

LEARNING HUBBUB

Topical tales from the Learning Hub.



Black History Month

- Why do we celebrate Black History Month?
- Celebrating Black voices: *Artist's near and far.*
- How can I be an ally?
- What's in the Hub?
- Continuing to learn about Black History.

Why do we celebrate Black History Month?

In an ideal world we wouldn't need a specific month to celebrate any group of people, because we would all be celebrated equally and consistently. Instead it could be said that it is more common for us to celebrate the achievements and historical contributions of white people rather than any other ethnic or racial group. Therefore, to expand our view of the world, it is helpful for us to have specific days and months of focus for other ethnic groups that have been historically marginalised or oppressed.

"History has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own."

—Michelle Obama

Celebrating Black Voices:

There have been numerous artistic responses to the Black Lives Matter movement, and we could not celebrate Black History Month without acknowledging the recent tragedies that have had lead to a call for reform around the world. The words of George Floyd are making history, but they are part of our present push for change and we should not let them fall into the past unheard.

We've created a free Spotify playlist, that you can find at home in your own time, that celebrates and champions Black singers, rappers and poets. You can also use the Spotify app to find Michelle Obama's podcast, and for those of you in Sixth Form, we'd recommend the podcast *About Race with Reni Eddo-Lodge*.

Black History Month Playlist

Michelle Obama

About Race with Reni Eddo-Lodge.



Romay Brown is a Birmingham based Illustrator currently studying towards her degree in Visual Communication (Illustration). Romay's latest work puts a spotlight on Black figures in history that are often overlooked. In fact, you may recognise some of her muses from John Agard's *Checking Out Me History*.

You can find her work on Instagram [@romayillustrations7](https://www.instagram.com/romayillustrations7) and you can listen to the wonderful work of John Agard [here](#).



Akala is a BAFTA and MOBO award-winning hip-hop artist and co-founder of the Hip-Hop Shakespeare Company. He's a Historian, Author, Entrepreneur and Poet. If you haven't heard of him yet, we are happy to be your introduction to such a wonderful source of artistry and good nature. Having spoken on the significance of Black History Month numerous times we're linking his new lecture series below, as well as his epic TED talk; Hip-Hop or Shakespeare, which will give you a brilliant new insight into the Bard.

[Akala on Black British History.](#)

[TED talk.](#)



What's in the Hub?

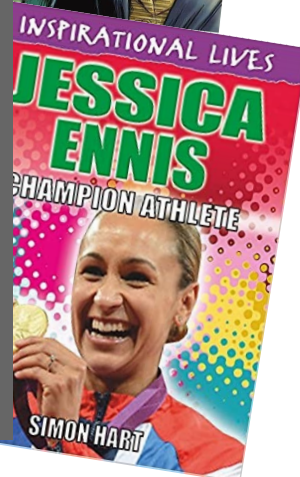
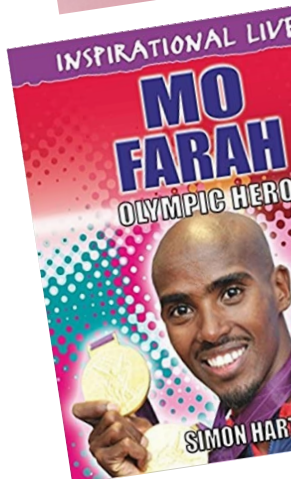
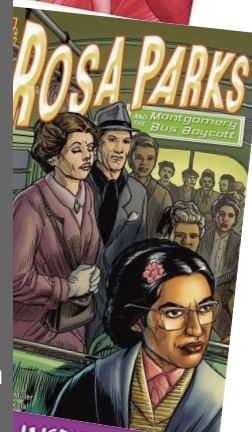
The Learning Hub has a whole host of books (both fiction and non-fiction) written by and about incredible, influential Black people.

Tomi Adeyemi's West African-inspired young adult fantasy debut, *Children of Blood and Bone*, is one of our latest arrivals in the Hub. This enthralling new story revolving around magic and power is also being adapted for the big screen and will soon be released in cinemas. However, if you really can't wait to discover Zélie's story, simply request the book from the Learning Hub via email!

The *Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta has also just landed in the Hub. Another debut novel receiving great reviews, *The Black Flamingo* follows Michael Brown from childhood to university on a journey of self discovery.

Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses*, a young adult series set in an alternative 21st century, is a classic with a twist that you may have heard of due to its recent adaption for the small screen. The novel's are based on a significant change in our real history, that leads to this speculated new reality. If you would like to get a taste for the series before diving into the novels, you can find a BBC adaption of the first instalment on iPlayer [here](#).

If there is are any books in particular you'd like to request or just find out more about then just email the Learning Hub team at learninghub@woodgreenacademy.co.uk.



Continuing to learn about Black History.

We are all responsible for becoming more socially aware than the time we grew up in. That is why we must continue our own education into Black History and the discrimination that the Black community face. This is a learning journey that may start - but will not end - here in school. It's a journey we all must continue throughout life. As the world we live in changes, so will the issues we face.

Diversify the books you read, the social media accounts you follow, the TV and Film's you watch. It will all help develop your understanding and broaden your world view.

Next month we'll be talking Movember!

Got suggestions? Email us: learninghub@woodgreenacademy.co.uk

How can I be an ally?

Allyship is the *active practice* of emphasizing social justice, inclusion, and human rights by members of a privileged group of people, to advance the interests of an oppressed or marginalized group of people. Allyship is part of the anti-racist conversation that argues that being 'not racist' is a non-committal attitude towards racism, whereas someone that is 'anti-racist' is actively engaged in the difficult conversations it will take to ultimately make the world a fairer place.

The Guide to Allyship says that to be an ally is to...

1. Take on the struggle as your own.
2. Transfer the benefits of your privilege to those who lack it.
3. Amplify voices of the oppressed before your own.
4. Acknowledge that even though you feel pain, the conversation is not about you.
5. Stand up, even when you feel scared.
6. Own your mistakes and de-centre yourself.
7. Understand that your education is up to you and no one else.

*"The time is
always right
to do what is right."
—Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Being an ally doesn't mean you'll ever understand the struggles and complexities of life that your Black friends and family may be facing, but it does mean that you acknowledge their pain and intend to use your own voice to benefit them where they may not be represented or heard. It's also important to remember that the world will always benefit from allies; and it is better to turn up imperfectly, with things to learn, than to not turn up at all.

The Guide to Allyship is a really wonderful website with lots of information and resources for allies. Teen Health Source also have a great blog on being an ally.

*"For it isn't enough
to talk about peace.
One must believe in it.
And it isn't enough to
believe in it. One must
work at it."*

—Eleanor Roosevelt

We can support the Black community in many ways outside of education too: Black Pound Day encourages people to spend money with Black owned businesses. Sharing the work of Black artists and entrepreneurs on social media is also really helpful. Signing petitions that call for racial change is also a huge help to call for change and acknowledgement. Black History Month looks to celebrate and promote Black contributions to our collective past; be sure to reflect on your own views and understanding of what Black History Month means to you and use some of the resources within this newsletter as a starting point for your learning.