



What is Black History Month?

- Black History Month is a time set aside each year to celebrate the achievements of black men and women in the past and today.
- In 1987, the first Black History Month took place in the UK.
- Black History Month in the UK and in February in America. **takes place annually in October**
- This year CHSG departments will be sharing stories of inspirational people in their field.
- **The following individuals have been sent by Music, MFL, Politics, Sociology, PE department, History, Maths, BTEC Health and Social Care, Art, Media and Film studies, Law and Maths.**

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Louis Armstrong



- Louis Armstrong is the grandfather of Jazz and was pivotal in changing the music scene in New Orleans. Both a trumpeter, singer and composer his works spanned five decades (1920s to 1960s) and he changed the Jazz scene in both America and across the world.
- He originally was part of a jazz band and didn't want to take the limelight, but his wife encouraged him to go solo and work on his own solo playing.
- With this he then created 'The Armstrong Hot Five' and 'The Armstrong Hot Seven'. I have picked Louis Armstrong as he changed the face of music, he changed Jazz and he made it fun (he was also a comedian and actor!)

MFL Department

Josephine Baker 1906-1975



- Josephine Baker was a dancer and singer who became very popular in France during the 1920s. She also devoted much of her life to fighting racism. Although born in the United States, France became her adopted country and she became a French citizen in 1937.
- In the 1920s she moved to France and soon became one of Europe's most popular and highest-paid performers. She worked for the French Résistance during World War II, smuggling messages out of Nazi-occupied France, which was extremely dangerous and courageous. For these efforts, at the war's end, Baker was awarded both the Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honour with the rosette of the Résistance, two of France's highest military honours.
- During the 1950s and '60s she devoted herself to fighting segregation and racism in the United States. Josephine Baker frequently returned to the United States to lend her support to the Civil Rights Movement, participating in demonstrations and boycotting segregated clubs and concert venues. In 1963, Baker participated, alongside Martin Luther King Jr., in the March on Washington, and was among the many notable speakers that day. She died in 1975 and on the day of her funeral, more than 20,000 people lined the streets of Paris to witness the procession.

Politics department

Barack Obama

1961 – present day



Barack Obama, in full **Barack Hussein Obama II**, (born August 4, 1961, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.), 44th president of the United States (2009–17) and the first African American to hold the office. Before winning the presidency, Obama represented [Illinois](#) in the U.S. Senate (2005–08). He was the third African American to be elected to that body since the end of Reconstruction (1877). In 2009 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize “for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples.”

Sociology department

Patricia Hill Collins



Patricia Hill Collins' published work has focused on the intersectionality of race, class, and gender.

Her writing and analysis made her a pioneer in critical race theory, which assesses how society and culture impact the categorisations of race, law, and power.

In 1990, she released her landmark book, "Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment."

The book focuses on the social, psychological, and political issues surrounding the disempowerment of Black women, including perspectives of revolutionary Marxist and feminist theory.

PE Department

Serena Williams.



Serena Williams is an American professional tennis player and former world No. 1 in women's single tennis. She has won 23 Grand Slam singles. The Women's Tennis Association ranked her world No.1 in singles on eight separate occasions. On her sixth occasion, she held the ranking for 186 consecutive weeks, tying the record set by Steffi Graf. In total, she has been No. 1 for 319 weeks. Williams holds the most Grand Slam titles in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles combined among active players.

She started her own company Serena Ventures, which provides opportunities to a diverse culture of early-stage companies, allowing them to be heard and helping them grow.

She has helped build the Marsh Elementary School in Jamaica and has also built schools in Uganda, Kenya and Zimbabwe in conjunction with Build Africa.

History department

David Adetayo Olusoga

January 1970- Present



David Adetayo Olusoga OBE is a British historian, writer, broadcaster, presenter and film-maker. He is Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester.

He has presented historical documentaries on the BBC and contributed to *The One Show* and *The Guardian*.

His most recent TV series include *Black and British: A Forgotten History*, *The World's War*, *A House Through Time* and the BAFTA award-winning *Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners*.

He has been awarded the following honours;

2019: Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the 2019 New Year Honours for services to history and to community integration.

2017: Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters, University of Liverpool

2017: Longman–History Today Trustees Award for *Black and British*

2016: Specialist Factual BAFTA, BAFTA TV Awards for *Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners*

2015: Royal Historical Society Public History Prize for Broadcasting for *Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners* (BBC History)

2015: World War One Book of the Year at the Paddy Power Political Book Awards for *The World's War*.

BTEC Health and Social Care

Medical Pioneers

Ben Carson, MD. First neurosurgeon to successfully separate conjoined twins attached at the back of the head.

Dr. Carson was one of the youngest physicians to direct paediatric neurosurgery at Baltimore-based Johns Hopkins Hospital. He successfully completed the first surgical separation of conjoined twins attached at the back of the head in 1987.

Dr. Carson is the secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development under President Donald Trump. He earned his bachelor's degree at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., and his medical degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and later completed his residency in neurosurgery at Baltimore-based Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.



