RESILIENCE AND COMMITMENT

DULWICH COLLEGE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Our theme this year, ***Resilience and Commitment***, invites us to reflect on the courage it takes to persevere in the face of challenges, and the determination required to remain true to one's values and identity. It is about honouring those who have stood firm for justice and equality, recognising the everyday resilience shown within our communities, and encouraging us all to consider what it means to be an upstander — someone who chooses to act, rather than stand by, in the face of injustice.

Throughout October and beyond, we will mark Black History Month with a wide range of activities — from assemblies and classroom projects to society-led events and visiting speakers. Each of these moments offers us the chance to learn, to reflect, and to explore how resilience, commitment, and being an upstander can shape our own lives and communities.

We hope this year's programme will inspire you, encourage meaningful conversations, and remind us all of the strength that comes from standing firm with resilience and commitment.

SPEAKERS

OLAIDE SADIQ



Olaide Sadiq is an award-winning documentary producer and director, known for her powerful and character-driven storytelling. She has produced and directed films across major broadcasters, with work ranging from *Rio Ferdinand's Tipping Point*, winner of Documentary Series of the Year, to her recent and widely acclaimed *Grenfell: Uncovered*. Olaide's films shine a light on under-represented voices and tell stories with honesty, courage, and care. She is passionate about using film to challenge perspectives and inspire change, showing what resilience and commitment look like in action.

Olaide will be visiting the College on Monday 6 October.



NATHANAEL LESSORE

Nathanael (Nate) grew up in North Peckham as one of eight children to French and Madagascan parents. He is the award-winning author of *Steady for This, King of Nothing* and *What Happens Online*, inspired by his South East London childhood. His books, known for being both hilarious and heartfelt, have won The Waterstones Prize for Older Children, the Carnegie Shadowers' Choice Award, and the Jhalak Prize. Nathanael is passionate about encouraging young people to read, creating stories that make them laugh and see their own communities reflected.

Nate will be visiting the College on Wednesday 1 October.

ISAAC BORQUAYE



Isaac, more commonly known as Guvna B, is a double MOBO Award-winning rapper, author and broadcaster from London. His album, *everywhere + nowhere* (2020) was the UK's highest-charting non-explicit rap album that year and has amassed over 30 million streams. His sophomore book *Unspoken: Toxic Masculinity and How I Faced the Man Within the Man* (2021) became an Amazon bestseller

Isaac will be visiting the College on Monday 6 October.

SPEAKERS

LAURA HENRY-ALLAIN MBE



Laura is an award-winning international producer, storyteller, educationalist, keynote speaker, and consultant. She is the creator of the much-loved *JoJo* and *Gran Gran* series, developed and produced by CBeebies, where she also serves as Associate Producer. Laura is currently Executive Producer on several new shows in development, including *Daddio & Co.*

Laura will be visiting the College on Tuesday 14 October.



MAROON TOWN

A London-based 8-piece band who were the first to mix ska and reggae with rap, funk and Latin, creating a fresh sound with conscious and uplifting lyrics. Their debut was produced by John Bradbury of The Specials, and since then they have toured worldwide, from Europe to Japan and South America, using music to inspire, connect and empower communities.

Maroon Town will be visiting the College on Wednesday 8 October

BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE LIBRARIES

READING, RESOURCES AND DISPLAYS

All month the Junior School Library, Raymond Chandler and Wodehouse Library will be marking Black History Month with a selection of autobiographies, biographies and memoirs based on resilience and commitment. Pop in to visit and browse our displays or explore our Sways or Padlet for recommended readings.

