

THE



STANDARD

"CONFIDENT IN GOD'S LOVE FOR US,
WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO HIS SERVICE"



**Photography by Alana Ng Kwet Shing
9A**

Current Affairs

October welcomes Black History Month, a time to remember the history, achievements and contributions of black people in the UK.

From educational talks to festivals, this month is full of events.

Black History Month was started by historian Carter G. Woodson. At the times people believed that 'the negro has no history' so he founded *The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History* in 1915 which encouraged scholars and historians to research and preserve black history and culture.

Traditionally, October is when African chiefs and leaders gather to settle their differences, so Akyaba (the architect of Black History Month in the UK) chose this month to reconnect with African roots. Many also thought that since it was the beginning of the new academic year, October would give black children a sense of pride and identity.

***Black History Month* is a way of reflecting on the diverse histories of those from African and Caribbean backgrounds and thinking about the**

achievements and contributions to the social, political, economic and cultural development of the UK.

by Aleksandra Angom 8T

G7 Summit 2019

The importance of diversity was highlighted on the global stage in an unlikely place this summer.

Biarritz is a French coastal town best known as a major surfing destination, but August 24th-26th, it welcomed some of the world's most powerful leaders to the annual G7 meeting.

Emmanuel Macron, president of France, hosted this event, and so he set the agenda. He decided to focus the three days of talks on the need to promote diversity in order to tackle inequality.

The idea is that we need more people from more diverse backgrounds, religions and ethnic groups to be more active in the workplace and in government because this would make all societies fairer and more equal. Macron says it is especially important for women to be given more opportunities and that women's rights must become a "great global cause."

This can only happen if laws and attitudes change, and Macron asked some influential groups for their ideas. Before the summit, France's government commissioned a report from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation about opening up the technology sector more to women and the G7's gender equality panel gave recommendations about how women's rights can be improved around the world.

Actress Emma Watson spoke at the summit and urged leaders to get rid of old laws that discriminate and "promote empowerment".

Some critics of the G7 argue that it's just an

opportunity for world leaders to meet up. They call it 'a talk shop.'

But big companies were listening to Macron's message. L'Oreal and about 34 other firms worth \$1 trillion created the Members of the Business for Inclusive Growth coalition and promised to become more equal over the next three years. "Growing inequality is one of the biggest social challenges in the world today, perpetuating poverty, undermining social cohesion and trust," one business leader said.

The G7 countries have the world's most developed economies, so they have the money and the power to make change happen. Macron got political and financial commitments from other leaders and so now we have to just see what happens, and hopefully it will be the start of something great.

By Lavinia Massa Y8

Success Stories

A story of triumph

Young people have deemed life difficult, complicated and harsh. Young people living in the 21st Century. Young people with plenty of food, clean water that is readily available, secure roofs over their heads, the amazing opportunity to receive an education and the pleasure of enjoying all the newest technological inventions.

As a young person myself, I'm compelled to say that fitting into this seemingly more advanced society is a mighty task to handle. Especially since it's dark and twisted nature is cleverly concealed by "the gram" and "snapchat". But it must be said - shouted, screamed, that we're in a far more privileged position than our great-grandparents, our grandparents or even our parents.

This time is relevant to so many students in our school community, special to all of us and deserving of the most sincere appreciation: Black History Month. I'd like to highlight and celebrate not the famous celebrities or

activists but some of the incredible parents (of our current students) who lived and thrived as black people in England.

This story belongs to a very strong woman.

Imagine you are a baby, helpless and desperate for only the most basic things; your parents attention, guidance and love. Too bad.

Circumstances you cannot dream of controlling mean you're sent off across entire countries and oceans to your grandparents. They raise you brilliantly. But they are not mum and dad. At the rather ripe age of 11 this woman was finally reunited with her parents.

From Grenada to England. [I haven't even ever left Europe]. Gripping tightly onto the exciting prospect of returning to her immediate family, she didn't even notice that October in England differed in every possible way from the scorching hot Grenada.

The first time she saw snow she recalls attempting to shuffle through it and watching children participate in outrageous snowball fights in the fittingly white fluffy playground, unrestricted thanks to the lack of health and safety regulations. Unsurprisingly, after all her initial excitement dissolved into thin air the "culture shock" comfortably set in.

