



Black History Month

23 October 2020

BLACK HISTORY

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2020 is definitely a year for the history books. From a deadly pandemic to a global movement for racial justice, this year has already experienced its fair share of world-shifting events. Racial injustice has sparked months of global unrest and as we look into the truth behind history this Black History Month, we will be lifting the veil on unspoken men and women in Black British history and showcasing what it really means to be Black and British.

This year has seen outrage over the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, Ahmaud Arbery and Jonathan Price. #SayTheirNames and #BlackLivesMatter trended for months, alongside protests throughout the globe. These names and events reminded us of our own British past of Mark Duggan, a 29-year-old British man, who was shot and killed by police in Tottenham, North London on 4 August 2011. Across London and the cities of England there were fires and communities seeking justice. Black History month continues to grow and evolve into a month that provides an opportunity to bring forth a period of reflection, traditional acknowledgement of ancestors and a celebration of what has been achieved and what is yet to come.

Our Black history, though similar to our American brothers and sisters, had different barriers and experiences. Britain's past is in black and in white. It's the story of the people that came here seeking a better life, but it's also the story of people carried here by force, traded as slaves.

It's a story that has been written into the landscape of Britain and into the faces of many of its people that live here. The story of a relationship between Britain and the people whose stories and origins stem from Africa, stretching back far beyond living memory.



British History has been Westernised, only having one side of the story being told. During this month and throughout the year we will be pushing forward to tell the unspoken stories of black and ethnic minorities, giving life to memories erased by history.

At Highlands School; Black History Month isn't just another box to be ticked for the year, a mere acknowledgement of black peoples' successes. It is an understanding of where we are and how we got here, that our combined heritage ultimately is our national story, our British History.






“In years gone by, October has been the only time of year when the UK talks about the achievements of Black people in Britain.

Hopefully, the events of 2020 will be a catalyst for Black history to be shared much more widely - in museums, galleries, schools, universities, public spaces and communities.”

Catherine Ross, guest editor of Black History Month 2020.

RECOMMENDED READS

Another good way of celebrating Black History Month in your own right is by reading up about Black history and culture. A number of educational books and programmes are widely available for those who want to learn more about the historic plight of Black communities. For those who use the streaming platform Netflix, an entire category exists around Black lives. Programmes include films and TV shows made by Black directors and producers, as well as a host of fascinating documentaries which explore Black history and the socio-economic problems that have arisen today as a result.

<p>THE LONELY LONDONERS BY SAMUEL SELVON (1956)</p>  <p>In the first of a trilogy, Samuel Selvon uses vibrant language and sharp narrative to navigate the tribulations of his character Moses facing an uncertain life in England, after leaving Trinidad.</p>	<p>SMALL ISLAND BY ANDREA LEVY (2004)</p>  <p>Through four narrators - Gilbert and Hortense, who come to London from Jamaica in 1948, and Queenie and Bernard, an English couple - 'Small Island' tells the story of post-war Caribbean migration.</p> <p>This book gives us a marvellous, poignant and touching insight into how many of the Windrush Generation found a way to make England a place they could call home.</p>
<p>VOICES OF THE WINDRUSH GENERATION BY DAVID MATTHEWS (2018)</p>  <p>A collection of stories about the diverse lives, loves and experiences of several Caribbean people who came to Britain from 1948 onwards, in their own voices.</p>	<p>FICTION</p>     



MEDIA

Broadcasters are trying to diversify their content with more inclusive and representative shows and films amid the worldwide Black Lives Matter movement in 2020. Below is a mixture of content across the streaming and subscription services. Parental advisory is advised.



GHOST



A cash-strapped young couple inherit a rickety country mansion, only to find it teeming with needy ghosts. Grown-up comedy from the Horrible Histories team.

Black and British: A Forgotten History



Historian David Olusoga explores the enduring relationship between Britain and people whose origins lie in Africa.

