



Black History Month Curriculum Projects

Our Journey: 2020 – 2023

Portraits - African Americans and The Vote: 2020 – 2021

In October 2020, we ran an important project for Black History Month. The project aimed to teach pupils about important historical role models, who have had a positive impact and influence on society. This also allowed pupils to develop an understanding of equality, why it is important and reflect on the progress that has been made in society.

The project included an introduction to Black History Month and the theme, which was African Americans and The Vote. Each class chose a significant person from the past or present and studied them for a week. Pupils created art with acrylic paints on canvas as they learned and studied their chosen individual. Pupils then voted on the completed artwork which is now proudly displayed in a central location in the school.





The activities of Black History Month have had a fantastic positive impact on pupils and the whole school community.

The schools work was published in the IRIS magazine, and the pupils were awarded the **Circle of Life Award** by Young Citizens, on behalf of Disney for their fantastic Black History work.



ROSEHILL SCHOOL'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROJECT

Rosehill School is a community special school, maintained by Nottingham City Local Authority, situated close to the City Centre. The school provides day education for children and young people living with autism, aged 4 - 19. The school's vision is to enable every learner to achieve the best possible outcomes in learning, social and emotional wellbeing, in order to fulfil their true potential and participate fully in society. Therefore, a strong emphasis is placed on providing a rich and creative curriculum that extends pupils' experiences of diversity, culture, the arts and the wider community, helping to discover and develop young people's interests and talents.

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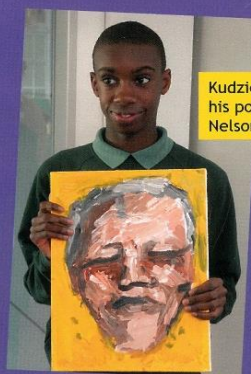
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Pupils then voted on the completed artwork which is now proudly displayed in a central location in the school.

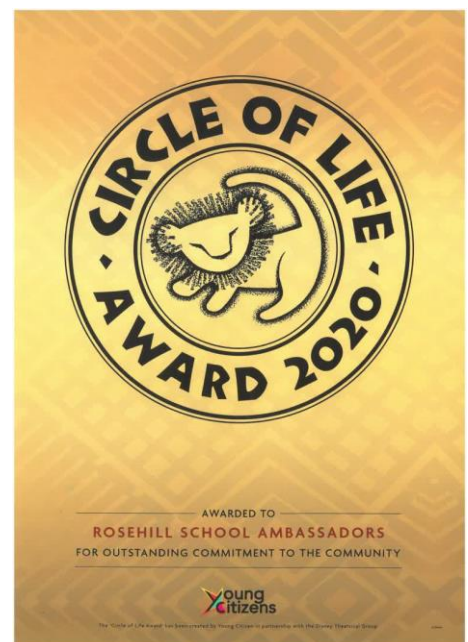
The activities of Black History Month have had a fantastic positive impact on pupils and the whole school community, and have helped to shine a light on the importance of celebrating black history and achievements of many inspirational people.



Tanaka and his portrait of Nicola Adams



Kudzie and his portrait of Nelson Mandela



What is Black History Month?

Black History Month takes place every October in the UK. The tradition started in the United States, where it is celebrated in February. Black history Month is a time to remember and celebrate the history and contributions of people from African and Caribbean backgrounds. You can learn more about Black History Month at www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk.

Montage Art -Benin: 2021 – 2022



in 2021, we celebrated Black History Month through an art adventure into the Benin culture in West Africa where many of the slave ships set sail in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

We investigated the beautiful art of the Benin people, in particular the Bronze masks used in various celebrations.

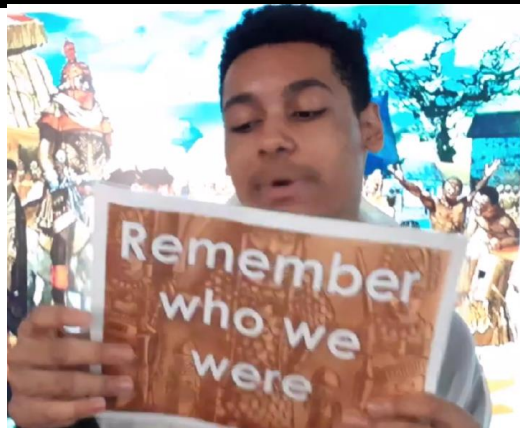
Our art adventure involved a virtual trip to the British museum filmed by one of our teachers to inspire the children's creativity for an art competition.