Ridiculed for her Caribbean accent, she was forced to accept that a colour now defined her life.

However, this wasn't the only issue. By year 6, joining one of the tightly knit friendship groups is a difficult challenge for any new pupil, and especially when you sound and look different.

At this time she also lived in Fulham, near the Chelsea Football stadium. Anyone a Chelsea fan? Let's hope you've moved on with the years. Moved on specifically, from being the reason children were strictly forbidden from leaving their houses on Saturdays.

Shopping was always done in the early mornings to ensure everyone was back home, physically and emotionally intact, before 11am. I'm sure plenty of us haven't even

rolled out of bed by then. But she and other black people had to think ahead and adjust their schedules to avoid possible name calling or brawls.

A particularly positive experience was actually highschool. She quickly learned about the English children's way of life and "sailed through". A blessing.

Fast forward to adulthood. This courageous woman, aged 18 decided to start working with the metropolitan police. It was then that she truthfully felt the bitter sting of racism. Not from burglars and not from drunks. Not from drug addicts and not from hooligans.

From her boss.

He called her derogatory names, unfit to be repeated. At 18 she "didn't know how to deal with it" as she had "never come across a situation like that before". Never that bad and never from someone so respected in society's eyes. Justly hurt, she left the office and went into another one to call her husband (then boyfriend) for reassurance. The walls had ears. No no I'm joking, someone happened to overhear her conversation and thankfully, reacted by passing the problem to higher management to address it properly. When she was called in she was asked whether she was okay. She was also asked whether she would like to pursue the issue.

She did not want to go through listening to an insincere apology. After all, her intelligent mind realised that when one resorts to such disgusting behaviour, they are not joking. They mean every, revolting word. Even without a dry apology to fix the disrespect to her mind, those words stuck with her.

There it is. In black, and white. Just a snippet of a sometimes ruthless, sometimes blissful and often emotional, real life story which this woman leads. I'm inclined to thank her personally. Her daughter is a good friend of mine and I'm not blind to the fact that without the exact upbringing that this inspiring woman gave her, we might've not even talked today.

By Sara Budzinska Y11



A fight for rights

Everyone has a special person that they admire or are inspired by. People admire others for all different reasons for example, their courage or their kindness or their defiance to never give up and keep moving forward.

One of the people you should be inspired by is Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela was a son of a chief. Although he could have been the next chief he did not because he wanted to pursue his dreams of an education. He went to a university called Fort Hare, and was the first in his family to do so. He also went on to get his degree in law and then become a lawyer in his early adulthood.

In the year 1944 Nelson Mandela joined the African National Congress (this was also called the ANC). This was a black liberation group. He became the leader of the youth league in the ANC.

Nelson Mandela has left quite the legacy because the ANC today is the government's political party and has been ever since he was elected president of South Africa. He was elected on the 10th of May 1994.

Nelson Mandela's role in the ANC is inspiring because he went behind the government's back to fight for his rights and that of his people despite the risk of getting

arrested . His key objective was to obtain black people's rights in South Africa.

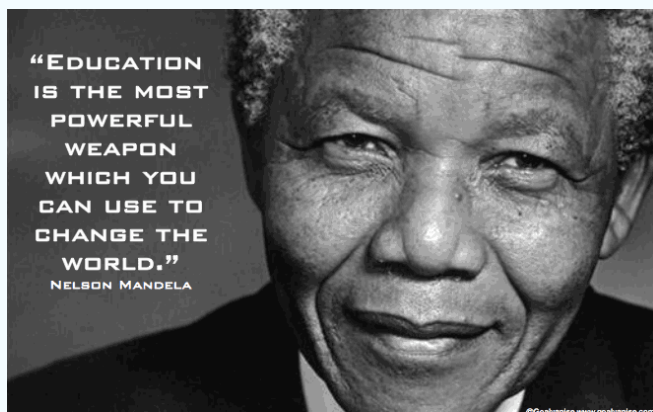
One of the things Nelson Mandela is known for is going to prison. He was arrested in 1962, and spent 24 years inside, which is a shockingly long time. He could have been released if he stopped being an activist for black people's rights and stopped going against the government. Yet, he did not accept the release because he would be comprising who he was.

