



# CULTURAL & HERITAGE DAY


AT HIGHLANDS SCHOOL









# Cultural and Heritage Day at Highlands School




On 12th June, Highlands School came alive with colour, tradition, and celebration as we hosted our annual Cultural and Heritage Day. Students and staff dressed in traditional attire or clothing that reflected their cultural backgrounds, coming together to celebrate the rich diversity that makes our school - and our country - so unique.



Culture is more than just food and fashion - it includes religion, language, beliefs, family traditions, music, and how we connect with one another. This day was not only about celebration but also about education: understanding, respecting, and embracing our differences, while ensuring cultural expressions were shared sensitively and respectfully. We also aimed to avoid cultural misappropriation by acknowledging that every tradition, item of clothing, or food comes from a specific place and should not be taken as a representation of an entire culture.



In this newsletter, we explore how diversity has driven progress across medicine, technology, education, and the arts, shaping a better and more inclusive world. Britain's cultural landscape has been enriched by a new generation of diverse voices in literature, from Bernardine Evaristo's powerful narratives of race and identity, to Zadie Smith's sharp portrayals of multicultural London, and Kazuo Ishiguro's deeply human stories shaped by memory and history.



**Cultural and Heritage Day** at Highlands is more than a celebration. It is a reflection of the vibrant, evolving society we live in and a reminder of the strength we find in our shared experiences.







## Spotlight on important figures

### Ana Roqué de Duprey

(1853 - 1933)



#### Nationality: Puerto Rican

Ana Roqué de Duprey, born in Puerto Rico in 1853, was a pioneering educator, scientist, and women's rights activist. At just 13, she opened a school in her home and wrote a geography textbook later used across the island. She founded several girls' schools and helped establish the College of Mayagüez, now part of the University of Puerto Rico. A passionate astronomer and botanist, she authored *Botany of the Antilles* and played a key role in the fight for Puerto Rican women's suffrage.

Ana Roqué de Duprey was a pioneering Puerto Rican educator, writer, scientist, and women's rights activist. She is best known for her major contributions to women's education and the suffrage movement in Puerto Rico.

### Jimmy-Jean Louis

(1968)



#### Nationality: Haitian

Jimmy-Jean has won multiple acting awards, including Best Actor at the Pan African Film Festival, and was nominated for his roles in *Toussaint Louverture* and *Desrances*.

In 2008, he founded Hollywood Unites for Haiti, a charity supporting underprivileged youth through sport and culture. He has played a key role in Haiti's relief efforts, served as Ambassador-at-Large, and used his platform to promote health awareness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Jean-Louis continues to be a global advocate for Haitian heritage and resilience.

Jimmy Jean-Louis is an award-winning Haitian actor and human rights activist, best known for his role as 'The Haitian' in the TV series *Heroes*.



## Spotlight on important figures

### Professor Partha Kar

(1973)



**Nationality: Bangladeshi (Bengali South Asian Heritage)**

Professor Kar's work has significantly improved diabetes outcomes in hospitals and has driven advocacy for structural changes within the NHS to tackle health disparities. He has been recognised as one of the most influential Black, Asian, and minority ethnic figures in healthcare in England, and holds the title of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE).

Professor Kar is a leading figure in diabetes care, known for his work on innovative technologies like wearable glucose monitors and the "super six" model of diabetes care.

### Daniel-Day Lewis

(1957)



**Nationality: British and Irish**

Daniel Day-Lewis, a highly acclaimed British-Irish actor, is celebrated for his extraordinary dedication to his craft and transformative performances. The only male actor to have won three Academy Awards for Best Actor, he is known for roles in films such as *My Left Foot*, *There Will Be Blood*, and *Lincoln*. Of Anglo-Irish heritage, Day-Lewis holds dual British and Irish citizenship and has proudly embraced both cultures throughout his career. Beyond his remarkable acting, he is admired for his selective approach to roles, his deep preparation, and his respect for storytelling, which have set a gold standard for actors worldwide.

Renowned for his method acting, Day-Lewis is of mixed Irish and British heritage. He has won multiple Academy Awards for his performances in films like *There Will Be Blood* and *Lincoln*.





## Celebrating Cultural and Heritage Day



Highlands School proudly celebrated Cultural and Heritage Day with a vibrant and joyful display of diversity across the school. Staff and students embraced the spirit of the day by dressing in traditional garments or wearing the colours of their national flags, proudly representing their cultural identities. The atmosphere throughout the day was filled with pride, unity, and celebration, as our school community came together to recognise and honour the wide range of backgrounds and traditions that make Highlands such a special place.

One of the highlights of the day was the cultural bake sale at break time, where students brought in a delicious variety of homemade foods from different cultures to share with their peers. From sweet treats to savoury favourites, the bake sale not only offered a taste of global flavours but also helped raise money for the school's house system.

It was a fantastic event that truly captured the heart of our inclusive school community. It was so lovely to see students and staff engaging with and learning about one another's cultures, reminding us all of the strength we gain from diversity and mutual respect.





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Cultural and Heritage Day at Highlands School is a powerful reminder of the strength found in diversity. By honouring the many backgrounds that make up our community, we not only celebrate our differences but also learn from them. From the evolution of global innovations in medicine and technology to the voices of diverse British writers shaping modern literature, our shared experiences continue to enrich our understanding of the world. As we dress in cultural attire and share stories, food, and traditions, we do so with respect, sensitivity, and a commitment to embracing what makes each of us unique – together creating a stronger, more inclusive future.







## Celebrating Cultural and Heritage Day

### Staff wellbeing break

As part of Cultural and Heritage Day, staff enjoyed a special wellbeing break filled with delicious homemade cultural treats. From freshly made samosas to traditional banana cake, the staffroom was a celebration of flavour and community, showcasing the rich diversity within our school team.





# Celebrating Cultural and Heritage Day

## House bake sale

As part of Cultural and Heritage Day, each house hosted a vibrant bake sale to raise money for their chosen charity, with every pound raised also converting into house points for the competition.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed! From Cypriot delights like galaktoboureka and flaounes to Taiwanese taro parcels and Brazilian brigadeiros, the stalls were filled with flavour and community spirit.