Sitting in Limbo

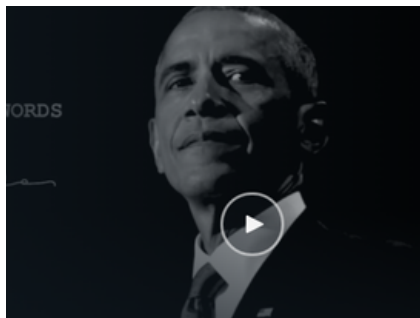
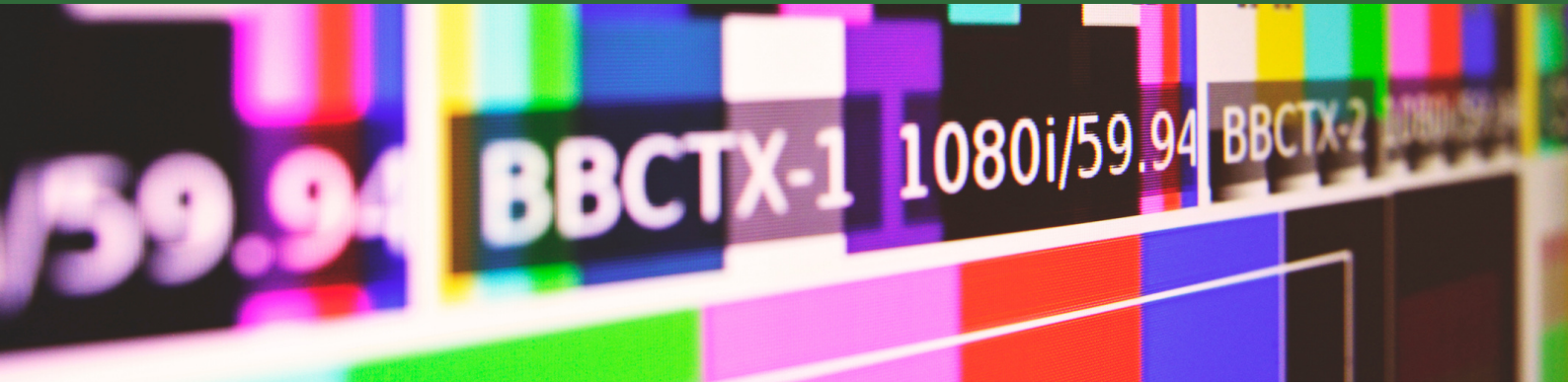


A shocking drama inspired by the Windrush scandal. After 50 years in the UK, Anthony Bryan is wrongfully detained by the Home Office and threatened with deportation.

Yardie



BBC Films presents Idris Elba's Yardie. Set in 70s Kingston and 80s Hackney, Yardie centres on the life of a young Jamaican man named D, who has never fully recovered from the murder, committed during his childhood, of his older brother Jerry Dread.



In His Own Words - Barack Obama

The 44th American President is the focus of this one-off documentary In His Own Words - Barack Obama, which looks at the leader and his ethos.



Little Fires Everywhere

The miniseries is based on Celeste Ng's 2017 book of the same name and sees the destruction caused by misconceptions with powerful dual performances from Kerry Washington and Reese Witherspoon.



Desmond's

British sitcom Desmond's focuses on the Ambrose family living in Peckham, South London and was one of the longest-running sitcoms on Channel 4 airing between 1989 and 1994.



Black-ish

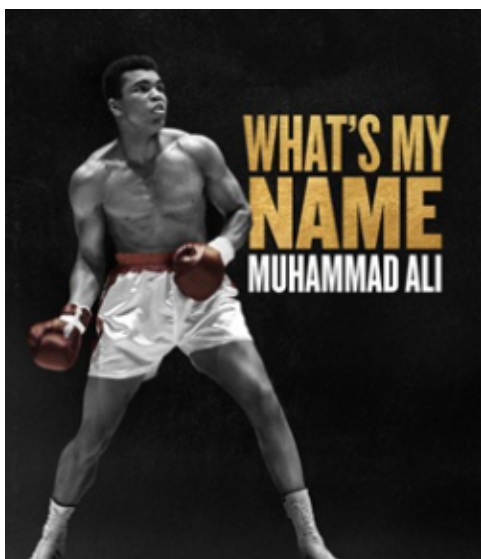
For something a little lighter, look no further than US comedy Black-ish which follows an upper middle class African American as they navigate personal issues as well as socio-political situations in a sitcom setting.