He did not accept it because the bigger picture was that he was making a difference and making equality possible so it was worth more years in prison.

Nelson Mandela was the first black president of South Africa. He was president for 5 years. When there was the election of Nelson Mandela had one the votes by 64%. He was known to be many things a social rights activist, politician and a philosopher. What many people do not know is that he one a Nobel Peace Prize. At first he rejected it because of the violations in Turkey but then, later he accepted it in 1933.

Nelson was a fascinating person, he has a backstory which I have not heard anyone else have. He said many inspiring things 'I learned courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.' This means your allowed to have fear but in some way you should overcome it and then you will have the courage to do other things.

Written by Ruby Moran
Edited by Imani-Rose Polydore



Rupi Kaur

Rupi Kaur, a Punjabi-born Canadian poet, writer, illustrator and performer has become the most 'instagrammable' sensation, she is followed by Ariana Grande on Instagram, has had Sam Smith tattoo some of her work onto his arm and has appeared on the front page of the Cosmopolitan. She has recently graced the covers of the Canadian press as she was seen to be endorsing Federal NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh a candidate running for Prime Minister in Canada.

All though her work seems to be at an all-time high, she alongside other people of ethnicity has suffered her fair share of challenges, suffering backlash from the media for her work. In 2014 Kaur released her self-produced poetry book 'Milk and Honey', although it had sold over 2.5 million copies in 25 languages and spent 77 weeks on the New York Times Best-Seller List, she received lots of criticism for her work.

As for every fan there follows behind a sneering critic, this was clearly established in 2017 where BuzzFeed's Chiara Giovanni attacked Rupi Kaur's writing ability in a 3,000 word article that suggested her simplicity 'lacks true poetic talent', and implied that as she is a woman of colour she is able to excuse herself for lack of talent. Giovanni later goes onto discuss Kaur's upbringing and how she cannot represent those of South Asia because she migrated to Canada at the age of four and therefore doesn't understand the problems of a South Asian female. Giovanni, brings up the book 'The Literature of the Indian Diaspora' written by Vijay Mishra to support her argument, although it does provide stability to her point it doesn't suffice, because Giovanni is a Spanish writer who is trying to use a South Indian male's perspective on an issue that regards South Indian women. Kaur is an influential writer that represents those of South Asia as she discusses key problems such as rape that many South Asian women face; she is able to voice the opinions that victims wish to voice, and by doing so she

brings awareness, a topic that no outsider can critique without understanding thoroughly.

Despite all this, Rupi Kaur is seen to be able to rise above the odds with her 3.7million followers she continues to be known as an 'instapoet' that has changed the rules to how poetry should be written, using her instagram page as her platform she is able to discuss emotionally gripping subjects in a way that they can be grasped, and she is able to do all of this as a coloured woman living in modern society.



By Lauwrensia Tuder-Ranjith Y11

Naomi Campbell

Naomi Campbell, born on the 22nd of May is an English model, actress and businesswoman. The daughter of a Jamaican-born dancer.

Naomi Campbell began modelling at age 15 becoming the first black woman on the cover of French and British Vogue at 18, and the first black model on the cover of Time.

Being a black woman, she encountered many racial biases that exist in the fashion industry. During her early years she constantly encountered the same issue of having stylists who didn't have any experience working with black models so always brought her own make-up and hair products to shoots.

Not only that but she failed to be featured in certain fashion shows because of her ethnicity and as a result had to fight for the same fee as her white counterparts doing the same job. However, Naomi never let that stop her from living out the goal she wanted to achieve.

At 15 she kicked off her career as a model appearing as Michael Jackson's love interest in a music video for the song "In the Closet" in 1992. In the late 1980s, Campbell, along with Linda Evangelista and Christy Turlington, formed the trio "Trinity". The girls went on to become the most in-demand and popular models of their generation and then went on to be declared "supermodels" by the fashion industry becoming one of the most recognizable models in the 1990s.

Campbell is not just active in the modelling field but has also broadened her career to include acting, singing, and a variety of business ventures. She is involved in a lot of charity work as well and frequently contributes to various causes and events.

An inspiration to many young black females.

