do.

Year 6

The girls had to research information on one of the first black soldiers to become an officer in WWI – Walter Tull.

Walters Life

Walter Tull was born in Folkestone Kent on the 28th April 1888. He had come from a mixed family, His mother (Alice) was a Folkestone local and his dad (Daniel) moved from Barbados to England. He had married twice and had six children. After Walter's dad's death in 1897 his stepmother had to move Walter and his brother Edward to an east orphanage in East London. While Walter was at the orphanage, he had played a range of sports, including football and cricket.

After Walter had left school, he became a printer's apprentice, but his real love was football. Walter started to play for amateur team Clapton Football Club. Then he joined the Tottenham Hotspur, one of London's top professional Football teams. At the age of 21 he was only the second black football league player. People commented on his cool play and accurate passing but then he had lost his place at Tottenham. He had moved to Northampton Town Football Club where he was successful, playing 110 matches during his time there.

But when the war had been declared in 1914 the Professional football was suspended until the war was over. Walter and many other footballers had decided to join the Football Battalion. Walter was sent to France and took part in many battles. He was quickly promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Football Battalion. Then in 1916 Walter moved back to England and had started to train to be an officer. At that time white people were only allowed to be trained as an officer but Walter became an exception to these rules and was allowed to continue his training. In 1917 he had become an officer and was the first black person to lead white people into battle. But in 1918 Walter was hit and killed by the Germans and his body was never found. He was awarded the 1914- 1915 star and the war victory medals

How do we remember Walter Tull?

In France there is an Arras Memorial, they had written all the names of men who were killed, and Walter was one of them. Walter's life and career was celebrated in this article written by John Fennelly that appeared in the Tottenham Hotspur monthly magazine 'Hotspur'. And finally, there is a road leading to Northampton Town's football stadium was named after Walter because of his success and service to the team.

By Avantika

Super, well recorded information.

Great work

I AM.



Friday 9th October 2020

About Walter Tull

Walter Tull was a professional football player and fought in World War 1. He had to give up his career as a footballer to help out in the war, but he then became recognised as the first black officer to lead white British soldiers into battle.

Walter Tull was born in Folkestone, Kent on the 28th April 1888. He came from a mixed-race family. His mother was white and his father was black. His mother, Alice, was a Folkestone local. However, his father, Daniel, had moved from Barbados to England. Walter married twice and had six children.

After Walter's mother died due to cancer when he was 7 and his father died three months later because of his heart disease, he grew up in a children's home/ orphanage in London. The city was busy and noisy. It was very different to the farms and countryside he was used to. Once he left school, he became a printer's apprentice but what he was extremely fascinated in, was football.



In 1908, he began playing for Clapton Football Club before he joined Spurs and at the age of 21 he became the second black football league player. He then went on to play for Northampton Town. However, when war was declared, Walter decided to join the Footballer's Battalion. He was sent to France and had taken part in many battles.

Walter had a successful career during the war. He was quickly promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Football Battalion. Although, in 1916 Walter moved back to England and began training as an Officer. At this time, only a white, British-born person could be trained to be an Officer. But, Walter became an exception to these rules and was allowed to continue his training. On the 25th March 1918 Walter led an attack on No Man's Land (The reason how No Man's land got its name is because it is an unclaimed piece of territory which was fought for). Melancholically, he was hit and killed. Although, his body was never found.

Walter is still remembered to this day by his football club and many others. He was awarded the 1914-15 star and war and victory medals. Walter's name is on the Arras Memorial which commemorates around 35,000 servicemen who lost their lives between the spring of 1916 and the 7 August 1918, who had no known graves.

Friday 9th October 2020

Topic Homework - 9.10.20-ImaanS 6KS

Walter Tull



Walter Tull was often known as a Soccer Soldier, this was due to the fact that before he was told to become a soldier in the First World War he had an established football career. Walter Tull was needed to give up his thriving career in football to help out in the war. In the future he then became recognised as the first black officer to lead non-black British soldiers into battle.

Walter Tull's Childhood

Walter was born in Folkestone, Kent on the 28th April 1888. He came from a mixed-race family (parents from different backgrounds/ethnic minorities.) His mother, named Alice, was a local from Folkestone. Walter's father, Daniel, had moved from Barbados to England. Daniel had married twice and had had 6 children. After his father's death in 1897, Walter's step mother was required to move Walter and his brother to an orphanage in East London. For the years before Walter was required to move to an orphanage he was mostly used to the farms and countryside areas he was raised around. This was a noisy and busy change for Walter.

Walter Discovers A Love for Football

Walter began to discover a love for Football from an early age. Whilst he was at the orphanage he played a range of sports, including cricket and Football. After he returned from school Walter went to play for an amateur team, Clapton Football Club. He then developed skill and became good enough to join Tottenham Hotspur, at the time it was one of London's top most professional teams, however Walter lost his place at Tottenham Hotspur. He then moved to the Northampton Town Football club, where he became successful, playing in 110 matches during his time at this club. Due to the war, Walter had joined the Football Battalion as the war had begun. Professional football was then suspended until the war concluded. Many other footballers decided to join the Football Battalion. The battalion was a main fighting unit with a rough number of at least 1,000 men.

Walter Travels to war

Walter did have a successful career during the war, he was rapidly promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Football Battalion. In 1916 Walter moved back to England and began training as an officer. During the time of the First World War, only a white, British-born person could be trained to become an officer. Walter therefore became an exception to these rules, and was allowed to continue his training.

Super record of his life

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Early Life

Walter Tull was born on the 28 April 1888 in Folkestone, Kent. He came from a mixed-race family which meant that he had parents from different races. His father, Daniel Tull, came to England from Barbados and had six children. He also married twice! His mother, Alice Tull, was a Folkestone local so it makes sense that Walter was born there. After his father's death, everything changed...



Middle Age

Walter was taken to an orphanage where he joined the football team. He loved football. He played many other sports but football was the one he was most passionate about. He was so wistful about it that went on to become the second black footballer. When war broke out in 1914, he did something very heroic. He signed up to fight in the war.

Joining the war

Unfortunately, Walter joined the war and he agreed to become a soldier. There was a specific group that he joined. It was called 'The Footballers Battalion'. He had a very successful career and was swiftly promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In those days, it was believed that only a white, British man could be trained to be an officer. To Though this was the rule, Walter abandoned it and was allowed to proceed with his training.

Walter's death

After taking part in many battles, Walter took his troop to 'No Man's Land'. There he was hit and mournfully killed. His name was carved into the Arras Memorial and he will never be forgotten. Great, focussed details. A very informative record.

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