

Black History Month at Sydenham School



Black History is important as it raises awareness about black lives present and past and provides us with the opportunity to celebrate our differences in today's society. It also serves to provide an education beyond the school curriculum.

We acknowledge that Black history should be celebrated all year round, however black history month allows us to take the time to think about the impact of the black changemakers, forward thinkers, politicians, scientists and creatives.

It is a powerful history of challenge and adversity faced with dignity respect and creativity and black history around the world has shaped all our lives and we should be proud to come together to celebrate it this month.

This booklet is a compilation of activities that we will be showcasing this month in school and was created in collaboration with students.

I hope you enjoy it.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THURS 14 OCT, 2021

7 PM, ONLINE ON ZOOM

HOSTED BY SCHOOL GOVERNOR SHARON KABUBI AND FEATURING



KAMILLE

*Singer, songwriter, producer,
record label owner and reality
TV star on Channel 4's 'Highlife'*



BRENDA DACRES

*Deputy Mayor of
Lewisham*



SABRINA FLEURIMÉ

*Mind the gap – the
work of BBSTEM*



ZHANE KHAN

Head Prefect



NORA FAKIM

The magic of mixed



MAAME-YAA BEMPAH

*Your authentic self in
the workplace*



JEN REID

Rise Up. Stand Tall.



ADE ONITOLO

*Wanna change the
world or have fun?*



DOROTHEA SMART

*Lecturer, poet and
live artist*

"Our Children & Me" by
Dorothea Smart, courtesy of
Dorothea's Art
Gallery & Museum



RICHELLE NELSEN

*The Notting Hill
Carnival*



YVETTE MILLER

Abstract Artist

TICKETS

www.sydenham-school-pta.org

Science

Black history month

Students will be given list of scientists and inventors, in pairs they will choose one and spend a lesson researching and gathering information using the questions below to guide them.

They will then spend a second lesson using this information to write a script and a third lesson recording a podcasts using the information they found as a basis. They could do it in various styles –

Interviewer and expert, creating a story to be shared with younger children, dramatic interpretations of case studies etc.

The students will be working in pairs and will use laptops one between two to research and record their podcasts. Students will need to record their research and write their scripts in their books.

Scientists and Inventors

Charles Drew

Mae Jemison

Katherine Johnson

Alice Ball

Patricia Bath

Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE

Henrietta Lacks

Mary Seacole

Dame Elizabeth Anionwu

Otis Boykin



Questions

Who are they?

Where were they born?

When were they born? Are they still alive?

Did they have a formal education? (go to college/university) If so where?

What did they research/invent?

Why was this important?

Is their research/invention still used today?

Week	Date	Periods	Class	Teacher	Lab	Lesson
B	Monday 11 th October	1&2	7D	AMD	S104	Research and Script
		3 & 4	7Y	MRA	S114	Research and Script
		3 & 4	7S	SPY	S108	Research and Script
		3 & 4	7A	SWN	S115	Research and Script
	Wednesday 13 th October	1 & 2	7H	SWN	S116	Research and Script
	Thursday 14 th October	1 & 2	8Y1	ABB	S105	Research and Script
		1 & 2	8Y2	KAS	S116	Research and Script
		1 & 2	8Y3	IMN	S121	Research and Script
		1 & 2	8Y4	CPG	S122	Research and Script
		3 & 4	7A	KAS	S116	Recording podcast
	Friday 15 th October	1 & 2	7E	ABB	S105	Research and Script
		1 & 2	7N	MRA	S114	Research and Script
		1 & 2	7M	CPG	S122	Research and Script

Week	Date	Periods	Class	Teacher	Lab	Lesson
A	Monday 18 th October	3 & 4	7Y	MRA	S114	Recording podcast
		3 & 4	7M	CPG	S122	Recording podcast
		5 & 6	7N	CPG	S122	Recording podcast
		5 & 6	7H	SWN	S166	Recording podcast
	Tuesday 19 th October	1 & 2	8X1	CAS	S121	Research and Script
		1 & 2	8X3	SFG	S108	Research and Script
		1 & 2	8X4	KAS	S116	Research and Script
		5 & 6	7D	AMD	S104	Recording podcast
	Wednesday 20 th October	3 & 4	8X2	SPY	S105	Research and Script
		5 & 6	8Y1	ABB	S105	Recording podcast
		5 & 6	8Y2	AMD	S104	Recording podcast
		5 & 6	8Y3	KAS	S116	Recording podcast
		5 & 6	8Y4	CPG	S122	Recording podcast
	Thursday 21 st October	1 & 2	7E	ABB	S105	Recording podcast
		3 & 4	7S	SPY	S108	Recording podcast
	Friday 22 nd October	1 & 2	8x1	BJU	S115	Recording podcast
		1 & 2	8x2	SPY	S122	Recording podcast
		1 & 2	8x3	SFG	S108	Recording podcast
		1 & 2	8x4	KAS	S116	Recording podcast