By Kimberley Osayande Y11



JOYCE BLEASDILLE-LUMSDEN

Leaving behind the sunny, lush landscapes of Grenada in 1960, Joyce Bleasdille-Lumsden, had to grow quickly accustomed to the; the bustling cities smothered in fog, the traffic lights, the tightly packed Terrance houses and the bland food. Moreover, she had to learn that she was no longer part of the majority, but just a statistic of all the people who had come over.

The temperature! Even the cooler months of Grenada couldn't dare to compete!

Even still she had a mission to complete: there was work to be done. Cleaning, preparing medical materials and horrendous training hours. However, she wouldn't trade it for the tight-knit friendships she had created with the other Caribbean nurses.

All her hard work paid off! As after training continuously, she qualified as a midwife at Luton Maternity in 1967. Now retired, she remains actively fundraising for community projects in the UK and Grenada.

By Ameila Wilson Y11

**Monologue****Dido Elizabeth Belle**

Why must we be judged by our complexion? Be viewed as a “lower standard” because of our culture. Why must we be thought of as the ground beneath their feet?

We will place our trust in one another for our strength. Not in hope that luck will save us.

Dido Elizabeth Belle was anything but the ground beneath another's feet. Brought up within the safety of her great uncle, Earl of Mansfield and Lord Chief Justice, she was raised as an educated young woman and her very existence helped the destruction of slave trade.

Taking significant steps in abolishing slavery in England, Mansfield saw Dido and other people of colour as equals. The oppressors would oppress no more, the victims of slave trade becoming free citizens of the Earth, free to follow their passion in life. “The world is your oyster”.

Treat freedom with the respect it warrants, it didn't come for free.

By Ashera Katambay 8T



Michelle is remarkably relatable and her humanity shines brilliantly throughout this book. She challenges stereotypes of black women, talking about how she dealt with racism, and encouraged me to use my voice to support what's right.

I would positively recommend it to those who desire an insight into the life of America's first black First Lady and, personally, I think it deserves no less than five out of five stars.

Rachel Fernandes 10T

Edited by Alana Ng Kwet Shing 9A



Reviews

Book review: "Becoming" by Michelle Obama

Why is "Becoming" such an inspiring, engaging and simply beautiful memoir? The answer lies in the fact that Michelle Obama narrates with eloquence and humour within this candid account of her life. Frankly, when I picked up this book for the first time, I thought it would be brimming with politics. I was wrong. Obama invites us to learn more about the young girl who grew up on the south side of Chicago, who was a student at Princeton, who became a lawyer, who fell in love, who became a mother.

The autobiography is divided into three main segments: Becoming Me, Becoming Us and Becoming More. She recounts her childhood growing up with her brother, Craig, and being raised by her parents Fraser and Marian Robinson. Obama describes the events in her life that shaped the adult she would become. She honestly presents her struggles to balance her own work, her family and her husband's political career.

There is no doubt that Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most compelling and inspirational women of our era and "Becoming" has definitely left me in awe.

The Hate You Give (Film)

The hate you give (or more commonly known as 'THUG') is the distressing story of Starr (Amandla Stenberg), a shy 16-year-old black girl who attends a predominantly white school, whilst living in an all-black neighbourhood, constantly juggling between the two erroneously different worlds.

As a result of shots being fired at a party, Starr has no other option then to get a ride home with her old childhood friend, Khalil (Algee Smith). They reminisce about their childhood, Starr's strict dad (Russel Hornsby), games they used to play, and even eventually share a kiss.

However, things take a turn for the worst when, in an attempt to impress Starr, Khalil reaches for his brush after being pulled over by a cop. Assuming the worst, the cop shoots

Khalil, leaving Starr caught in between a media frenzy.

She decides hate needs to stop, so in a desperate attempt to make a difference, she takes drastic actions, whilst further trying to deal with the typical teenager complications: friends, boys and her overprotective family.

Though *The Hate You Give* tackles sensitive and crucial issues, it handles them in an inspiring and emotional way, making you able to feel Starr's isolation from everyone else, and her frustration with our society.

It simplifies complicating issues and causes you to really comprehend the enormity of modern racism, and how, although we've evolved, racism and discrimination is a problem that many still encounter daily.

