

Change@CCHS4G October Update

October has been held up as the time of year when we explore, discover, and celebrate Black history, heritage and culture - both past and contemporary; and events this month have certainly been a catalyst for us as a school community to share what Black History means to us.

Black History Month may be nearing an end, but our commitment to change@CCHS is not. Our pledge is to listen to the many untold stories, to embrace the incredible achievements, and to remove the barriers to progress, today, tomorrow, and every day; not just in October...

In this October update, Miss Fiona Harrison, Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) and Miss Heidi Pocock, Subject Leader – Geography, will tell you about the student and staff contributions that led to our excellent Black History Month assembly and activities, and Mrs Jo Cross, Assistant Headteacher (Teaching & Learning) will update you on our continuing commitment to staff training and community cohesion.

Mrs Emma Ledwidge, Deputy Headteacher and Change Project Leader

Black History Month

Throughout October, as a starting point for the 'CCHS Change Project', we have celebrated the UK's annual Black History Month in a variety of ways, focusing largely on recognising and celebrating black excellence. Our wonderful team of Sixth Form students have led our whole school celebrations with assemblies, workshops and film screenings, including a student-led assembly entitled 'Messy Hair Don't Care'. Through this assembly, all year groups were able to explore the significance of hair and how it is integral to someone's identity.

This was complemented beautifully by a screening of 'Dolapo is Fine', which premiered in the UK on the British Film Institute website as part of the 2020 London Film Festival after winning the HBO Short Film Competition at the 23rd Annual American Black Film Festival. It has also been nominated for a series of other awards at other international film festivals. The short film is described as 'a rewarding and thoughtful depiction of an ever-relevant issue which finds a young black girl about to leave boarding school and encouraged to conform to white beauty standards for a job in the City' (BFI, 2020).

In addition, the students have worked hard to research and create form-time workshops which have focused on a wide range of themes including 'Music as Protest', 'Jazz Music', 'Mary Seacole and the British Hotel', 'Allyship' and 'The Truth About Gynaecology'. Everything highlighted by the students in the assemblies, workshops or films has celebrated previously unsung heroes of black heritage.

Throughout our Black History Month celebrations, we have reflected on the fact that celebrations for just one month each year are not enough – black history should be part of our everyday life and curriculum. As such, we will be launching the '@CCHSChange Committee' after the October half term holiday, in a bid to make our reflection a reality. We are pleased that so many students have already volunteered to be part of this important work – inspired, in part, by the Black History Month programme created by our senior students

Miss Fiona Harrison, Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) and Miss Heidi Pocock, Subject Leader - Geography

Equality and Diversity UK

Following our September Update where we shared with you our whole staff training on our September inset day we have continued to develop and enrich staff CPD. In support of our long-term commitment to [Change@CCHS4G](#) we have joined Equality and Diversity UK's school's network. As members of their network we are able to access their expertise and benefit from their research, factsheets and quarterly newsletter on key issues and current topics. These resources will form an important part of our new online resource centre 'Change@CCHS CPD' and will be key in keeping our understanding current.

Colleagues also attended an event hosted by EduKit to commemorate Black History Month and shared their ideas and notes on the key topics including the quest for anti-racist education, teaching students about racism and diversity in leadership.

As ever our students remain at the heart of Change@CCHS and they continue to drive forward our framework. This month they have been key in celebrating Black History Month with a full programme of assemblies and workshops which have included every year group and student in our school.

We continue to be grateful for the support of our community and continued support of our Change@CCHS initiative.

Mrs Jo Cross, Assistant Headteacher (Teaching & Learning)