Black History Month – Maths and Digital Technologies'

Overview

Using the film Hidden Figures as stimulus material students will research the lives and impact of African American female mathematicians working in NASA during the 60s.

Hidden Figures

Katherine Johnson

Dorothy Vaughan

Mary Jackson

Key Questions

Who are the key characters of Hidden Figures?

What did they do?

What was the social context of the time?

What challenges did they have to overcome?

What impact did they have?

How has the world changed since the 60s?

With respect to attitudes towards women, black women?

With respect to space exploration?

What would you like to achieve in your life?

For Whom

Year 9

When

Maths lessons October



KS3 English Department – Black History Month “Proud to be/Black to the Past”

Year 7 Black History Month Monday 4th October – Friday 22nd October

Date:	Lesson Focus:
WB: 4 th October	Intro to BHM – aims and outcomes Write a response to the poem – use acrostic for access groups Poem to cover: ‘Won’t you celebrate with me?’ Lucille Clifton Poem to cover as homework response ‘Dream’ Langston Hughes
WB: 11 th October	Focus on the idea of identity Poem to cover: ‘Phenomenal Women’ Maya Angelou Create a poster/poem/short story focused on individual identity Poem to cover as homework response/extra content: ‘Human Family’ Maya Angelou
WB: 18 th October	Focus on creative writing – form can be decided by students Poem to cover: ‘Still I rise’ Maya Angelou Poem to cover: ‘Being Black’ Denise Jackson

Year 8 Black History Month Monday 4th October – Friday 22nd October

Date:	Lesson Focus:
WB: 4 th October	Intro to BHM – aims and outcomes Write a response to the poem – use acrostic for access groups Poem to cover: ‘Won’t you celebrate with me?’ Lucille Clifton Poem to cover as homework response ‘Dream’ Langston Hughes
WB: 11 th October	Focus on the idea of identity Poem to cover: ‘Black and British’ Dayna Francis Create a poster/poem/short story focused on individual identity Poem to cover as homework response/extra content: ‘Human Family’ Maya Angelou
WB: 18 th October	Focus on creative writing – form can be decided by students Poem to cover: ‘Still I rise’ Maya Angelou Poem to cover: ‘Rose Painted’

Won't you celebrate with me?' Lucille Clifton

won't you celebrate with me
what i have shaped into
a kind of life? i had no model.
born in babylon
both nonwhite and woman
what did i see to be except myself?
i made it up
here on this bridge between
starshine and clay,
my one hand holding tight
my other hand; come celebrate
with me that everyday
something has tried to kill me
and has failed.



'Dreams' Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.



'Phenomenal Woman' Maya Angelou

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's
size

But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.

I say,
It's in the reach of my arms

The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.
I say,
It's the fire in my eyes,



The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
the palm of my hand,
The need of my care,
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

'Human Family' Maya Angelou

I note the obvious differences
in the human family.
Some of us are serious,
some thrive on comedy.

Some declare their lives are lived
as true profundity,
and others claim they really live
the real reality.

The variety of our skin tones
can confuse, bemuse, delight,
brown and pink and beige and purple,
tan and blue and white.

I've sailed upon the seven seas
and stopped in every land,
I've seen the wonders of the world
not yet one common man.

I know ten thousand women
called Jane and Mary Jane,
but I've not seen any two
who really were the same.

Mirror twins are different
although their features jibe,
and lovers think quite different thoughts
while lying side by side.

We love and lose in China,
we weep on England's moors,
and laugh and moan in Guinea,
and thrive on Spanish shores.

We seek success in Finland,
are born and die in Maine.
In minor ways we differ,
in major we're the same.

