

UK Black History Month 2021

Friday October 1st - Sunday 31st October

What is UK Black History Month?

Most school curriculums teach with a focus on traditional events and achievements of white figures, like that of Sir Francis Drake and Shakespeare.

UK Black History Month gives everyone the opportunity to share, learn, celebrate and acknowledge the impact and achievements of those with African or Caribbean heritage.

It is also important to mention that UK Black History Month serves as a platform for people to learn about the effects of racism, how to challenge negative stereotypes and confront the realities of Britain's racist past.



The Aim of Today's Assembly

With all that being said, what we hope to achieve with today's assembly is to highlight just a few of the inspirational people who have done incredible things and used their platforms for positive change.

We hope to use a combination of videos and our own voices to celebrate some of these amazing achievements and show the impact that these people have had worldwide.

BBC
iPlayer

newsround



Marsha P Johnson



Marsha P. Johnson was an African American transgender woman who was an LGBTQ rights activist and an outspoken advocate for trans people of colour.

Johnson spearheaded the Stonewall uprising in 1969 and along with Sylvia Rivera and she later established the Street Transvestite (now Transgender) Action Revolutionaries (STAR), a group committed to helping homeless transgender youth in New York City.

The “P” purportedly stands for “Pay It No Mind,” a flippant saying she used to dismiss antagonists.

While being interviewed for a book in 1972, Johnson said her ambition was “to see gay people liberated and free and to have equal rights that other people have in America,” with her “gay brothers and sisters out of jail and on the streets again”. It’s this sort of sentiment that inspired multiple documentaries about her life, including David France’s 2017 film *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson*.



**MARSHA
P. JOHNSON
CHANGED
YOUR LIFE**

#ADEASKS



Marcus Rashford

Ever since his emphatic launch into the Manchester United first team in the 2015-2016 season, Marcus Rashford has been immensely outspoken about his personal struggles with poverty as a child and the governments lackluster support to help children today in similar situations.

As lockdown hit and schools were temporarily closed, Rashford partnered with food distribution charity FareShare to help cover some of the free school meal deficit. **The campaign was able to cover three million meals a week** to the most vulnerable across the UK,

Requests soon became overwhelmed following the Government's decision to cancel the food voucher scheme over the summer holidays.

In an open letter to the Cabinet, Marcus pleaded with the Prime Minister to reverse the decision. **“As a family, we relied on breakfast clubs, free school meals and the kind actions of neighbours and coaches. Food banks and soup kitchens were not alien to us.”** He went on to tell MP's, **“While the eyes of the nation are on you, make the U-turn and make protecting the lives of some of our most vulnerable a top priority”.**

Prime Minister, Boris Johnson extended the scheme two days later. Then in October, Marcus launched a second petition urging the Government to again extend free school meals through the half-term and Christmas holidays, **eventually pressuring ministers into providing £170 million of extra funding.**





THE
KICK
OFF

Not Everyone Respected his Work - Treatment in the Press

As you can see...



The image shows a screenshot of the Daily Mail website. The browser address bar displays 'dailymail.co.uk'. The website header features the 'Daily Mail' logo and navigation links for 'MORE STORIES' and a search icon. Two news articles are presented side-by-side.

Left Article:
Headline: **David Beckham deserves to be knighted due to his charity work across the world**
By David Kent for MailOnline
00:13 14 Nov 2015, updated 00:33 14 Nov 2015
Image: A photograph showing David Beckham in a dark suit, standing with an elderly woman in a pink jacket and a woman in a light blue dress. They appear to be in a formal setting, possibly a ceremony.

Right Article:
Headline: **What a result! Campaigning football star Marcus Rashford has bought five luxury homes worth more than £2million**
By Andy Buckwell And Max Aitchison For The Mail On Sunday
22:05 14 Nov 2020, updated 23:10 14 Nov 2020
Image: A composite image consisting of two parts: on the left, a photograph of a modern, two-story house with a light-colored facade and a teal door; on the right, a portrait of Marcus Rashford wearing a dark hoodie.

Chadwick Boseman

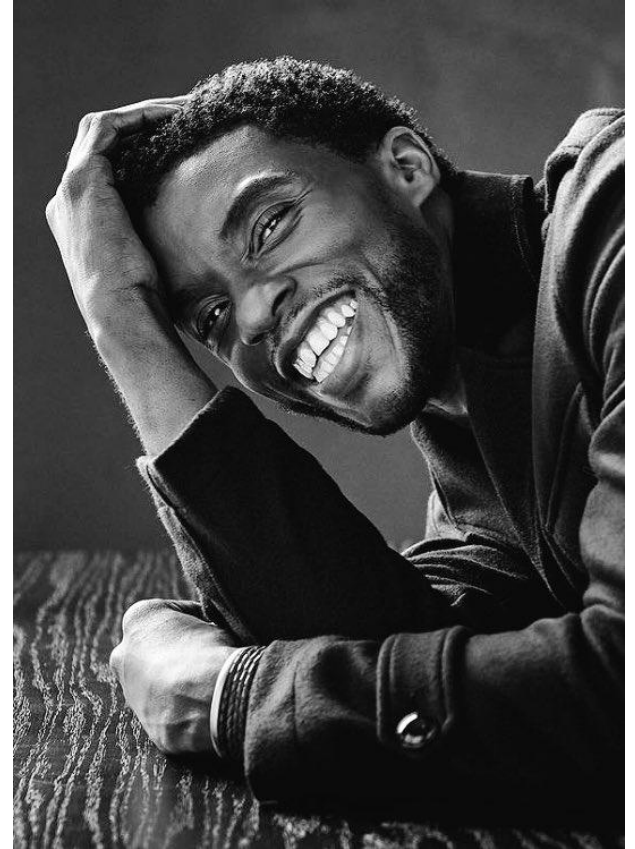
As I am sure you all well aware, Chadwick Boseman was an actor who appeared most famously in the MCU.

He was a lot more than just an actor - he did some incredible things that are not spoke about nearly enough.

To name just a few:

After winning an award he invited James Shaw Jr. onto the stage to keep the award. Shaw was a real life hero who had tackled a gunman in an mass shooting and saved many lives.

On the movie 21 Bridges, Chadwick secured equal pay for his female co-star Sienna Miller by taking a substantial cut of his own salary.





The Wider Importance of Black Panther

To many of you, Chadwick will be T'challa - The Black Panther. He brought power to the hero and has left a legacy that will stay behind longer than any individual could. His role has given a hero, and his work outside cinema has given a role model for many children who were previously almost entirely without representation in superhero media.

These are but a few of the inspirational black figures in our society. There are many more and over the years there will continue to be many more. And most importantly, you don't have to be a sportstar, politician, presenter, journalist, drag queen to be an inspiration. At their core, these people were willing to fight for what they believed in, in a world where the odds were systematically stacked against them.

