

Black History Month 2021

B: M2021

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER



Black History Month 2021

Black History Month is a time to celebrate Black British History but work has been done to embed more black history into the curriculum throughout the year.

This assembly will focus on some significant individuals who shaped Black British history and whose stories can teach us about the Black experience in the UK.

Then the Senior Prefect Team will discuss their plans for Black History Month



John Blanke

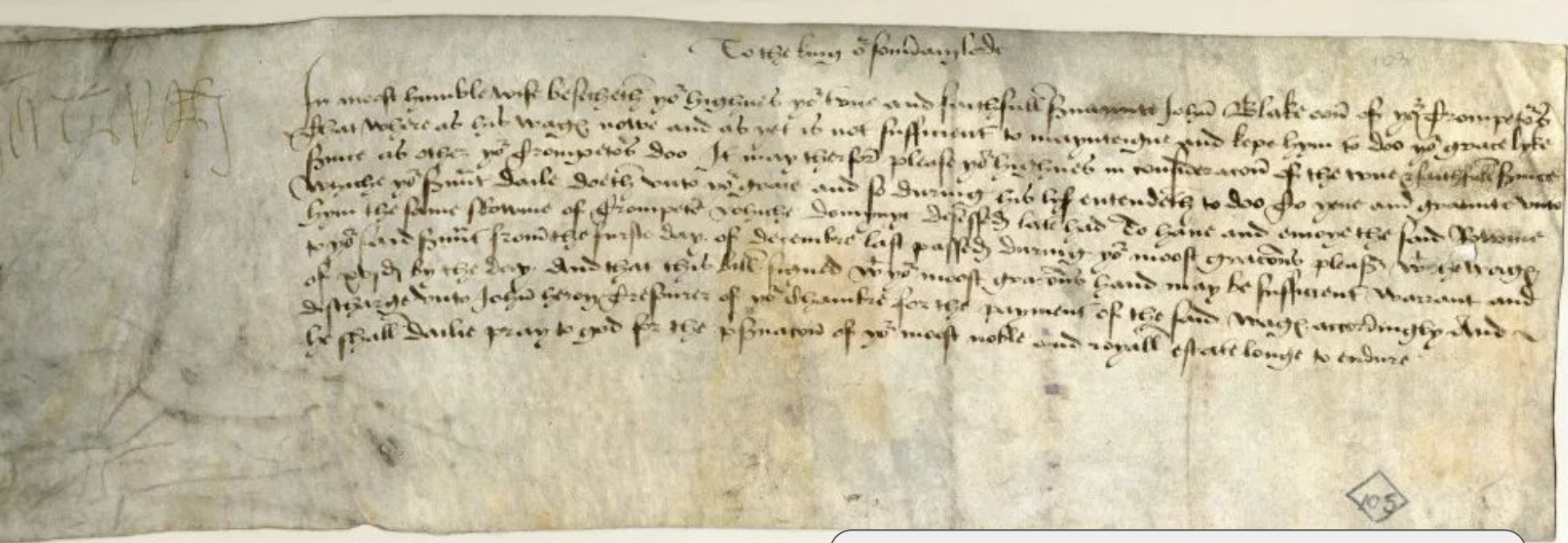
John Blanke was a trumpeter in the court of Henry VII and later Henry VIII

The first black Briton we have the name of and a picture of - the 1511 Westminster Tournament Roll.

He wrote a petition to Henry VIII demanding a pay rise - he got it!

He also received a wedding gift in 1512 from Henry VIII (a velvet hat and gown).





To the King of Spaine

In most humble wise beseech your highness your true and faithful servant John Blanke one of your chamberlains
that where at his wages note and at yet it not sufficient to maintain his wife and child he doo your grace like
to give you your chamberlains doo It may be that please your highness in consideration of the true and faithful service
which your chamberlains doeth unto you and so during his life intending to doo so your and grace unto
him the same somme of 1000 crowns your grace doo please to give and more the said somme
of 1000 crowns from the first day of December last passed during your most gracious pleasure which way
of pay by the day And that with all speed your most gracious hand may be sufficient warrant and
be shall double pray to god for the preservation of your most noble and royal estate longe to endure

105

The letter John Blanke wrote to Henry VIII still exists in the National Archives today

John Blanke's story tells us that Black people have held important positions in Britain for more than 500 years. It also challenges the idea that there were no Black people in Britain before the twentieth century.

