

**THE**



**STANDARD**

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

## Current Affairs

2020 will definitely be one to remember. With a global pandemic, and multiple riots unfolding across the world, it's hard to have nothing to talk about.

The events of this spring have proved why Black History month continues to be an important time. It is not just a time to reflect on past achievements and struggles, it continues to be a time to evaluate our current circumstances. How far have we really come as a society, as a world? Have we advanced in our discussions around race, and equality or are we still scratching at the same surface?

***“When I think of race, I see it as something that represents you, it defines who you are... but no one should be treated differently or separated from others. No one deserves a head start or push in life more than the next person.... I feel like we all need to be reminded that we are all equals, no one is better”.*** Kaoosy E Y9

## Resilience and Resistance shown in sport

Many athletes have had to overcome racism in sport to achieve the honours which they have. However this often goes under the radar as they show such resistance in order for it not to affect their performance.

Recently former Arsenal players Ian Wright and Alex Scott have spoken out about the racism they received during and after their playing careers. In 1997, Wright broke the Arsenal goal scoring record, however he did not receive praise for this, he received death threats from rival fans, abuse at matches and even banana skins thrown onto the field. In an interview in June, Wright explained he used this as ‘fuel’ in his career, and ever since has ‘wanted to prove these people wrong’ and ‘create a pathway for black athletes in the future.’ Since then, Ian Wright has gone on to finish his successful footballing career with multiple trophies, and has taken part in a number of different punditry roles.



As well as this, Alex Scott spoke out on social media in September about the racist abuse she received since she has been given more significant roles in the Sporting world. Comments include: ‘if she got the role it would be a box-ticking exercise,’ while others said Scott, who has regularly appeared on Match of the Day, had “no experience” but that “her colour gets her the job”. In response to this Scott posted a poem she had previously written in 2018, of

which included statements like ‘To the colour of my skin, I was that girl that played football’ and ‘some want to say I’m ticking a box, but that’s not me. Football is football and that is what I see.’



Although, this is only just two people, many other athletes receive this type of discrimination (Thierry Henry recently shared his experience too). It is essential for us to understand that nothing has come easily to any athlete, and so by making comments such as those above people are only adding to the problem of racial discrimination. This Black History Month I hope many people continue to talk about their personal trials and hopefully these success stories lead our society in a new direction.

***By Emmeline G-Proctor Y9***

### **Influential black women of the 21st century**

When we think of black female role models, we tend to think of the most well-known, the ones we learn about in schools or hear about on the news. Michelle Obama, Serena Williams and Rosa Parks are just some of the names.

However, the list goes on, and is growing all the time as more black women surmount challenges and break boundaries. So, here are a few lesser-known black role models to look up to, and aspire to be like in the future.

### **Thandie Newton**



is an Emmy award winning English actress and producer.

Throughout her career, she has sought out parts that would empower young women and help them deal with everyday sexism and racism. Newton advocates for greater diversity in the media and campaigns for social issues like raising awareness about black women being killed by police.

### **Connie Mark**



was a Jamaican-born activist. Aged just 16, she joined ATS as a medical secretary in the army during WWII,

but was initially denied a British Empire medal. She participated in multiple charitable events and was the president of groups such as the Mary Seacole Memorial association. She was a powerful, influential role model to the black community and encouraged people of Caribbean descent to be proud of their identity. Olive Morris was a black feminist and community activist in the 1970s. She devoted her life to the fight against systemic racism. She campaigned for black people and people of colour to have better access to education, adequate living conditions and she fought against government and police repression. Morris led countless protests and marches, and founded one of Britain's first networks for Black women, the Brixton Black Women's Group.

### Maaza Mengiste



is an accomplished Ethiopian author, who grew up moving constantly, from Kenya, Nigeria and the U.S. She campaigns for human rights, taught in Princeton University and has written novels that have won multiple awards, such as the *Shadow King*, in which she brings unrecognised female soldiers into the spotlight during the Ethiopian

revolution. It was recently short-listed for the Booker prize.

**By Lavinia Massa Y9**

### Our Black Panther

On the 28th August 2020 the world woke up to the devastating news that Chadwick Aaron Boseman had passed away.

Aged 43 (unbelievably), he has managed to secure a legacy that many would hope to achieve in their lifetime.

He is well known for his leading role in the movie *Black Panther*, 2018. Strong, bold and proud he showcased his talent as an actor. The movie became a worldwide success not only because of the brilliant cast (including Michael B Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Dania Gurira, and Letitia Wright) but because it put black culture on a platform, in a fresh and captivating way, and might I add for the first time.