Recommended Non-Fiction for Middle and Upper School
https://sway.cloud.microsoft/adx9mFqLxmEV7g0X?ref=Link

Recommended Fiction for Middle and Upper School
https://sway.cloud.microsoft/goJh59UCLLdsdJwy?ref=Link

Recommended reading for Lower School
https://sway.cloud.microsoft/Lb5tpVjclpKy9PkH?ref=Link&loc=play

Recommended reading for Junior School
https://sway.cloud.microsoft/O9Gq0ZLY4ssYHiBi?ref=Link

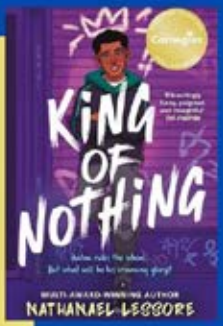


Waterstones Prize, Carnegie Award and Jhalak Prize winning author

NATHANAEL LESSORE







WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER

ALL LOWER SCHOOL PUPILS

PERIOD 2 GREAT HALL DULWICH COLLEGE

SIGNED BOOKS CAN BE PREORDERED

SOCIETIES

LOWER SCHOOL HISTORY SOCIETY



Desmond Tutu:
His Commitment to Changing the Course of History in South Africa
Wednesday 1 October - 10:50am - LS02
Students from the Lower School History Society will lead a discussion on Desmond Tutu and his impact in initiating dialogue and affecting change in South Africa.

UPPER SCHOOL LITSOC



The Mad Woman in the Attic:
Wide Sargasso Sea's Reclamation of Colonial Identity in Jane Eyre
Thursday 2 October - 4:15pm - The Master's Library
An exploration of how Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* reveals hidden histories of race, identity, and colonialism within Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and Victorian literature, focusing on the reclamation of Bertha Mason and its wider literary implications.

BIOLOGY BREAKFAST CLUB

The Legacy of Dr Marilyn Hughes Gaston: Transforming Sickle Cell Care
Friday 3 October - 8:00am - Upstairs Christison Hall
Nathan and Sufiyan (Year 12) will discuss how Dr Marilyn Hughes Gaston revolutionised the treatment of sickle cell disease while also challenging racial and gender prejudice in medicine.

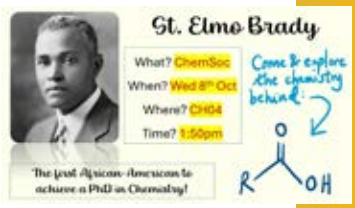
PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

Celebrating Black Psychologists: Dr Robert Lee Williams II
Monday 6 October - 2:00pm - BY06
Discover the life and work of Dr Robert Lee Williams II, a pioneering psychologist who challenged traditional intelligence testing, co-founded the Association of Black Psychologists, and coined the term "Ebonics" to describe African American English.

YEAR 9 SCHOLARS

From John Agard's *Half-Caste* to the Portrait of Diane Abbott:
Subverting the Gaze in Poetry and Painting
Tuesday 7 October - 10:45am - The Old Library
An exploration of the ways in which writing and art can challenge racist stereotypes, drawing on John Agard's poem *Half-Caste* and a portrait of Diane Abbott.

CHEMISTRY SOCIETY



Celebrating St. Elmo Brady: The First African American to Obtain a PhD in Chemistry
Wednesday 8 October - 1:50pm - CH04
Come along to explore the life and work of St. Elmo Brady, the first African American to earn a PhD in Chemistry. This session will look at his pioneering research, including the chemistry behind carboxylic acids, and reflect on his lasting impact on science and education.

AFRO-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY



ACEN Conference
Thursday 9 October - Eton College
Students from the Afro-Caribbean Society will attend the ACEN Conference: Anti-Racism in the Independent School Sector – Five Years On: Where Are We Now? The day will feature a student-led workshop designed by ACEN's Young People's Advisory Group; a session on balancing identity with Andrew Isama, Master of Economics and Inclusion Education Officer at Eton College; and a workshop created and facilitated by Eton students.

LOWER SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB

Exploring Black Theatre
Tuesday 14 October - 1:40pm - EAT Theatre
Lower School students are invited to a workshop exploring plays written by Black British, African, and Caribbean playwrights. The session offers a chance to step into a world of creativity and be inspired by the remarkable contributions of playwrights from the Black community.