John Lewis: Good Trouble (Sky Documentaries)

Sky and NOW TV have a plethora of content including this powerful documentary exploring politician and US House of Representatives member John Lewis' life and legacy.



What's My Name: Muhammad Ali (Sky Documentaries)

Another factual programme follows legendary boxer Muhammad Ali and uses previously unseen archival footage to chart the highs and lows in life including his triumphs and comebacks.

Save Me Too (Sky Atlantic)



British star of The Walking Dead and Line of Duty Lennie James has created and starred in this heart-pounding thriller which will have you hooked until the very end.



Rise Up: The Movement that changed America (Sky Documentaries)

This one-off documentary concentrates on some of the major battles in the Civil Rights Movement which has led to lasting change in American society today, including the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955 and the Chicago Campaign which paved the way for the Fair Housing Act of 1968.



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

ACHIEVEMENTS CONTRIBUTIONS
THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Images on this story have been sources from [BBC](#)

HIDDEN FIGURES IN HISTORY

Sarah Forbes Bonetta: Portrait of Queen Victoria's goddaughter

Sarah Forbes Bonetta, Queen Victoria's African goddaughter by artist Hannah Uzor, is on display at Osborne House. A new painting of Queen Victoria's African goddaughter has gone on display as English Heritage said it would feature portraits of "overlooked" black figures connected with its sites.

Sarah Forbes Bonetta was sold into slavery aged five and presented as a "diplomatic gift" to Captain Frederick Forbes in 1850. Having been brought to England she then met Queen Victoria through the captain, who paid for her education.

The painting is on show at the Isle of Wight Osborne House.

The picture is on display at the royal seaside palace, where the Queen once lived with Prince Albert and their nine children, to coincide with Black History Month.



English Heritage is displaying a portrait of Bonetta as part of a plan to feature works of "overlooked" black figures connected with its sites. The portrait, by artist Hannah Uzor, is based on a photograph and shows Ms Bonetta wearing her wedding dress.

Captain Forbes had visited the King of Dahomey - in what is now Benin - as a representative of Queen Victoria, on a mission to negotiate the suppression of slavery.

Ms Bonetta died in Madeira, aged 37, after becoming sick with tuberculosis. Her daughter Victoria received the news while visiting the Queen at Osborne.

English Heritage said from spring 2021 further portraits of black figures associated with its sites, whose stories like Ms Bonetta's had been "previously overlooked", will go on display.

The charity said: "Black history is part of English history and, while we know we have more to do, English Heritage is committed to telling the story of England in full."

Ms Eavis added: "There are a number of black figures from the past who have played significant roles at some of the historic sites in our care but their stories are not very well known.

Ms Bonetta's story was the subject of a play released at the start of the year called The Gift.





Other portraits set to go on display include Rome's African-born emperor Septimius Severus, who strengthened Hadrian's Wall, and James Chappell, a 17th Century servant at Kirby Hall in Northamptonshire, who saved the life of the country house's owner.

Brodsworth Hall in South Yorkshire is one of the properties where visitors can find new information about connections to the slave trade. Its former owner, Peter Thellusson, was not a slave trader himself but invested in slavery-related commodities and land.

At Kenwood House, in London, visitors can learn about how rulings by former owner Lord Mansfield, as Lord Chief Justice, made a significant contribution along the road to abolition.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMPETITION

As a celebration of Black History Month in partnership with Jack Petchey, Highlands School is launching a writing competition to mark our contribution to Black History Month 2020. We would like to invite you to write an essay on any of the two BHM subjects below. All participants must be prepared to present their essay if needed to. Winners will receive £100 for first prize, £50 for second prize and £20 for third prize of Love2Shop vouchers.

Please choose from one of the two topics and send your response in by 26th October at 5:00pm to be considered for the prize. Send your essays by email as an MS Word document to **Mrs D Maple** (MapleD@highlearn.uk).

1

What does Black History Month mean to you?

Guide note: Your essay (no longer than 800 words) should articulate views about its importance and significance from your perspective.

2

What great black British person or event do you feel is unheralded or unappreciated?

Guide note: Your essay (no longer than 800 words) can be about a Black individual or significant event related to Black people in 20th/21st century history that you feel has not got the respect that they/it deserves.