The film is definitely a roller-coaster of emotions, causing, heartbreaks to happiness, and a series of uncontrollable gasps. It's definitely a must see, no matter your race or religion.

My favourite scene is when Starr stands up to her best friend, Hailey (Sabrina Carpenter) after being ignorant, and blatantly racist. This scene really lets you understand how frustrated Starr is, as she ends up completely bursting with rage, but also misery. Additionally, it tells you how strong Starr really is, as standing up to your best friend takes lots of courage.



Ella Moore-Martin 9T

Top 10 books to read #BHM2019

1. *Growing Yams in London* by Sophie Acheampong
2. *Noughts & Crosses* by Malorie Blackman or her brand new 5th book in the series *Crossfire*, that I have got a copy of!
3. *Buffalo Soldier* and *Apache Warrior* both by Tanya Landman
4. *Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah
5. *Does my Head look Big in This* by Randa Abdel-Fattah
6. *In Darkness* by Nick Lake
7. *Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo
8. *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
9. *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
10. *The Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah
11. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D Taylor
12. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
13. *Dead Boys' Club* by Geoffrey Malone

Huge thank you to Mrs Pickering who contributed to this list and has created a special display promoting these books in the study centre. Endeavour to read one or more....



Creative**Raised by her African Mama**

With her springy hair
 She'll give out missy vibes
 Makes you stare,
 you know she wears her pride.

She'll catch the wave of the beat
 You know her mama raised her right
 You know she's the boss
 Accepts no loss.

She does not stutter, but she does fight
 She will not give up, she's headed
 straight for the light.

Her beauty is rich
 just like her mother's stitch
 Whether she's brown or black
 I guarantee you
 Her uniqueness.

Just like her culture,
 Has ran through cold blooded torture
 But no longer
 Does she suffer.

When reminded of Africa
 No thoughts of slaves
 But thoughts of hard-working lovers
 Raised by their mothers
 Whose history inspired us and all the others



Poem by Yara AL-Raheme Class: 9R

Painting by Rachel Fernandes Y10

For the Heroes

Somewhere in the back of their toothy smiles,
 Did they tire?
 Did they ever wonder what if we couldn't,
 what if we changed our minds?
 Could we just go back home,
 Put on our robes,
 And call it a night?

Hang up our makeshift weapons,
 Hand over our worn uniforms,
 Carry our sacks and forget about it all.

Somewhere under the weight of the sun,
 With no shade to run to,
 But harsh mountain tops,
 Burning their skin,
 Did they lose the will to continue,
 Think back to lazy afternoons over coffee,
 With fumes lingering under their noses,
 With their grandparents, and neighbours,
 Huddled for warmth,
 Aimlessly talking about the news.

Somewhere in the very depths of their feet,
 As their open soles

Exposed them to wounds through their
 shidah,
 Made contact with the heat of the ground,
 Despite finding ways to repair and rebuff,
 Did they dream of seeing the streets of home,
 The smell of freshly baked injera,
 And syrupy tea,
 The Cathedral steps glimmering,
 Under a blue-sky,
 With yellow cabs darting by,

It must have been somewhere deep though,
 That spoke past their fears,
 Their tears,
 Their deepest regrets
 And propelled their knees to keep going,
 One soldier at a time,
 One town meaning a victory,
 One more town meaning joy
 until.

Somewhere in their minds,
 They managed to breakthrough and ignite the
 engine one more time,
 To set their people free,
 Change futures,
 Against all odds,
 Obtain victory.

I am indebted to such Eritrean heroes.

Who put their lives on a never-ending front
 line.

30 years deep.

They gave hope to a generation. Who keep that hope for future generations.

‘Our history is not something to be stuck in, but to be treasured’.

Miss Woldu

Milk and Honey have different colours, but they share the same home peacefully.

A.
Phinaba Fornah

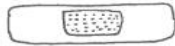


Drawing by Phinaba Fornah 8S

Aldabra stipine Andronic 10E



"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations"
- Dr. Mae Jemison



"Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated"
- Coretta Scott King

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together"
- Desmond Tutu



IF THERE IS NO STRUGGLE THERE IS NO PROGRESS

THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

"We have to talk about liberating minds as well as liberating society!"

- Angela Davis

"Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