I note the obvious differences
between each sort and type,
but we are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,



'Still I Rise' Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may tread me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.



'Black and British' Dayna Francis

'Black and British' should not be a thing,

It should be you, me, him, her, them and they. But people look to your colour and country for your story, And assume they realise your inner glory.

It is why some people call me the other black girl's name, I shake my head and correct them nicely but they do not learn that way...a shame... shame on them, or shame on me? They do not understand, yet I use the same strategy? Perhaps it is on me to change the way, I treat those that do not treat me the same?

'Black and British' should not be a thing,

It should be you, me, him, her, them and they, but people look to your colour and country for your story, and assume they realise your inner glory.

I am learning we are all the same when we are ill, yet they do not treat us with the same pill? Doctors say it is because they have not seen enough representation,

In their reading of literature beyond one's imagination, the health of a black life is still incomprehensible? The physical and mental implications of this are immeasurable...

What can one do to change the tone?

I am fed up of us suffering in silence, alone, In our lonely plight for equality,

After centuries of ancestors lost in the name of finding peace...

'Black and British' should not be a thing,

It should be you, me, him, her, them and they,

But people look to your colour and country for your story,

And assume they realise your inner glory.

Because the different views we put on others

Can actually form these races and cultures,

And as beautiful as embracing all of that can be,

It takes us away from you being you and me being me.

We found beauty in division- how do we fix that?



'Being Black' Denise Richards

I embrace my culture as diverse as it is
I look at the World map and say to myself 'wow' Gee Whizz!
The colour of my skin, I wear with pride
I think about my ancestor's and how tragically some of them died
The evolution of language and urban slang
Yo! What's up blood? Wha gwan Fam!

My mother a first generation of Black British they describe,
But who are they to give labels to signify?
Me, a second generation young man I strive
Observantly watching the world go by sometimes yes, I hurt inside
The racial stereotypes and negative side
Hoodies, balaclavas, knives tucked deep inside
The sheer sense of loss and hopelessness

My Grandfather tells me stories of the days gone by
Of how he sailed to England on a three week journey on a ship so high!
Yes Granddad as I smile with glee
As I think about how I relax on Virgin in Premium Economy stylee!

My brothers so cool he's learning Mandarin, reads Manga's plays dominoes and is awesome to me
My mother wears her hair in braids, a natural style she says 'I don't wear unnatural or conventional hair-styles.'
Grandma Jackson she cooks some wicked Caribbean food for me, my mouth waters and my stomach expands and always talks to me,
My great grand-father I'm told was from Panama, a Merchant sailor who worked at sea
Oh the beautiful riches my heritage has brought to me,
An inclusive mind that embraces both you and me.

'Rose Painted'

If I were a Rose painted black,
would you cast me aside
like blackened, burnt rice?
Would my color tarnish my sweet smell?

If I were a Rose painted black,
would the richness of my ebony petals
make me unworthy
of being called
a Rose?

If I were a Rose painted white,
would my ivory petals be worth more than silver?
Would my sweet smell captivate
a room welcomingly?

If I were just a Rose,
sweet-smelling and vibrant
and your mind was blind...
would my color matter?



Year 7 Pastoral Curriculum

Year 7 will be looking at black British people who are leading their field, then discussing what they can take away from the successes - the focus is on resilience and perseverance.

The first week we are looking at Christine Ohuruogu became a top athlete and discussing the VAAs Christine needed to have to get to the Olympics.

The second week we will be looking at black British politicians, with a focus on Diane Abbott as the first black woman UK politician and students will discuss what they can learn from her achievements.

In the last week of half term, students will start planning their half term project, where they will research a black British leader and create a short presentation about who they are, what they do, how they got to be the top of their field, and what students can take away from it.

I understand there will be activities based around the Black Changemakers assembly the art department are running, these will be incorporated once they've been disseminated.