We will shortlist the top 3 essays which will be added to the school newsletter and attached to the school website.



Influential Black women are taking over the Instagram #ShareTheMicUK

Influential Black women are taking over the Instagram accounts of their White counterparts on Thursday to mark the beginning of the UK's Black History Month.

Share the Mic UK aims to magnify Black women's work, lives and achievements by bringing together more than 70 women with a combined Instagram following of more than 175 million, according to a post on the campaign's verified Instagram account.



Bernardine Evaristo, left, will have the reins of CNN's Christiane Amanpour's Instagram account.

Booker Prize winning author Bernardine Evaristo will take over CNN's chief international anchor Christiane Amanpour's account, while broadcaster June Sarpong will be posting to singer and fashion designer Victoria Beckham's 28.7 million followers.

Academic and author Emma Dabiri is pairing up with actor and entrepreneur Gwyneth Paltrow, while Kenya Hunt, fashion director at Grazia UK magazine, will take over model and fashion designer Alexa Chung's account. "The voices of Black women have gone unheard and their incredible works and great success has been unseen by many," reads a post from the campaign account. "This needs to change. We want to magnify Black women and their experiences."



Emma Dabiri, left, will take over Gwyneth Paltrow's Instagram

The initiative which uses the hashtags **#ShareTheMicUK** and **#ShareTheMicNow** follows the success of the US-based Share the Mic Now campaign which ran in June.

It is organised by Vanessa Kingori, publishing director at British Vogue magazine, and Stephanie Phair, an executive at fashion brand Farfetch and chair of the British Fashion Council.

Kingori said that she had found a ray of hope in the challenges and tragedies of this year.

"Never in my life have I had and witnessed more meaningful, honest discussions about racial disparity," she said in an Instagram post.

"This has to be just the beginning." The Instagram takeover comes at the beginning of a month of events celebrating Black History Month in the United Kingdom. Racial disparities have been thrust into the limelight this year following the death of George Floyd in May, which sparked global protests and led many countries and companies to reassess their relationship with race.



YOUNG ART-ISTS

Year 7 have recently taken part in an art project led by Mrs McCalmont and Mrs Chrysostomou, analysing portraits of:

- Frida Kahlo – Mexican
- Amrita Sher-Gil – Indian- Hungarian
- Lynette Yiadom-Boakye – British - Ghanaian
- Chris Ofili - Nigerian

Using this as a platform, students would look at influences from the artists' cultural background to showcase their own artistic talents and celebrate people in both modern and past history.





WORD SEARCH

HEROES AND HEROINES OF BLACK HISTORY

S O U A C B R U A F X I X E I D H A D V
 R O N A L D M O O D Y X Y C F L Q F D E
 E L L E B H T E B A Z I L E O D I D L S
 B E F E D F U X L W J Z I H E N O I N Y
 R L A C R B V Y P H F Q K T W O S I Y D
 V O N N G U V Y L D M M R O F A T F M O
 R C N I E N N D M A K I R Q B R T W F O
 A A Y R O P N A O X J B G E A V R Y G M
 B E E P R D G X M H D L T M T A L R W S
 N S A Y G K L U S L T H O Y Q I M G K E
 U Y T R E F T F A R W D E M F H V Q T L
 D R O A R W V N Q E N X D W A J E Q L R
 H A N M I N O Z L A X V T F J X H N D A
 P M W W C D P C L W I A W Z L M J G N H
 L Q S O E Q H R E C U R B R E H T S E C
 O S Q T N Q O D R H A R O L D M O O D Y
 D Y D O O M A I H T N Y C F E Y P B Z Z
 U O D X V I G L R O O Z A C K G A U K H
 R G H R I P D R A O F U C Q K J A Z L J
 Z L B P I U K S V B Q G R H W A J O F O

Charles Moody
 Donald Brown
 Elisabeth Welch
 Mary Prince
 Ronald Moody

Cynthia Moody
 Dr. George Rice
 Esther Bruce
 Mary Seacole
 Rudolph Dunbar

Dido Elizabeth Belle
 Dr. Harold Moody
 Fanny Eaton
 Orlando Martins