

HFL EDUCATION CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

Bringing your school together to lead on antiracism

Black History Month (BHM) in the UK is an opportunity to recognise, celebrate and remember the achievements of Black communities locally, nationally and internationally. This year is the commemoration of the 75th year of Windrush! Even though BHM is recognised during the month of October, we hope that schools, settings and trusts will use it as a platform to increase awareness, knowledge and education throughout the year.

Teaching resources for schools, settings and trusts

Black History Month 2023's theme is: Celebrating our Sisters. [Blackhistorymonth.org](https://blackhistorymonth.org) have produced a range of resources to highlight the many ways that Black women have been at the forefront of social justice movements, politics, health, education, art, sport and much more. Schools can purchase the 2023 **resource pack** which features posters, logos, screensavers, lessons plans and assembly notes focused on Black female leaders. They have also launched a **National Black History Month Poetry Competition** (deadline 15th November 2023) where the winning poems will be published.

Over the course of BHM, we will feature a blog spot *Can I tell you about ...* where we will focus on pioneering Black women who may have received less recognition. Schools can also use our comprehensive **race equity toolkit** where we have provided materials to support schools with their approach, resources, mental health and wellbeing, **Great Representation programme** and research.

We have existing resources which are available for **download**.


If you are working on diversifying your library, **Next Page books** in Hitchin is a fantastic local resource. They offer support with book curation and book fairs.

Supporting with training

Schools, settings and trusts can join HFL advisers at **Antiracism Training: How to lead with confidence** on 7th February 2024. This is a two-day face-to-face course where delegates will be given access to our audit and an online consultation session. The course focuses on empowering leaders to make strategic changes with impact. We also offer training on **Supporting staff and pupils with prejudice related incidents**, as well as an online course which focuses on the **recruitment, retention and support of diverse staff**.

We have created a Staff Support Network for teaching staff from racially minoritised backgrounds. The group will be working on practical ways to support race equity in Hertfordshire schools. The first meeting this year will be online on Thursday 28th September at 3.45pm to 5.15pm. Contact Shammi.Rahman@hfleducation.org for further details.

Race Equality Matters is a collaborative organisation in the UK. Leaders in schools may find some of the resources they have useful in supporting colleagues and creating safe spaces for discussions. Colleagues may be interested in their solution-focused suggestions such as the **#mynameis campaign**, the **5-day-challenge** and **safe-space**.



Supporting our pupils

Herts Voices which launched in 2022, continues to provide speakers for primary and secondary schools. At last year's launch we featured Tim Armoo – co-founder of Fanbytes - for secondary-age young people. This year, Gary Younge – journalist, author and broadcaster – will be delivering a talk to primary age children on 29th November 2023. We are delighted to be able to welcome a member of the Stevenage community back to inspire and work with our young people.

Great Big Assembly. Why not take part in a live broadcast of the Great Big Assembly on Tuesday 10th October at 9.05am? It has a Black History Month theme and features BAFTA-nominated Children's BBC presenter **Gemma Hunt**, BAFTA-winning 12-year-old presenter **Jeriah Kibusi** and award-winning author **Dr Krish Kandiah OBE**. **Find out more.**

Support for governors

Through the **Modern Governor** programme we offer a range of training across a number of topics. We are pleased that governors, trustees and

chairs will have the opportunity to participate in training on race equality in October.

Local suggestions for parents, carers and families

In Hertfordshire, local residents have curated a **Journey Through Life** exhibition about Windrush at Lowewood Museum. The exhibition explores experiences of Caribbean people living in Broxbourne and it will be available until 14th October 2023 (open Fridays and Saturday only 10 – 4.30pm).

Watford Palace are staging Cassa Pancho's **Ballet Black: Pioneers**. It's a double-bill with award winning choreographers, Will Tuckett and Mthuthuzeli. This exciting performance is taking place on Tuesday 17th October at 7.30pm. If you're in need of a light-hearted moment, perhaps check out Britain's Got Talent 2022 winner **Axel Blake in his new show 'In Style'**. It's taking place on 14th October at the Watford Theatre. And finally, Kickoff@3 and 5-a-side Chess are coming together in the first ever joint event at St Albans on 27th October 2023. **Find out more.**

At the time of print, we have tried to curate useful materials and resources with a focus on BHM in Hertfordshire for 2023. If you are aware of events, resources, theatre, music, sport and art taking place in relation to racial diversity throughout the year, please get in touch at wellbeing@hfleducation.org.

We would love to hear from you!

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