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Celebrating our school and community

FOCUSON...



Issue No.123 – 9 October 2020



...It's Black History Month at FHS!

October is Black History Month, and this year's theme at Formby High School is 'Black and British'. Since our assembly on 1 October to kickstart Black History Month, students from all years have been addressing issues of race and racism, as well as improving their historical and cultural awareness of Black history in the UK. In form time each day, our students are reflecting on quotations by Black thinkers, and around the school are posters displaying the thoughts of many current Black British popular figures. In RESPECT this week,

students learned more about Black British history such as the Bristol Bus Boycotts, the colour bar, and the influence of Black and British individuals from Roman times to the present day.

...Black Contribution to the Curriculum

Across their subjects, students are exploring the inventions, writings and lives of Black scientists, authors, thinkers, artists and musicians. In Chemistry, students have investigated the contribution of George Washington Carver who revolutionised farming in the Southern United States. In English, Year 13 students have been studying Natives by Akala – a memoir on growing up poor and mixed races in the 1980s and 1990s. In Physics, the space topic has been enhanced by studying the research of Professor Maggie Aderin-Pocock, and in Sport, History, Politics and more, students have studied the work of influential contributors to the field. Across the school, students learned of the profound role of Mary Seacole in nursing, Marcus Rashford's campaign to end child poverty in the UK and the work of Stormzy in increasing access to Cambridge University for Black students. On 15 October, Year 11 will be taking part in an LJMU lecture on 'Toppling Statues and Renaming Buildings' as part of their series of events on the Black Lives Matter Movement and the history of slavery.



...Our Black Heroes

Many of our students have been involved in the promotion of Black History Month across the school and have worked tirelessly to create posters, make display boards and write articles to share their heroes with us:

“ *Harriet Tubman was a black slave. She was born around 1820 in Maryland. She grew up as a slave until she was an adult and decided to escape. She went through the forests hiding from the slave catchers and made it to Pennsylvania where she was free! She also suffered from a brain injury but after a year went back to the South so she could help others to escape. In just ten years she made 15 journeys on the underground railroad and helped free over 300 slaves.* Summer (Year 8) ”

“ *Nelson Mandela was born in July 1918 and married in 1944. He was repeatedly arrested for seditious (inciting rebellion against the state) activities and was unsuccessfully prosecuted for treason in 1956. He was arrested and imprisoned in 1962, but subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiring to overthrow the state. Mandela served 27 years in prison and was released in 1990. He then served as President of the African National Congress party from 1991 to 1997.* Lana (Year 8) ”

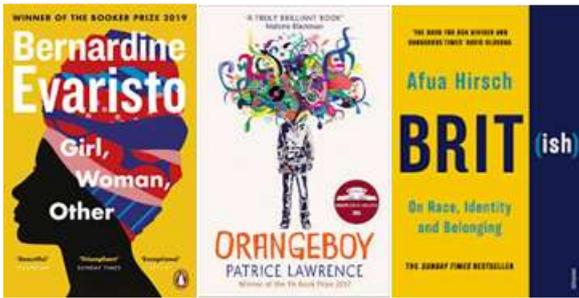
...Improving our Society

Jessica and Lucy in Year 11 have used Black History Month, and the increased prominence of the Black Lives Matter movement, to reflect on the changes in society since the 1500s. Their powerful essay determines that:

“ *The struggle of equality for black people is an ongoing battle which is still waiting to be conquered. Education is power. We must learn about the importance of racial equality and stand up and speak out against injustices of all kind - ‘silence is betrayal’. Therefore, it is not a question of how far have we come, for we have certainly come a long way, but rather, will we continue to fight? ”*

They have articulated so eloquently why Black History Month is so important, and the rest of their emotive essay can be found [here](#).

...Library Corner



For fans of young adult fiction, *Orangeboy* by Patrice Lawrence examines the moral dilemmas of 16-year-old Marlon, who is worried he will follow his brother down the wrong path in life. *Orangeboy* is unputdownable, and the author's love for music seeps into every page. If you like *Orangeboy*, you'll also love *The Black Flamingo* by David Atta and the *Noughts and Crosses* series by Malorie Blackman.

Older readers will adore Booker Prize winning novel *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo. The novel follows the struggles and lives of twelve characters – mostly black, British women – and tells their stories across the years. *Queenie* by Candice Carty-Williams, and *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett are also excellent novels.

For non-fiction fans, *Akala's Natives*, David Olusoga's *Black and British*, and *Brit-ish* by Afua Hirsch are eye-opening accounts of the history and experiences of Black individuals in Britain. All very different styles, but each contribute to an improved understanding of the Black British experience.

...Get Involved!

Black History Month continues at Formby High School during October, and students have many more chances to get involved! If any students want to volunteer to create a display board, we are meeting in P2 on Wednesday 14 October at 3:15 pm. We are also running three competitions to enhance your knowledge of Black History.

Black Britons: A Case in Point

- Research four Black Britons. Explain how their life and achievements changed the world.

Poets Corner

- Write a poem for Black History Month.

Could racism be addressed through education?

- Write an essay in response to the above question. You must research this in order to provide good scope.

Complete one of the tasks and hand it to your form tutor for a chance to win merits, distinctions and prizes!

On the Horizon...

★ INSET Day (staff only) Fri 23 Oct

★ Half Term – Mon 26 to Fri 30 Oct



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