Dance

Afrobeats Dance club for the month of October run by Year 11

KS5 dancers will be performing 'Revelations' by Alvin Ailey in the Performing Arts assemblies



Black History and the Drama Curriculum

- Here at Sydenham school we use a range of diverse play texts and examples of work from a range of artists and designers. We are aware that the set texts for GCSE drama influence the squelching of the curriculum and the range of work we teach both at KS3 and KS4. The Head of Subject Ms Catchpole has been actively working with The London Theatre Consortium over the last few years to influence the Drama exam boards choices of texts and options for a more inclusive drama specification. These discussions have taken place at the Royal Court theatre and involved a group of teachers and theatre makers meeting with all the key drama exam boards to discuss new and underrepresentation as well as key seminal diverse theatre works. For the 2022 exam series we have been successful in supporting Pearson Edexcel in updating the content taught at GCSE with the addition of three new playwrights to the set text list for the component three, Theatre Makers in Practice written exam.
- The A-level Drama and Theatre studies course is not far behind with new texts being discussed and rigorously researched.



Recent Changes

- We have been using a wider range of black designers and artists to discuss work and showcase talent relating to our key schemes of learning for all key stages.
- Some examples of this are the work of actor, producer and playwright Dani Gurira and Playwright Bola Agbaje as well as our regular staples of Roy Williams and Charlene James.
- Below are some examples of how we use the diverse work of black performers, designers and playwrights across the curriculum.



Year 7- Poetry as Stimulus.

Inua Ellams- Playwright, poet, performer

- Inua Ellams born 23 October 1984, is a UK-based poet, playwright and performer. His most prominent play *Barbershop Chronicles* premiered at the National Theatre in May 2020. *Barbershop* is used as an example of Theatre staging looking at design dynamics as well as language and dialogue. The play is set in five barbershops spanning five African Cities.
- Poetry on Kindness.
- Inua Ellams - On Kindness - YouTube
- Respond to work and look at ways of creating group dialogue using this poem as Stimulus.
- 'I became a black man when I arrived in England': Inua Ellams on his play *Barber Shop Chronicles* - Bing video



Year 8 – Characterisation Andrea Levy and *Small Island*

Andrea Levy's epic, Orange Prize-winning novel bursts to new life on the Olivier stage. A company of 40 tells a story which journeys from Jamaica to Britain, through the Second World War to 1948 – the year the HMT *Empire Windrush* docked at Tilbury.

Adapted for the stage by Helen Edmundson, "*Small Island*" follows three intricately connected stories. Hortense yearns for a new life away from rural Jamaica, Gilbert dreams of becoming a lawyer, and Queenie longs to escape her Lincolnshire roots. Hope and humanity meet stubborn reality as the play traces the tangled history of Jamaica and the UK.

Using the play as stimulus on arriving in a new country students create group text which they dramatize looking at costume and setting.





Year 9- Naturalism and dialogue Bola Agbaje, Playwright.

Bola Agbaje is a playwright of Nigerian origin.

Agbaje's first play *Gone Too Far!* was produced at the Royal Court Theatre in London, where it won the 2008 Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre.

Gone too Far has just been added to the GCSE drama edexcel Syllabus for 2022.

Ms Catchpole has interviewed the playwright and cast to help support teaching of the new play text. These resources will be available to all drama teachers from 2022.

Exploring Key extracts of the play text looking at Language and stereotypes around race and culture.

[Component 3: Gone Too Far!, Bola Agbaje - A conversation with students - YouTube](#)

[Gone Too Far! Trailer - YouTube](#)



Charlene James- Playwright- Year 10 Component 2 Extract Performer and Design options

- **Charlene James** is a British playwright and screenwriter.
- Her first play, *Maybe Father*, was short-listed for the Alfred Fagon Award in 2009, and received a reading at the Young Vic theatre in London. The Royal Court brought this humorous but sensitive play to Sydenham school in 2019 as part of their schools touring programme.
- Students in year 10 are exploring her play 'Cuttin' it in response to Text in Performance for Component 2.
- They are either exploring the text as a performer or designer.
- Each student chooses an extract to perform or design for looking at key ideas of interpretation and style and genre.
- The play looks at hard hitting things in a humorous and sensitive way.





