

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Black History Month 2023



October is **Black History Month** and DSTC wants to celebrate the invaluable contribution of black people to British society. Black people have always been at the forefront of social justice movements, fighting against oppression and paving the way for change. However, despite their countless contributions to society, the achievements of black women, in particular, have too often been overlooked or forgotten. That is why, this year, we will be celebrating the exceptional achievements of black women at DSTC.

Assemblies are being led next week to identify and celebrate key black women who have made an impact in the world. Open Evenings will also be recognising the contributions of *“Women Who Left a Legacy”*.

The theme of **‘Saluting our Sisters’** highlights the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities. This year’s Black History Month global celebration will showcase pioneering black women who have made remarkable contributions to literature, music, fashion, sport, business, politics, academia, social and health care, and more. We aim to inspire our students to find out more about the achievements of black women and in turn inspire themselves to make a difference in their community.

We will be asking students to nominate their **‘Sheroes’**, a salute to pioneering black women at lunchtime on Thursday 12th October in the main school hall. A display will be made of the nominations. House points will be awarded for every entry.

Teniola Osholoye, a Public Sector Consultant at Deloitte and working with schools through the **‘Inspiring the Future’** programme is also visiting DSTC during Black History Month and will work with groups of Post-16 students.



On Wednesday 11th October, Years 7 & 8 are invited to a Movie and Popcorn event after school from 3.15-5.15pm where the film, **‘Hidden Figures’** will be shown. The film has a 12A rating, so by agreeing that their daughter is able to attend, parents are giving permission for this. The film showcases the story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S space program. Students will be asked to sign up via a google form.

We will also be sharing information about the national **Black History Month Poetry Competition 2023** in form time which we would encourage all students to take part in. Students can submit a poem about a pioneering black woman who has made an impact in their chosen field, explaining why she is an inspiration to them. The poems don't have to be about famous people; they can be about members of your family, women who have inspired others in your community, or even personal experiences as a woman or young person. We want you to get creative and have fun with it! More details can be found here: <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/poetry-competition-entry/>

Looking **further into the future**, we would like to reach out to parents and carers to find out more about black culture, as we aim to plan a **future event celebrating all cultures at DSTC**. If you feel that you would like to share your personal experiences about your culture then please complete the form below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSei4PNwpcMbUxVYwZjvh2NYq0zZc9N8spPNxNIqHArrQXqTwA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Deborah Ellis
Senior Vice Principal
DSL