BTEC Health and Social Care

Medical Pioneers

- **Marilyn Gaston, MD. First black female director of a U.S. Public Health Service bureau.**
- Marilyn Gaston earned her medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1964 and completed her internship in paediatric medicine at Philadelphia General Hospital. She is credited for her ground-breaking research in sickle cell anaemia.
- Dr. Gaston was the first black female physician appointed director of HHS' Bureau of Primary Health Care in 1990, where she focused on improving healthcare access to underserved and minority communities. National and international organizations have recognized
- Dr. Gaston for her social and scientific achievements. She received each type of award given by the U.S. Public Health Service as well as the National Medical Association's most prestigious honor — the NMA Scroll of Merit.



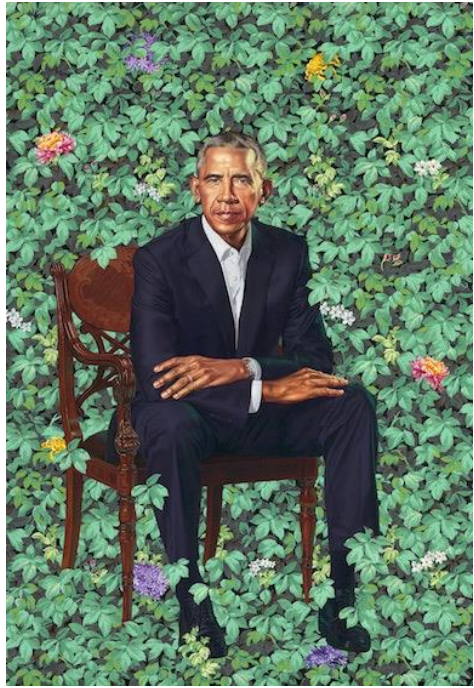
Art department
Yinka Shonibare



Yinka Shonibare investigates political and social histories related to post-colonialism and globalization, reconfiguring iconic imagery from the Western art-historical canon with a playful and ironic touch.

Art department

Kehinde Wiley



Kehinde Wiley best known for portraits that feature African Americans in the traditional settings of Old Master paintings. He is one of the most celebrated painters of his generation. Wiley's larger than life paintings disturb and interrupt tropes of portrait painting, often blurring boundaries between traditional and contemporary modes of representation and the critical portrayal of black men.



Dance

Alvin Ailey

(January 5, 1931 – December 1, 1989),



Alvin Ailey - established the first all African-American dance company.

Alvin Ailey (January 5, 1931 – December 1, 1989), a.k.a. Alvin Ailey Jr., was an African-American dancer, director, choreographer, and activist who founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT).

His work fused theatre, modern dance, ballet, and jazz with black vernacular, creating hope-fueled choreography that continues to spread global awareness of black life in America.

Ailey's choreographic masterpiece *Revelations* is recognized as one of the most popular and most performed ballets in the world. In this work he blended primitive, modern and jazz elements of dance with a concern for black rural America.

On July 15, 2008, the United States Congress passed a resolution designating AAADT a “vital American cultural ambassador to the World.” That same year, in recognition of AAADT's 50th anniversary, then Mayor Michael Bloomberg declared December 4 "Alvin Ailey Day" in New York City while then Governor David Paterson honoured the organization on behalf of New York State.

Media and Film Studies

Kehinde Wiley



Shelton Jackson "Spike" Lee (born March 20, 1957) is an American film director, producer, screenwriter, actor, and professor.

His production company, 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks, has produced more than 35 films since 1983.

He made his directorial debut with *She's Gotta Have It* (1986).

Lee's work has continually explored race relations, [colorism](#) in the black community, the role of media in contemporary life, urban crime and poverty, and other political issues.

