

# BRINGING YOUR SCHOOL TOGETHER TO LEAD ON ANTIRACISM.

BHM in the UK was first celebrated in 1987. Whilst October is the key month for celebration HFL Education believe 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 have fun celebrating the contribution of Black people in the UK throughout the generations.

## RECLAIMING NARRATIVES

The theme for BHM 2024 is 'Reclaiming Narratives' which is a wonderful opportunity for schools and settings to highlight the untold stories and histories of Black people in the UK.

This year's theme was chosen to:

- Honour Our Heroes
- Embrace Our Stories
- Empower and Educate

[Blackhistorymonth.org.uk](https://blackhistorymonth.org.uk) have curated an excellent [resource pack](#) which includes: Black voices in Literature, contributions to science and technology, a timeline and contribution to the armed forces.

To support your work on *reclaiming narratives*, you might be interested in finding out more about these Black British figures and key events. You can also read about figures in our [HFL blog](#) series 'Can I tell you about ...'.

### KEY BLACK BRITISH FIGURES

[John Blanke](#) – a royal Tudor trumpeter at Henry VIII's court

[Olaudah Equiano](#) – writer and abolitionist

[Sarah Forbes Bonetta](#) – formerly Omoba Aina – a captured Yoruba orphan who became Queen Victoria's protegee

[Walter Tull](#) – professional footballer and British Army Officer

[Una Marston](#) – journalist, editor, BBC broadcaster, poet and playwright

Claudia Jones – journalist and activist; founder of the West Indian Gazette and key player in setting up the Notting Hill Carnival

[Roy Hackett and Paul Stephenson](#) - key activists in the Bristol Bus Boycott

[Olive Morris](#) – a political activist

[Dianne Abbott, Bernie Grant and Paul Boateng](#) – first black Members of Parliament elected in 1987

[Steve McQueen](#) – film director, producer and screenwriter, Academy Award and BAFTA winner

[Akala](#) – a rapper, author, social and political activist

### KEY EVENTS

Hadrian's Wall – role played by the [Aurelian Moors](#)

Anti-slavery movement – role of The West African Squadron; Nanny the Maroon and Queen Nzinga

WW1: role of the British West Indies Regiment, Ernest Marke, Norman and Roy Manley

WW2: black Caribbean and African soldiers in the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Airforce

UK Civil Rights Movement – [1963 Bristol Bus Boycott](#)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY IN HERTFORDSHIRE?

We will be using our [@hflwellbeing](#) to highlight events in Hertfordshire throughout Black History Month – make sure you are following us!

The Herts Diversity Equality and Inclusion (DEI) Network Steering Group established by Flora Richards will be hosting a [Herts Student DEI Conference](#) on Monday 14th October 2024, 4–6pm at the Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth. Places are limited so be sure to contact [hertsdei@gmail.com](mailto:hertsdei@gmail.com) or 01923 284 483 ext.2574, for further details.

A fantastic resource in Hitchin is [Next Page Books](#), they have a wonderful selection of inclusive books, offer school-specific packages and support authors and talks. [St Albans Museum](#) have worked alongside local residents to curate an exhibition called *Becoming Us* which recounts stories of people arriving from the Caribbean as part of the Windrush Generation. They are hoping to use these stories and work alongside Abbey Theatre in St Albans to create monologues, storytelling and dramatisations culminating in performance pieces this October – so keep a look out for *Still We Roar*. Watford FC Community Sports and Education Trust will host a variety of events and with their partner primary schools within the Premier League Primary Stars programme.

## JOIN US FOR OUR HERTS VOICES BIG TALK ON WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

We are so excited that this is the third year that [Herts Voices](#) – our inspirational volunteer speakers programme which connects schools in the county with speakers from racially diverse backgrounds – will host a Big Talk! We are delighted that Evelyn Forde MBE (headteacher, TES Headteacher of the Year 2020 and former ASCL President who received an MBE in 2021) will be our speaker.

The talk will be on Wednesday 9th October, 1:00 - 3:15pm for Year 9 – Y13 students. We are grateful to The Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage SG2 0HS for agreeing to host the event. If your school would like to attend, please book your place [here](#) or contact [hertsvoices@hfleducation.org](mailto:hertsvoices@hfleducation.org).

## HOW CAN SCHOOLS AND SETTINGS CELEBRATE BHM THROUGHOUT THE YEAR?

At HFL Education we believe that there is significant value in developing a whole-school approach to diversity. We use our 3-step process, **learn**, **implement** and **embed** to encourage schools to be informed about diverse matters before making changes.



We help schools to develop their practices through our Anti-racism School Audit which addresses four key areas: Leadership, Curriculum and Resourcing, Recruitment, Retention and Development and Stakeholders. Email [wellbeing@hfleducation.org](mailto:wellbeing@hfleducation.org) for more information about using our strategic Anti-racism School Audit, as well as our broader service offer on equalities.

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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](http://hfleducation.org).