Many people, including myself, felt the buzz and celebration around being black. Suddenly, I could turn to someone and say "Wakanda forever!", inviting overwhelming solidarity and understanding.

Little did I know that Chadwick's role was more special than I thought. It is now known that he was battling stage 3 colon cancer from 2016. In what looked like a natural performance, Boseman was undergoing Chemotherapy whilst filming. Not only that he continued to film other movies such as *Marshall*, *Da 5 Bloods*, and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

I can't think of another person to capture what it means to be resilient, right now. What would it have taken him to persevere beyond physical pain? Continuing to be a source of hope for people in his own time of darkness. In an interview from 2018 with SiriusXM, Boseman reflects on the impact of Black Panther. Specifically, he mentions two young boys, "Ian" and "Taylor" both terminally ill cancer patients who he kept in touch with whilst working on the movie.

It's hard to watch him cry about the boys knowing what we now know. Not complaining about his own pain (his own colleagues didn't know about his illness) but choosing to give the best of himself until the very end.

I can't imagine the courage and faith he required to do this but I am thankful that he graced this earth.



A true living hero.

May he rest in peace.

***By Miss Woldu***

**Bringing colour back into classical music.**



There have been a number of celebrated black composers in history who greatly influenced the classical world, and worked hard to improve the lives of the BAME population of their day. Can you name one?

If you couldn't, you're not alone. This is the crux of BBC4's documentary "Black Classical Music – The Forgotten History". It is a history that reaches as far back as the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, when the black trumpeter John Blanke was favoured by King Henry VIII and joined his court.



Together, Sir Lenny Henry (one of Britain's best-loved comedians, philanthropists – and huge classical music fan) and classical broadcaster Suzy Klein presented the tragedy of these lost musical geniuses, that 21<sup>st</sup> Century classical trailblazers like the culturally diverse Chineke! Orchestra are trying to redress by bringing their music back to life.

We heard that Mozart ‘sampled’ arrangements from contemporary Chevalier St. Georges; how Beethoven wrote a concerto for violin virtuoso George Bridgetower (which modern-day virtuoso Braimah Kanneh-Mason then played);



and listened spellbound to Chineke! perform masterful arrangements such as the ‘Othello Suite’ and ‘Song of Hiawatha’, composed by the so-called ‘African Mahler’, Croydon-born Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

Why have these pioneers been forgotten? Sadly, the inequity of their cultural heritage meant they – and their work – was not deemed ‘fashionable’ in their society, so many masterpieces languished or have been lost altogether. Only in recent years have renowned composers such as Professor Shirley Thompson (‘The Psalm of the Windrush’) and Pulitzer-prize winner George Walker seen their work celebrated across the world but even then, only at select events. When “Lyric for Strings” was performed in 2017 by Chineke! at the BBC Proms, it was the culmination of George Walker’s lifetime’s dream. “I believe that music is above race”, he once said, and perhaps at last the world is beginning to listen.

**By Ms S Nugara**

## **10 Questions with the Mayor of Brent**



### **1 How did you become Mayor?**

The journey to become a mayor is not so straightforward. You have to work hard in a borough like Brent.

Firstly, I was elected as a councillor for the Stonebridge ward in 2014 where I set the vision, direction, and represented my local community. My first term as a councillor gave me the opportunity to get involved in different committees in the council, become familiar with the rules and standing orders that guide the Council’s administration. I also developed a very good working relationship with other fellow councillors. My passion to serve and deliver the dividends of democracy for my residents is always something that gives me joy and satisfaction.

In 2018, I was re-elected as a councillor again, and with what I have achieved in my first term and desire to do more outside my ward, I put my name forward for the Deputy Mayor’s role. As a Deputy Mayor, I supported

the Mayor in the civic role and further developed the skills required to become a Mayor. In 2019, I was elected as the Mayor of Brent at the annual general meeting of the council.

## 2 What is the role of Mayor?

The Mayor is the borough's First Citizen. Within the borough, the Mayor takes precedence over everyone apart from the Sovereign and Deputy Lieutenant acting for the Lord Lieutenant.

The Mayor has many civic and ceremonial responsibilities and has an ambassadorial role. This means the Mayor will promote Brent and participate in, and help initiate, activities that support the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of Brent and its residents. Other major Mayoral duties include: chairing Council meetings, signing documents under seal, conducting citizenship ceremonies, hosting civic events and attending local events among other duties.