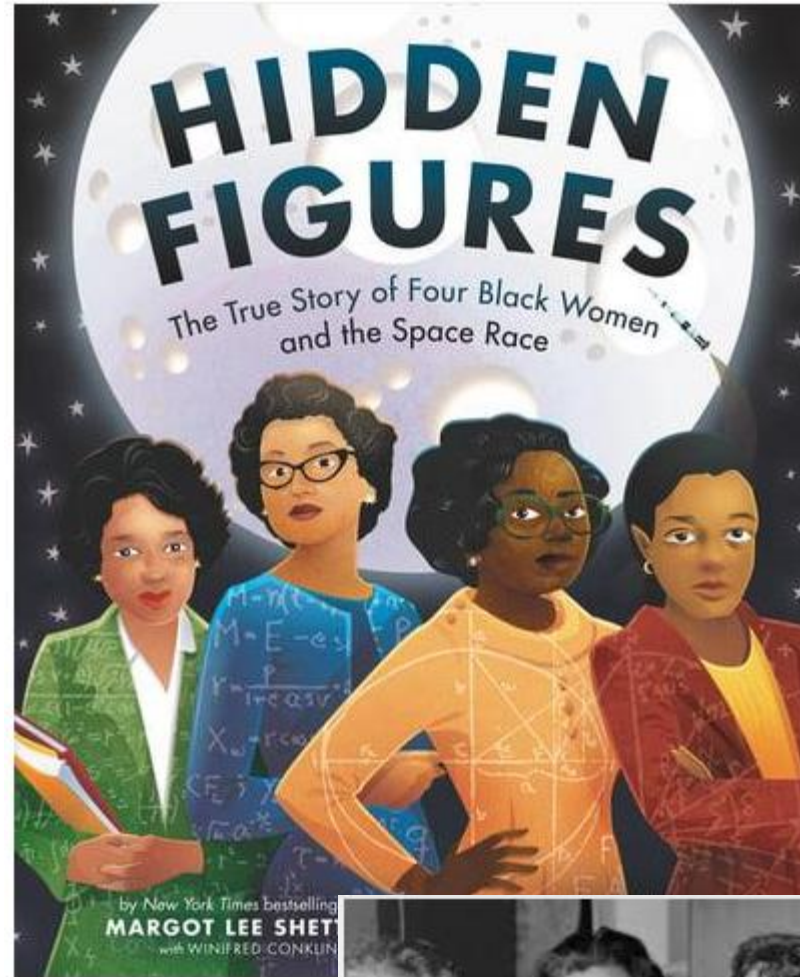
Law Department
Peter Herbert



- Called to the Bar in 1982, Peter Herbert is the current National Chairperson of the Society of Black Lawyers.
- As Chair, he has championed the cause of racial equality within the criminal justice system and the legal profession as a whole.
- He was appointed to the Judicial Studies Board in 1991, he was involved in the first ever series of race awareness training programmes for judges. He is currently a member of the Bar Council Race Relations Committee.
- He has been involved in a number of high profile cases, involving human rights issues in all areas of his practice.

Maths Department

The Maths Department would like to remember the contributions of all African-American mathematicians & scientists to the space programme run by NASA in the 1960s



You may remember that the Maths department did an assembly last year that included information about these amazing women.....

But why are they important?

In the 1960s, Mercury astronauts Alan Shepard, Gus Grissom, John Glenn and others absorbed the accolades of being the first men in space. Behind the scenes, they were supported by hundreds of unheralded NASA workers, including "human computers" who did the calculations for their orbital trajectories. "Hidden Figures," a 2016 book by Margot Lee Shetterly and a movie based on the book, celebrates the contributions of some of those workers.

During World War II, the human computer pool was expanded. Langley (the FBI training school) began recruiting African-American women with college degrees to work as computers, according to NASA. However, segregation policies required that these women work in a separate section, called the West Area Computers — although computing sections became more integrated after the first several years.

As the years passed and the centre evolved, the West Computers became engineers and electronic computer programmers. The women were the first black managers at Langley and it was their brilliant work that propelled the first American, John Glenn, into orbit in 1962.

The "Hidden Figures" movie focuses on three human computers: Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan.

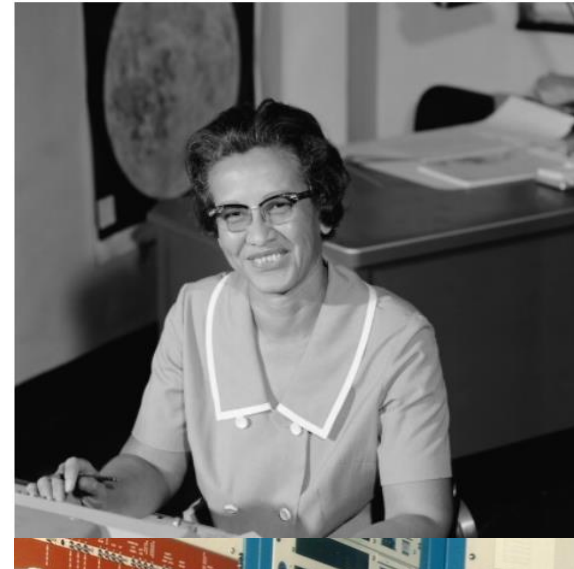
The black 'human computers' had to work separately from their white counterparts by law. While their hard work contributed to the success of the space programme, they worked without recognition behind closed doors

Dorothy Vaughan



*Katherine Johnson Dies at 101;
Mathematician Broke Barriers at NASA*

She was one of a group of black women mathematicians at NASA and its predecessor who were celebrated in the 2016 movie "Hidden Figures."



Mary Jackson (engineer)



Christine Darden



Another woman portrayed in the movie Hidden Figures is Katherine Johnson. She worked as a human computer for NASA as well. The black mathematicians were not allowed to use the toilets that the white staff used at work, and they had to walk half a mile every time they needed to use the bathroom. This clip shows her frustration about this.....

Press to play clip



For more on the story behind these women, this movie featurette (21 mins) gives you an insight into the work that they did, and the struggles they had to face (click to go to the link)