



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CELEBRATING BLACK ROLE MODELS, PAST AND PRESENT.

PAST

Written by Connor Year 11

Edited by Mr J Harwood

Unfortunately, many inspirational black figures go unrecognised and slip through the gaps of time. Each year we learn about the same elements of black history and although this is prevalent, the saying 'a machine won't work until all the cogs move together' comes to mind. It is my hope that we celebrate all black figures and history- so that one day we don't need a month to celebrate them, as they will be celebrated all year round.

Sister Rosetta was an African-American who shared a love for both God and music. Her talent in music lead to the birth of the rock n roll. She helped pave the way for music sensations like Elvis Presley who sang a variety of her songs. However, Tharpe suffered from discrimination due to the colour of her skin. Luckily for the music industry, this extraordinary role model pushed back and continued to deliver music to fans of all ages, races and social classes, becoming a symbol of hope for future generations.



PRESENT

Written by Jessica and Imogen Year 9

Edited by Miss G Nugent

Barack Obama was the 44th president of The United States of America and the first Black President in American History. During his 8 years in office, he made a lot of important changes as well as being a role model to millions of young, black men all over the world. Obama's family includes his wife, Michelle and their two daughters, Malia and Sasha. This is a family of inspirations. Michelle Obama is an American attorney and author, as well as an activist for women's rights. During her reign as First Lady of The United States, she fought for the rights of women as well as fighting for those in poverty and her admirable work has continued beyond their stay in The White House.

The family are an inspiration: their work, empathy, kindness, wholesomeness and dedication should be celebrated and admired.



FUTURE

57 YEARS

Jussara Year 11

57 years it's been since the world realised we're humans too,

57 years later and our skin colour still evokes fear in you.

I believe the power of us blacks is our skin,

which 57 years ago was deemed to be a sin.

57 years it's been but still in life we are all United when we win, black and white when we lose.

They say, 57 years ago my people saw freedom, although 57 years later we are yet again victims.

The end to slavery,

The end to segregation,

Yet racism still goes on.

The stereotyping

The discrimination

The all - encompassing enlarging torture - when will it end?

Full poem on school website



Autumn 1 podcast available now!

This half term's podcast has been shared via Microsoft email with all staff and pupils. Listen to us discuss BHM, our research, newsletter and guest experiences!

Miss Akinpelu said...

Miss Akinpelu said that she loves being a black woman because it is nice to stand out in our school community. When asked about why she thinks it is important for young black pupils to see a black role model in schools, she replied, "you could look at a photo from years ago and clear it up a bit, and it is still happening today" - suggesting that things still need to change in terms of representing the black community. Interestingly, Miss Akinpelu never aspired to be a teacher. However, when working in a hostel she told us, a young person said they had never seen a black teacher before: this inspired her to train to be a teacher. Miss Akinpelu said that "diversity in the classroom is the way it should be: look at us here in this classroom, we are so beautiful". The world is full of black inspirations and Miss Akinpelu is ours!

HUMAN LIBRARY

We spoke to Miss Akinpelu, a member of our own school community. Miss Akinpelu shared with us her own experiences as a black woman and as a black teacher.

Catholic Life of the School

Written by Miruna Year 9

We are all part of a community, which is of course St Cuthbert's. As we are part of it, we should follow the core values. This month, we have focused on compassion as we should all have compassion towards each other, leaving our differences aside. Differences should bring us closer instead of apart so we should embrace and feel compassion of those with such and not prejudice or discrimination. One quote among many others is Galatians 3:28 saying the following: There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, **for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

A question to our readers...

Who are your black role models?

Email Miss Nugent or Mr Harwood:

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THE POWER OF WORDS