POLITICS SOCIETY



Pan-Africanism
Tuesday 14 October - 1:50pm - Masters' Library
David Agyemang (13MQI) will evaluate Pan-Africanism: a liberation ideology, often incorporating socialist principles, that advocates African cooperation and political and economic independence from former colonial powers. The talk will focus on Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of independent Ghana and a major influence on Pan-Africanism.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME



From Blues to Jazz: Forging Identity
Wednesday 10 and 15 October - 10:45am - The Boardroom
Dr. Croally will give a brief history of how the simplicity of the blues developed into the harmonic complexity of be-bop and post be-bop jazz, alongside a consideration of what this transformation might mean for Black identity.

RS GYM



Bystanding, Standing By or Upstanding?
Thursday 16 October - 1:45pm - S103
A discussion on the difference between bystanding, standing by, and upstanding, with examples drawn from religion and religious Black figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Sojourner Truth.

CLASSICS SOCIETY



Ancient Nubia and the Kingdom of Kush
Friday 17 October - 1:45pm - C001
Bosco will present a talk on the fascinating Kingdom of Kush, an early cradle of civilisation within ancient Nubia (now Northern Sudan and Southern Egypt) that maintained its prominence until the 4th century AD.

ART SOCIETY TALK

Friday 17 October - 1:50 pm - Studio 4

Ms Spencer Jolly will give an Art Society talk on the work of three living Black artists featured in the Art History curriculum at Dulwich College. The session will explore what their art teaches us about complex and often conflicting historical narratives.
Yinka Shonibare's colourful sculptures weave stories of colonial influence through fabric; Barbara Walker's drawings examine erasure and visibility; and Zanele Muholi's photography turns an autobiographical lens on the aftermath of Apartheid in South Africa.

ART SOCIETY DOCUMENTARIES

Friday 7 November - 1:50 pm - Studio 4

The Art Society will present the Year 12 cohort's documentaries to a wider audience, spotlighting the transformative work of emerging Black artists. Through these films, students will examine the careers and legacies of figures such as Mark Bradford, El Anatsui, Theaster Gates, and Arthur Jafa—artists who have redefined boundaries, explored cultural identity, and challenged societal norms.



MODERN LANGUAGES POSTER COMPETITION

As part of Black History Month 2025 and this year's theme of **Resilience and Commitment**, the Modern Languages Department is inviting students to take part in a poster competition.

Participants will research a historical figure of colour from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, or China, exploring how their resilience, commitment, or role as an upstander has made an impact.

The competition will go live at the start of October. **The winning entry will receive an Amazon voucher,** and the poster will be displayed in the department.

SSLP COLLABORATION DAY

Engineer Your Vision
Thursday 16 October - Auditorium
In partnership with the non-profit *Engineer Your Vision* (Dulwich student project), this half-day event will empower and inspire students by connecting them with Black professionals, academics, and innovators in STEM. Students from Dulwich College and the SSLP (Years 12 and 13) will take part in keynote talks, hands-on workshops, a collaborative design challenge judged by industry experts, and networking opportunities to explore STEM careers.

MUSIC

This year we are celebrating the rich history and energy of Reggae music with Maroon Town, a vibrant band who bring rhythm, movement, and joy to every performance. Students across the school will have the chance to enjoy live music and take part in exciting workshops.

Assembly (Auditorium) to years 3-5
A live performance by Maroon Town, introducing the story of Reggae and its cultural impact along with an interactive performance for the Junior School Choir!

Morning Workshops
Senior Musicians (Year 9): practical workshop focusing on Reggae performance and style.

Breaktime (Playground)
Student bands from the Rock & Pop Project in years 8-12 bring their own Reggae sets to the stage.

After Break
Year 7 & 8: interactive Reggae session exploring rhythm, voice, and movement.

Lunchtime
Closing of the morning's events.

Reggae music, born from struggle and hope, reflects this year's theme of ***Resilience and Commitment***. Through its powerful rhythms and uplifting stories, students are invited to reflect on identity, unity, and perseverance.

ART

YEAR 10 ART



During half-term, students will research overlooked Black artists such as Marguerite Harris, Betty Blayton, and Zoe Charlton. Delving into their backgrounds, artistic practices, and the cultural significance of their work, students will consider not only the technical aspects of their practice but also the broader socio-political contexts in which these artists worked. This hands-on creative process will give students the opportunity to engage intellectually with their work while developing their own voices as emerging artists, connecting past and present through the creation of new work.