## 3 Can you explain what you do for the community as Mayor?

As a Mayor, I spend the majority of my time supporting the local communities, voluntary and charitable organisations, as well as businesses, schools, attending and hosting community events. A typical example is when I received the Duchess of Cornwall at Granville Kilburn Community Centre where she met with young people that were architects in delivering the London Borough of Culture activities

in the community. This opened up opportunities to engage with the whole community.

The Mayoral aims are to help motivate the organisations that contribute to the wellbeing of the community and to pay tribute to the dedication and hard work of their members, most essentially to bring unity and cohesiveness of the borough.



## 4) Were there any difficulties that you have faced before becoming Mayor?

There are challenges in day-to-day life, in politics and becoming a Mayor comes with its own challenges too. The position of a Mayor is a contestable position; it comes with positioning yourself, your experience and your relationship with the councillors and of course with Brent's communities. However, these challenges were overcome with sheer hard work and determination. Getting to know not just one, but each and every diverse community in Brent has served me well.

## 5) What achievements have you made as Mayor?

The achievements that I have made as Mayor include:

- Bringing more cohesion among the diverse communities in Brent
- Putting Brent on the map nationally and internationally
- Winning the London New year Parade with a £10K prize won for my charities
- At the peak of the pandemic, which is still ongoing, I visited some Brent Mutual Aid Organizations and helped in distribution of foods to the vulnerable members of our community.
- Raising funds and huge awareness to The Jason Robert Foundation delivering on Anti-Knife and Gun Crime which is an epidemic in London at the current time and The Sickle Cell Society helping those living with the illness
- Launching the London Borough of Culture in Brent, which has been paused due to COVID-19 pandemic and hopefully will resume in the New Year.

### **6) How did you feel about your borough being awarded London Borough of Culture?**

I felt elated and glad because it is a great opportunity to highlight the boroughs' cultural diversity; this will put culture at the heart of the borough's future.

Although the pandemic has cut short the activities, these will resume next year.

### **7) What two charities did you choose? Why**

I chose:

[The Sickle Cell Society](#), which is the only national charity in the UK that supports and represents people affected by a sickle cell disorder to improve their overall quality of life. The Society's aim is to support those living with sickle cell, empowering them to achieve their full potential

[The Jason Roberts Foundation](#) that has worked with hundreds of children and young people from the Brent area - supporting them by mentoring, giving them life skills, education and training projects and sports activities aimed at young people at risk of offending and those excluded from school. They are also delivering on the Anti-Knife and Gun crime initiative that I came up with after seeing the crime rate soar in London due to knife and gun crime.

### **8) Did you always want to be a mayor?**

I have always been interested in politics from a young age and have always wanted to serve the place where my family put down roots. I have always enjoyed working with the community and will continue on this path.



## 9) Have you experienced racism? If so, how did you overcome it?

Racism is something that we have seen in our communities and something I vehemently condemn openly and whenever I have the opportunity. I cannot say that I have directly faced racism but you can find people treating you with unconscious bias, which is not far from racism. Overcoming racism is achieved by speaking out and talking about it. I must say that progress has been made but there is room for improvement.

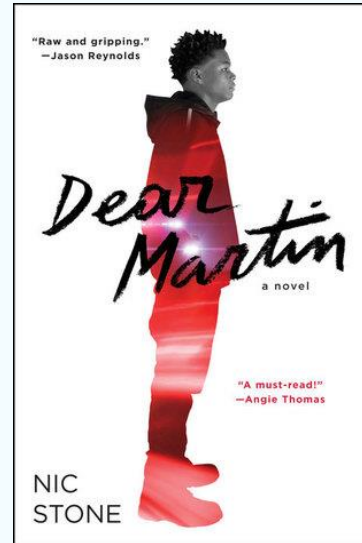
## 10) What would your advice be to young people of today if they want to be influential?

My advice to young people of today is to focus on their studies and work hard, listen to the advice from their parents and teachers and to continue to pursue their dreams with vigour and have confidence in themselves. There are opportunities out there but they have to know what they want to achieve in the future and stay focused on that.