Various art skills were employed by the children including clay work, collage, mod-rock and gilding.

The children's work was judged by one of the OFSTED inspectors who was visiting the school as part of the local area SEND review. She commented on the quality of the children's creativity.

Students in the Sixth Form made a video to capture the importance of the Benin culture through sounds, music, words and artefacts. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Amx1nh6DtX8>





Black History: 2022 – 2023

At Rosehill this academic year (2022-2023), we celebrated Black History Month for a 3rd Year running through the creative arts. Our project this year was aimed at teaching our pupils about important historical role models, who have had a positive impact and influence on society. This project allowed the pupils to develop an understanding of equality, why it is important and to reflect on the progress that has been made in society, and involved the pupils in expressing the subject through the creative arts.

The project included an introduction to Black History Month and the theme, which was Significant Individuals throughout history. A number of pupils across Key Stages 3-5 took a key lead. Each class chose a significant person from the past/present and they then studied the person during the month of October 2022. Pupils created artwork on canvas as they learned and studied their chosen individual. Pupils then voted on the completed artwork which is now proudly displayed in the schools central café area.

The winning classes this year were:

- 1st place Class 8 – who designed an innovative piece of artwork about Rosa Parks
- 2nd place Class 11 – who created a stunning portrait of Mary Seacole



The activities of Black History Month continue to have a fantastic positive impact on the pupils and the whole school community.

Impact

Skills developed by the team

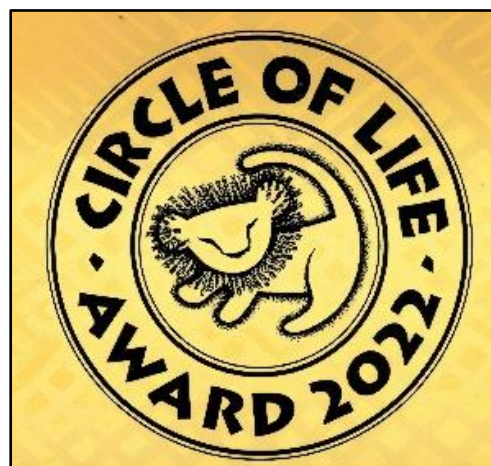
- Pupils have developed an understanding of diversity and how our differences should be acknowledged and celebrated
- They have worked together as a team, and used creative thinking to plan and implement their project work
- Pupils have experienced a feeling of pride as they see their work, as an artist, on display

- Their research has opened up avenues for new learning and this has been shared across the whole school
- Pupils have experienced what it is to be part of a democracy through voting for their favourite piece of artwork
- One pupil, within key stage 3, expressed a moments of success and excitement about the project by smiling and engaging with the project with increased enthusiasm (non-verbal learner)

Overcoming Challenge - Raising Awareness of Black History

As the theme this year was **'Time for Change: Action Not Words**, the Student Council wanted to ensure that the ongoing work of the school, regarding Black History, is shared and showcased at a wider, local level having a wider impact overall. The headteacher discussed with them how this could be achieved and it was agreed that the school would approach the Local Council to ask for the artwork to be displayed in Nottingham City, at a venue, to raise awareness of this important subject not just in the month of October, but ongoing and throughout the year.

In October 2023 the Playhouse exhibited all of the Black History work we have been creating as part of their Cultural and Disability Rights Awareness exhibition. The work was open to the public to view and interact with and the feedback from Martin Berry (Director of Participation @ Nottingham Playhouse) was very positive stating... "All went very well – I saw lots of audiences and public looking at and interacting with the works – and they looked great in our spaces. It has been really positive all round."



In the meantime, Rosehill have again been awarded the **Circle of Life Award** by Young Citizens, on behalf of Disney for our Black History curriculum, which continues to help us shine a light on the importance of celebrating Black History and the achievements of many inspirational people.

For more information about our amazing achievements, please follow this link

https://www.youngcitizens.org/app/uploads/2023/03/COLA_Rose-Hill_March20.pdf