YEAR 12 ART



During half-term, Year 12 art students will research and present a unique series of student-created documentaries spotlighting the transformative work of emerging Black artists who are reshaping the global cultural landscape. Through their lens, students will explore the careers and legacies of artists such as Mark Bradford, El Anatsui, Theaster Gates, and Arthur Jafa—each of whom has made an indelible mark on contemporary art, redefining boundaries, exploring cultural identity, and challenging societal norms. These documentaries will be created using various creative mediums, including PowerPoint, iMovie, and other digital tools, allowing students to explore the diverse and dynamic ways that contemporary narratives are expressed in art today.

STAFF

Staff CPD Session – Creating a Culture of Openness in the Classroom
Thursday 9 October - 1:50pm – 2:30pm - Wodehouse Library

As part of this year's theme of **Resilience and Commitment**, staff will take part in a CPD session led by Bilal Harry Khan from the Every Future Foundation. The session will focus on creating a culture of openness in the classroom, building trust, and addressing issues as they arise.

LOWER SCHOOL

In December, all of Year 8 will visit the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton to do a workshop entitled Windrush Journeys, which will explore the aspirations, experiences, and legacies of the Caribbean communities who were part of the post-war journey to Britain.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

In the Junior School, we will be celebrating Black History Month in line with the College-wide theme of Resilience and Commitment. Our programme begins with a launch assembly exploring the history of Black History Month and the importance of resilience, identity, and being an upstander.

In Wellbeing lessons:

- **Years 3 & 4** will study *Change Sings* by Amanda Gorman, reflecting on what it means to be an upstander and how each of us can make a difference in our communities

- **Years 5 & 6** will explore Kwame Alexander's *The Undefeated*, using this powerful text to consider resilience, perseverance, and the strength of collective history.

Throughout the month, pupils will also be able to join a range of lunchtime activities, including:

Assemblies: Year 6-6G will present an assembly on the theme of *Resilience and Commitment*, attended by all Year 5 and 6 pupils and their form tutors. Parents of 6G pupils are also warmly invited to join.

- *Tea & Talk* discussion sessions
- Kente paper weaving (stripes of strength)
- Adinkra symbol printing
- Story time sessions featuring diverse books and voices.

DUCKS

At DUCKS, we believe every child is unique — and this October, our Black History Month celebrations will reflect that belief in vibrant and meaningful ways. Across the school, children will explore stories, music, art, and history that celebrate Black culture and the contributions of Black individuals past and present. These experiences are designed to spark curiosity, foster empathy, and deepen our understanding of what it means to be part of a diverse and respectful community.

Early Years
Our youngest learners will enjoy joyful tales that celebrate Black families and identity. Through books such as *So Much* by Trish Cooke, *Me and My Hair* by Kimberley Kinloch, and the much-loved *JoJo & Gran Gran* series, children will explore themes of love, belonging, and individuality. Picture books like *We Are All Welcome* and *My World, Your World* will encourage reflection on what makes each of us special, while celebrating kindness and respect.

Reception
Children will journey back to the Jazz Age to discover the life and music of Ella Fitzgerald. Through singing, body percussion, expressive dance, and creative art, they will experience the joy of jazz while learning how Fitzgerald's talent and determination helped her overcome racial barriers. Her story will inspire children to embrace their own voices and celebrate perseverance.

Year 1
As part of the 'Long, Long Ago' theme, children will be inspired by the lives of three extraordinary explorers: Ibn Battuta, who travelled across continents in the 14th century; Matthew Henson, a pioneer of Arctic exploration; and Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to travel into space. Their journeys will spark conversations about bravery, curiosity, and the importance of following one's dreams.

Year 2
Children will explore the life and work of Maya Angelou, focusing on her empowering poem *Life Doesn't Frighten Me*. They will reflect on bravery and self-belief, create digital portraits using Purple Mash, and study the expressive art of Jean-Michel Basquiat. These projects will encourage children to use their voices and talents to make a difference.