### **Books, Films and Series you should read or watch this Black History Month**

#### 1. *Dear Martin*

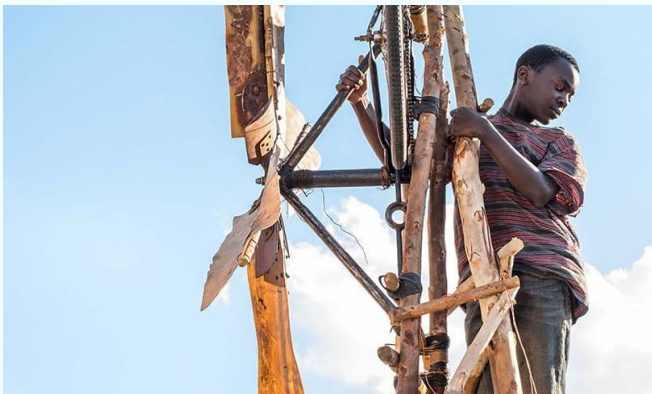
This captivating read by Nic Stone follows the story of Justyce McAllister, a brilliant student with a promising future ahead of him. However, after he is arrested by a white police officer for no reason at all, he turns to the



teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. for answers, beginning a series of letters to King. This bittersweet book serves as a moving portrayal about the despicable unfairness of racial profiling.

#### 2. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*

Now a film directed by and starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, this book explores the true story of 14-year-old William Kamkwamba, who is forced to leave school in Malawi and start work on a farm after his family find themselves unable to afford his fees. At a time of national crisis, William resorts to borrowing books from a library and after being fascinated by one about energy, he builds his very own windmill to generate electricity, from nothing more than bits of scrap metal, old bicycle parts and wood from a blue gum tree. A truly inspiring book and film, this is definitely a worthy read.



### 3. *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Without a doubt, this is one of my favourite books; Harper Lee's depiction of the brutality of racism through the innocent eyes of Scout, a young child, is truly exquisite. There are countless words to describe this literary gem - poignant, humorous and quite frankly, beautiful. While reading it, there were moments where I was laughing out loud and others where I was left speechless. If you are going to read one book from this list: make it this one.

### 4. *When They See Us*

This series tells the true story of the Central Park Five:

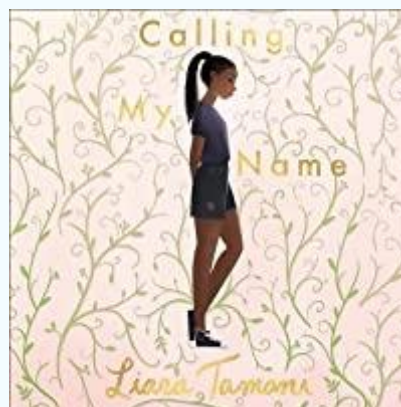


five wrongly convicted black and Latino teenagers who were accused of assaulting and raping a woman in Central Park in 1989. It really is an

eye-opening portrayal of the flawed criminal justice system and the way it wrecks the lives of innocent people of colour.

### 5. *Becoming*

Michelle Obama's memoir invites us into her life, the life of a young girl who grew up on the south side of Chicago and later became the first lady of the USA. Her humble humanity makes this book an inspiring read. I would also positively recommend you to watch the highly acclaimed *Becoming* documentary now on Netflix.



### 6. *Calling My Name*

This coming-of-age novel is the story of

Taja Brown, a young African American girl growing up in Houston, Texas. Brimming with emotion, the book showcases the life of a teenager exploring love, identity and self-worth as we, the reader, follow Taja through her senior year of high school.

### 7. *Remember the Titans*

Based on real events, Denzel Washington plays the newly appointed African-American football coach of a high school team in their first season as a racially integrated group. Since its release in 2000, two decades later, this

Disney film still remains highly relevant, making it a must-watch.



### 8. *The Hate U Give*

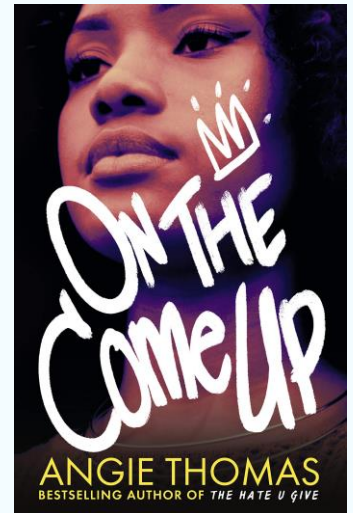
If you haven't watched or read 'THUG' yet, I urge you to do so. The film stars Amandla Stenberg, Algee Smith, Regina Hall, Issa Rae, Anthony Mackie, KJ Apa and Sabrina Carpenter, and is a moving portrait of Starr Carter, a black teenager who witnesses the shooting of her innocent best friend by a white police officer.

### 9. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Maya Angelo's autobiography is an extraordinary testament to her youth and growing up as a Black woman in twentieth century America. While recounting her moments of hope and achievement, she reflects on the cruelty, discrimination and sexual trauma she knew all too well.