Claudia Jones

Born in Trinidad in 1915, she was granted asylum in the UK in 1955 where she launched the West Indian Gazette - Britain's first weekly black newspaper.





In 1958 race riots took place in Notting Hill and Nottingham, where black communities were targeted with violence.

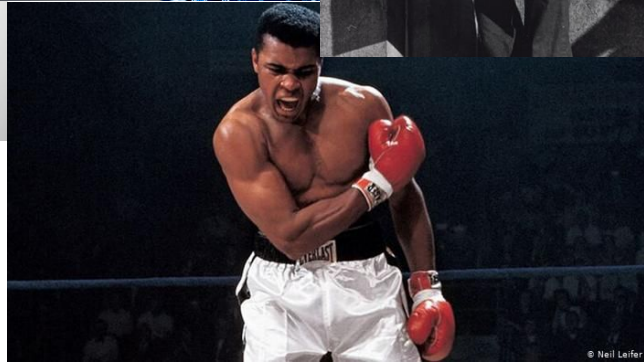
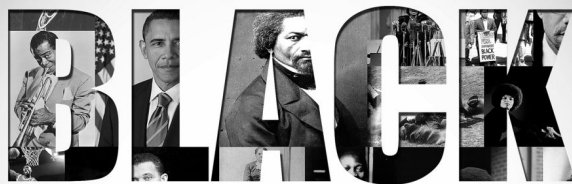
In response, Claudia Jones established the first ever 'West Indian Carnival' in 1959. The first carnival took place in St Pancras Town Hall in Camden - this later moved to Notting Hill and still continues to this day as the Notting Hill Carnival.



Claudia Jones

The story of Claudia Jones highlights the issues faced by Black British people in the 1950s and 60s and emphasises the way the Black community responded to the hostility they faced.





**Key figures identified
by the Sixth Form
Senior Prefect team**

Marsha P. Johnson (1945-1992)

- ★ Marsha P. Johnson was a **trans-rights activist** who played a major role in important moments for the LGBTQ+ movement, especially the **Stonewall protests**. Johnson was also an AIDS activist with ACT UP from 1989 to 1992.
- ★ Johnson was a founding member of the **Gay Liberation Front** and co-founded the radical activist group **Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (S.T.A.R.)**
- ★ Johnson was a prominent figure in New York City's gay and art scene, modelling for **Andy Warhol**, and performing onstage with many **famous drag artists**.
- ★ Johnson was known as the **"mayor of Christopher Street"** due to being a welcoming presence in the streets of Greenwich Village.
- ★ Marsha's legacy lives on: In February 2020, the Mayor of New York renamed the East River State Park in Brooklyn, **The Marsha P. Johnson State Park**.
- ★ A **statue** created in honour of Marsha, was unveiled in New York City in 2021.



Baroness Lawrence Of Clarendon

- Doreen Lawrence is a British Jamaican campaigner and the mother of Stephen Lawrence, a black British teenager who was murdered in a racist attack in South East London in 1993 while waiting for a bus.
- she pointed out flaws in the Metropolitan Police and public inquiry that followed concluded that the Metropolitan Police was “institutionally racist”.
- She continually campaigned for justice for her son as well as other victims.
- she has received an OBE, become a life peer in the House of Lords, and founded the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, as well as working with the Home Office, the Police, and numerous anti racist charities and organisations.
- She was named as Britain's most influential woman in the BBC Radio 4’s Woman's Hour Power List 2014.



Head Girl Team plans

Last week we held the Black History Month food and culture celebration

More coming up:

- Poster Competition
- Daily heroes of Black History in the banda
- Display of Influential black figures



Senior prefect team plans

The Senior Prefects are going to;

Create a permanent display in the sixth form building focusing on Black History

Create a display in the school library

Continuous discussion of how we can incorporate more black history into independent work



Black History Month Competition

For Black History Month we would like you to create a poster to celebrate any aspect of Black History Month

These will be judged by Mr Gunn and the Head Girl Team

The winning posters will be displayed in the school foyer

Please hand in your posters to Mr Gunn by next Monday (18th October)

