

BRINGING YOUR SCHOOL TOGETHER TO LEAD ON ANTIRACISM.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2025: STANDING FIRM IN POWER AND PRIDE

Black History Month in the UK was first celebrated in 1987. Whilst October is the key month for celebration, HFL Education believes that Black history should be actively incorporated into all aspects of school life throughout the whole year. We encourage educators to use this month to raise awareness, increase knowledge and celebrate the contribution of Black people in the UK throughout the generations!

This year's national theme, **Standing Firm in Power and Pride**, celebrates the resilience, strength and unwavering commitment of Black communities across the UK. It provides schools with an opportunity to:

- Honour our past heroes
- Embrace present-day voices
- Empower and educate for the future

KEY HISTORICAL EVENTS

The Bristol Bus Boycott (1963)

– pivotal in the UK Civil Rights Movement

The role of the West Indian Regiment in WW1

Windrush Generation – rebuilding Britain after WW2

Black British Theatre and Literature movements

KEY BLACK BRITISH FIGURES

John Blanke – Tudor trumpeter at Henry VIII's court

Walter Tull – professional footballer and WW1 officer

Olive Morris – political activist and community leader

Claudia Jones – activist and founder of the Notting Hill Carnival

Dianne Abbott, Bernie Grant, Paul Boateng – first Black MPs elected in 1987

Steve McQueen – Academy Award-winning director

Akala – rapper, author, activist

LOCAL INSPIRATION: KIT BROWN – THE BIG TALK

We are thrilled to announce our **Herts Voices Big Talk 2025 featuring Kit Brown** – a Nobel School alumnus, teacher, footballer, and inspirational speaker. Kit will share his journey from local student to educator, highlighting the power of teaching to shape futures.

Event details:

📍 The Nobel School, Stevenage

📅 Wednesday 15th October 2025,
1–3pm (Years 5–13)

Contact: hertsvoices@hfleducation.org

Reflection prompt for students: What values does Kit show that you can use in your own life?



LOCAL INSPIRATION: SAMUEL KASUMU – POWERED BY AFRICA

Samuel Kasumu, Hertfordshire resident and former Number 10 adviser, is leading the **Powered by Africa** tour this October. His talks explore Africa's contributions past, present and future, tying them to diversity, resilience and leadership.

- **Format:** 30-minute talk + Q&A
- **Audience:** Suitable for primary, secondary and staff teams
- **Book Launch:** Powered by Africa

Find out more: www.samuelkasumu.co.uk

Why Samuel inspires: - Local roots, national impact

- Courage and conviction
- Champion of young voices
- Entrepreneurial spirit

Look out for [Samuels interview](#) that includes classroom resources.

Activity ideas for schools: -

Primary: Draw a "Local Hero" poster with Samuel and themselves as future leaders.

Secondary: Debate – How can young people stand firm in power and pride in 2025 Britain?

Reflection prompt for students: How does Samuel's story show the importance of standing firm in your values?

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY IN HERTFORDSHIRE?



St Albans Museum & Gallery – Our Stories

Immersive exhibition with oral histories, artworks, poetry and soundscapes, plus a zine for schools and libraries. Family workshops include cook-alongs and mindful collage. Perfect for field trips and creative classroom responses.



One Woman Black History Show – Letchworth Garden City

A performance weaving songs, Caribbean dance, folktales and quizzes. Runs Friday 3rd October – Thursday 30th October. Engaging for families and small school groups.



Mr Fabulous (Jay Kamiraz) – County Hall, Hertford

Speaker, TV judge and diversity champion, Friday 31st October. Suitable for older secondary pupils as an inspirational encounter.



Next Page Books, Hitchin

Inclusive bookshop with tailored school packages and author workshops.

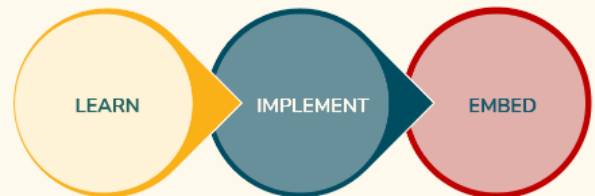


Watford FC Community Sports & Education Trust

Events and activities with partner schools as part of Premier League Primary Stars.

HOW CAN SCHOOLS CELEBRATE BHM THROUGHOUT THE YEAR?

At HFL Education we encourage a **whole-school approach** to diversity through our 3-step process: **Learn, Implement, Embed.**



Ideas for Primary:

- Storytelling with authors like Nathan Bryon and Trish Cooke
- Explore Walter Tull in history and PE
- Design stamps or crests celebrating Black heroes
- Create a class mural on Power and Pride

Ideas for Secondary:

- Study poems by Grace Nichols or Benjamin Zephaniah
- Debate: What does anti-racism mean in 2025 Britain?
- Create TikTok-style films reclaiming narratives
- Explore Steve McQueen's filmography in media/English

Suggested Timeline for October: -

- Week 1: Hero of the Week assembly
- Week 2: Curriculum spotlight (history/English link)
- Week 3: Guest talk or local event visit
- Week 4: Student showcase (poetry, art, drama)

10 GREAT RESOURCES FOR BHM 2025

1. **Black History Month UK Resource Pack 2025** – classroom-ready pack (blackhistorymonth.org.uk)
2. **Teachwire Hub** – subject-specific ideas (teachwire.net)
3. **National Literacy Trust** – literacy activities KS1–KS3 (literacytrust.org.uk)
4. **NEU Resources** – lesson packs and policy support (neu.org.uk)
5. **British Red Cross** – humanitarians focus (redcross.org.uk)
6. **Facing History UK** – reflective teaching (facinghistory.org)
7. **Our Migration Story** – interactive migration platform (ourmigrationstory.org.uk)
8. **The Black Curriculum** – programmes and podcast (theblackcurriculum.com)
9. **Black British Book Festival** – literature celebration (blackbritishbookfestival.com)
10. **Rukus! Black LGBT Archive** – intersectional histories (communityarchives.org)

SUPPORT & RESOURCES

- **HCC Diversity & Inclusion Strategy:** hertfordshire.gov.uk
- **HFL Staff Network Group for racially minoritised staff and allies** Contact Shammi for more information
- **HFL Race Equity and Anti-Racism resources:** [The Grid](https://the-grid.org)
- **Black History Month 2025 resources:** blackhistorymonth.org.uk

CONTACT

For more details on BHM and anti-racism support in schools:

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HFL Education (formerly Herts for Learning) is a not-for-profit organisation providing all the services, training and resources needed to deliver a great education to every child, to help them flourish and reach their full potential. With hundreds of advisers and subject experts in house, HFL Education is a trusted partner to education and learning professionals across the country, providing a unique and comprehensive

offer to every school and setting – all in one place. We work with over 3,100 schools, trusts and settings, and more than 300,000 delegates have benefitted from our training courses, events and conferences.

Our work includes providing support for school leaders on sensitive and complex matters relating to meeting the needs of individuals and groups with protected characteristics. All advice and recommendations provided by HFL Education advisers are informed by DfE guidance and statutory regulations, including those regarding political neutrality, bias and curriculum content, whilst also recognising the school's legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. School leaders will ultimately make the decisions that are appropriate for their school communities. Learn more about us at hfleducation.org.