### 10. *On the Come Up*

After 'THUG', Angie Thomas once again leaves us in awe at her second book, 'On the Come Up'. It's a powerful story about hip-hop, freedom and fighting for your dreams, despite the odds.



**11. A short, essential introduction to Black British history for readers of 12+** by award-winning historian and broadcaster David Olusoga.

When did Africans first come to Britain? Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings? Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution? These and many other questions are answered in this essential introduction to 1800 years of the Black British history.

**By Rachel Fernandaes Y11**

## Creative

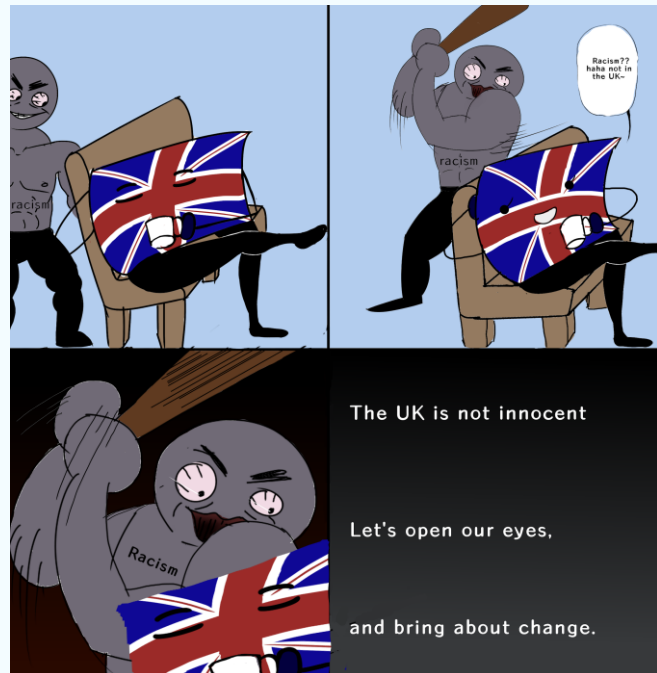
### Resistant woman

She is precious, pure gold  
 She has the moon in her eyes  
 And the night dancing on her skin  
 She has puffy clouds as her hair  
 Her afro always makes you admire,  
 Makes you stare,



She's a model, dressed in culture and flair  
 She's wise, she's honest- brings justice to the table because she's fair,  
 Been through so much, yet loves you dear  
 Wears her heart on her shoulder,  
 because she dares,  
 She a warrior, a soldier - holds no fear  
 But now the battles been won and over  
 I thank God she's still here.

**By Yara Al-Raheme Y10**



### **It's not just America's disease**

### **Poem and original art By Phinaba Fornah 9S**

The UK is not innocent

POC are more than just immigrants

Your racism is discreet

But we can still sense them in our streets  
 You're constantly portraying us as angry and unruly

Did you really think we wouldn't notice...Honestly, truly?

How could you expect us to forgive and forget? When racism hasn't left us alone yet?

You constantly portray our motherland as the poorest of the poor

When in reality it's filled with riches, culture and more,

The UK is not innocent POC are more than just immigrants...

***POC- People Of Colour***

How good is your Black History Knowledge

Original art by Alana



NgKwetShineg Y10

**BHM Quiz 2020**



1. In what year did Britain first pass an act officially outlawing the institution of slavery?

- 1833
- 1861
- 1789

2. By the end of the 1700's London black population was around:

- 2,000
- 15,000
- 200,000

3. Which historical black nurse died in London in 1881 after saving many British soldiers during the Crimean War of 1855?

- Nola Ishmael
- Milton Hanson
- Mary Seacole

4. Charles Ignatius Sancho was a British composer, writer, and ...

- Business owner
- Singer

5. Which black female performer recorded three James Bond theme songs?

- Carol Bayer Sage  
 - Sade Adu  
 - Shirley Bassey  
 6. The Notting Hill Carnival held its first event in:

- 1974
- 1964
- 1987

7. Who was the first black player to captain England's national football team in 1997?

- Sol Campbell
- Paul Ince
- Jack Leslie

8. In March 1931 Harold Moody formed which organisation that was concerned with racial equality and civil rights in Britain and elsewhere in the world?

- League of Coloured People
- British Federation of Racial Equality
- Coloured People United

9. Who won a Grammy Award for Best Male r&b Vocal Performance in 1985?

- Billy Ocean
- Seal
- Mark Morrison

10. Wilfred Wood was the first black...

- Bishop in the Church of England
- British news presenter

**\*\*Full electronic quiz can be found on the Black History Month @ SharePoint**

**Many thanks to Kenechi E Y8 who put this together !**