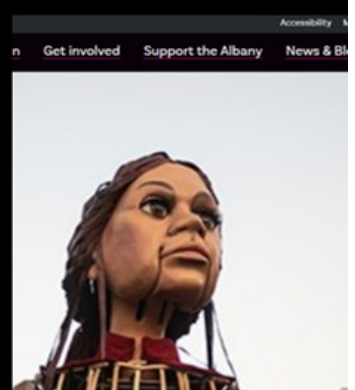
Year 11- Responding to Stimulus
for Component 1. Text in
Performance for Component 2.
Debbie Tucker Green- Playwright

- **Debbie Tucker Green** is a British playwright, screenwriter, and director. She has written a number of plays, including *born bad* (2003), for which she won the Olivier Award for Most Promising Newcomer in 2004.
- Her most recent play "Ear to Eye" is now being turned into a major Television programme for the BBC.
- Students explore an extract of The play 'Ear to Eye' in relation to Ideas for component 1, using the text as Verbatim Theatre. The play can also be applied as a text for Component 2, Text in performance.



A level Drama and Theatre Studies Practitioners and their work . Handspring Puppet company

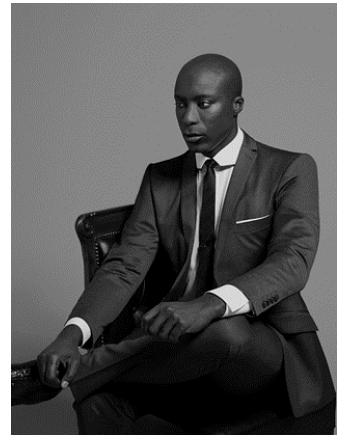
- Handspring Puppet Company are a South African based company that specialise in bespoke theatre puppets. They are most famous for their horses in Michael Morpurgo's *War horse* as well as *Ubu and the Truth Commission* as well as the *Walk* which is arriving in Deptford for Lewisham's black History Month celebrations. Their puppets tend to be larger than life, giant moveable characters that reflect a range of themes and cultures personalised for each story they tell.
 - Exploring puppetry and characterisation.
 - Extracts from *Warhorse* and *Ubu and the Truth commission*.
- Theatrical Politics: Ubu and the Truth Commission Revisited, 4 March 2020 – YouTube
- 2014 - Ubu and The Truth Commission - Trailer – YouTube
- Performance links The Albany Theatre in Deptford The Walk - The Albany



Design and Technology: Do it now for October focus on profiles of Black creatives working in DT and Food industries.

Product design: George Olden – Graphic Designer, Samuel Mensah – Branding and Advertising, Elsie Owusu – Architect, David Adjaye - Architect

Textiles: Joe Casely-Hayford - Menswear designer, Oswald Boateng – tailor, Zelda Wynn Valdes - Fashion and costume designer



Food: George Washington Carver, Jeff Henderson, Marie Maynard Daly

RE - Liberation Theory (KS3 & KS4)

History - Year 7 (African Kingdoms - late October), Year 8 - Black Tudors, Year 9 - Forgotten Soldiers of WW1 (British West Indian Regiment and the story of Arthur Roberts).



Black History Month Lewisham Events 2021

Wednesday 27 October 2021

BLACK ANCESTRY: TRACE YOUR AFRICAN & CARIBBEAN ROOTS

Do you want to trace your roots? Do you wonder how far back you can go? Do you...

Finsbury Library

245 St John St

London EC1V 4NB



Thursday 28 October 2021

FRIENDS OF DIDO – TALENT SHOW

SING A BOOK invites you to our Black History Month event to raise funds for our potential Easter 2022 Children's Theatre Project.

Goldsmiths Community Centre

Castillon Road

London SE6 1QD



Thursday 28 October 2021

THE HALLMARKS OF SLAVE TRADE AND IMPERIAL LEGACIES

The politics surrounding Black African immigration in Britain in the immediate years after WW2

The presentation examines one of the neglected themes in post-war Black British Immigration historiography, that of examining why has it been dominated by immigrants from the West Indies with Africans at the periphery.

Goldsmiths, University of London

8 Lewisham Way

London SE14 6NW

Tickets Free



For more information on all these events and more go to:

[Lewisham - Black History Month 2021](#)

Olive Dining,
sample school
canteen menu
for the month

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER

JAMAICAN JERK
CHICKEN LEG

CARRIBEAN CURRIED BEEF

SEITAN TAGINE, ROASTED VEGETABLES
& APRICOTS
(G, SU)

PAN FRIED GREEN BEANS
& SWEET POTATO

JOLLOF RICE
(CE)

SPICED BANANA CAKE
WITH PINEAPPLE TOFFEE SAUCE
(E, G, MK)

