



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



As Black History Month at Thomas Alleynes draws to a close, we can look back with pride at the conversations and activities that we have been engaged in during October. Our students have been able to learn more about the incredible life of Claudia Jones and her role in bringing the Notting Hill Carnival, and a celebration of Caribbean culture, to the UK.

We have also been honoured to host Chef Patti Gyapomaa Sloley in school, leading a series of cooking masterclasses with our Year 8 students, introducing them to fantastic Ghanaian recipes and spices.

But that's not all! Our students have been learning about diverse role models in a range of subjects, and have been able to discuss the barriers that Black people have faced throughout history, and today, in the UK.

- In Geography, students have learned about the Haitian Slave Revolt, the first and only successful slave uprising during the colonial era. Haiti has been a country of free people since that time.
- In History lessons, Year 9 students have learned about the contributions and sacrifices of troops from across the Commonwealth to World War 1, and PE have produced a range of videos and profiles highlighting Black role models in sport. The PE department have worked hard to ensure that their lessons include a wide selection of diverse sporting stars, increasing representation and visibility in the curriculum.
- In RE, Year 9 students have been learning about racism and genocide to understand more about these complex issues and how they occur.

Plus, there are many more fantastic examples across school of lessons and topics designed to promote Black role models, as well as provoking discussion around topics of racism, inequality, and barriers to success in the UK. We are committed to our goal of becoming a truly anti-racist school, and this Black History Month has been a great platform from which to develop further conversations and understanding throughout the year.

Student Competition

We have now launched our student competition for Black History Month! Students are challenged to research somebody who has made a difference in Black British history. Students (and families, of course!) can then create an homage to their person (or group of people) of choice, showing off their creativity and respect for that individual. These homages can take the form of a painting, drawing, sculpture, biography, poem, or any other creative way of expressing respect and admiration for that person (or group!).

The theme for Black History Month UK this year is 'Time for Change; Action not Words', so what better way to reinforce this message than celebrating the life of a difference-maker by creating a homage to them?

Submission deadline for entries is 4th November, with prizes awarded to outstanding entries. We would love to have a wide range of homages to incredible contributors throughout history, so please encourage your child to get involved!

Mr Cox

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead

PATTI SLOLEY VISIT

On Monday 17th October the Hospitality and Catering Department welcomed Ghanaian chef Patti Soley to celebrate all things plantain!

Students watched Patti create a delicious black eyed bean, salt fish and roasted plantain stew. Lots of students helped out to prepare different ingredients then had a spice masterclass, exploring a range of spices used in Ghanaian cooking!

All students were keen to taste the wonderful dish, many experiencing food they have never tasted before!

We can't wait to invite Patti back to school, in the meantime keep an eye out as she is due to appear on a few TV shows soon. Here is a link to when she last appeared on Lorraine, making her plantain and pear Christmas cake! <https://www.itv.com/lorraine/articles/patti-soleys-pear-and-plantain-christmas-cake>

