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Home School Competition to Explore Black British History

In the light of the COVID-19 crisis and with schools closed until further notice, we are launching a new “home school” competition for children and young people, to explore Black British History and multicultural Britain.



The competition, sponsored by The National Education Union (NEU), the largest education union in Europe, is part of the special launch of the 100 Great Black Britons campaign created by Patrick Vernon OBE to celebrate the continued legacy and achievements of Black people in Britain.

The competition is open to all age groups. Children and young people are asked to create a fun and unique project celebrating Black Britons and their legacy.

There is also a special teacher's competition to develop resources that can be shared as part of a permanent online teaching resource celebrating Black history.

“The current crisis has highlighted the centrality of Black people in Britain, to the NHS and care work, transport systems, food supplies, utilities, research, education and so much more. The NEU supports this competition to celebrate what we have always known that Britain’s history is irrefutably rooted in Black and global history and that our members do a fantastic job in teaching this. It will be a fabulous opportunity to showcase some of their work and that of their pupils”. **Kevin Courtney, NUE Joint General Secretary**

“Black history in Britain goes as far back as it’s possible to go. Children growing up in modern Britain should know their true history, and whether they are Black, brown or white, Black history is part our of national story. Their resources on the 100 Great Black Britons site can be used by families, parents, guardians and carers to help children understand themselves and their wider history. This is central to Black Cultural Archives’ purpose, so we’re very pleased to contribute to this great resource.” **Arike Oke, Managing Director of Black Cultural Archives**

“Black history is vital for every young persons' development and understanding of their identity and the world around them. To become fully rounded people, it is important that all young people are given meaningful access to a full version of history.” **Lavinya Stennett founder of Black Curriculum**

Entries for the competition are now open on www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk , entries close on the 31st of September 2020. The most creative and innovative projects will be featured on the website in October.

The website will become a permanent resource for teachers to support Black History in the National Curriculum. We are encouraging educators who want to share their knowledge and resources to upload content to the campaign’s official website: www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk



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As we approach Windrush Day on the 22nd of June 2020, teachers and parents who are currently doing school at home can use these resources to help children and young people learn more about the role and impact of people of African descent in British History.

“Teaching about our history, equality and diversity to promote a fully inclusive atmosphere in schools should be embedded into daily life in schools. The goal is always to celebrate festivals and events such as black history month to highlight and embrace our community and not to make up for what is often forgotten and overlooked.” **Niparun Nessa, Secondary Teacher and Equalities Campaigner**

100 Great Black Britons book and game - launching Oct 2020

As part of the 100 Great Black Britons campaign a book co-written by Patrick Vernon OBE and Dr Angelina Osborne, will be publishing later this year along with a board game celebrating important Black British figures and their impact on British culture.

“100 Great Black Britons is a great way to celebrate our rich and diverse shared history. The competition is an exciting approach to help build ideas and resources to support schools. We will also launch the 100 Great Black Britons board game for schools and families in conjunction with the book launch in October.” **Melvin Bell, Director Focus Games**



“It is great after 16 years we are relaunching 100 Great Black Britons nomination process and producing a publication to support the campaign celebrating a thousand years of Black British history and achievement. It is even more crucial that our history is seen as part of the national narrative, especially in the context of Brexit, as British identity is going through change and we have a legitimate right and voice in the shaping of this economic, social and political transformation which will have an impact on future generations. By learning about our shared history and the impact of Black British history and successes, I hope we will no longer be marginalised or

erased out of public consciousness for the next generation.”

Patrick Vernon OBE Founder of 100 Great Black Britons



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Notes to editors:

1. Further images available on request
2. National Education Union (NEU) (www.neu.org.uk): The largest education union in Europe, supporting and representing more than 450,000 members.
3. 100 Great Black Britons (www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk): Initially created in 2003 by Patrick Vernon OBE, was a response to the 2002 BBC 100 Britons campaign where no one of African descent was represented. The objective was to tackle the invisibility of Black people's achievement and contribution to Britain. In 2004, Mary Seacole was voted Greatest Black Britons of all time and to date 100 Great Black Britons has become one of the most successful high-profile campaigns to raise the profile, history and achievement of the African and Caribbean presence covering the last 1000 years.
4. 4th May 2020. NHS Seacole Centre in Surrey, the first COVID-19 recovery hospital, was named after Mary Seacole, 16 years after being voted Greatest Black Britons.
5. The 100 Great Black Britons campaign is supported by:
 - Joyce Fraser -Founder of the Black History Foundation
 - Dr Wanda Wyporska -Executive Director of the Equality Trust
 - Kenneth Olumuyiwa-Executive Director Africa Centre
 - Dawn Hill -Chair of BCA, Dwain Neil -Chair of Reach Society
 - Arike Oki -Managing Director BCA
 - Yvonne Davis-Primary School Head Teacher
 - Sharmaine Lovegrove -Publisher
 - Nadine White- journalist
 - Michelle Moore – Former Athlete and Business Coach
 - Catherine Ritman-Smith, FRSA, Head of Learning and Skills, Somerset House Trust
 - Trevor Sterling, Chair-Mary Seacole Trust
 - Phyll Opoku-Gyimah -Executive Director UK Black Pride
 - Kimberly McIntosh-Senior Policy Officer Runnymede Trust
6. Focus Games Ltd (www.focusgames.com) has been developing educational games since 2004.