

EDI Newsletter

March 2024



Welcome to our second EDI newsletter! Here are some key updates from the EDI Partnership Board which we hope you will find interesting.

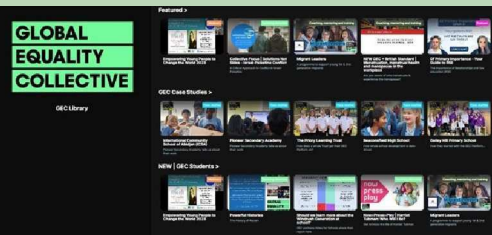
This term's newsletter has a special focus on EDI across the curriculum.

Global Equality Collective

As you know, EDI is a big focus for our Trust. We want to make sure that everyone feels included and that everyone is celebrated. We have invested in the **Global Equality Collective** platform ([click here for the GEC website](#)).

The GEC mission is to "help build a school culture where every staff member and student feels valued, heard and included".

After the Easter holidays, we will be asking all staff and students to take part in a survey. The GEC will then create a bespoke action plan for us to address any key themes.



have access to a large Netflix style CPD library!

Click [here](#) to read more information on the project.

To make any changes to culture is a journey and we need everyone on board and enthusiastic so please take part in the surveys and help make this a success.

Hackney Diverse Curriculum

Hackney teachers, supported by Hackney Council, have developed an amazing set of resources to teach children and young people a complete British history, not just during black history month. Black history is British history and these resources ensure the full contribution of the black community is recognised and taught.

To find out more and to access the full resources, please visit our intranet page here -

[Hackney's Diverse Curriculum](#)



The Wollstonecraft Society - Increasing Diversity in History Teaching



Mary Wollstonecraft is an example of a significant historical character of the 18th century which can link to discussions of rights of women and girls and gender equality.

The Wollstonecraft Society is a charity which has developed KS2 resources relating to History, PSHE, Literacy and British Values.

Click here for more information -

[The Wollstonecraft Society](#)



Diverse Educators also have a useful Diversity in the Curriculum Toolkit

[Click here](#) to view.



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Schools EDI Updates
Church Lawton

Liberty
Academy Trust

A Church Lawton pupil Lawton was inspired to write a brilliant letter to his MP, following discussions about Black History during PSHE:-

Dear Fiona Bruce MP

I am writing to you because I saw a very interesting documentary about black history in school and I wanted to share my thoughts with you. I support Troy Deeny's idea about the implementation of teaching Black History throughout the curriculum and not just in Black History Month.

As a black student myself I can only recall very brief things about black history, like the slave trade triangle or Martin Luther King and his "I have a dream" speech.

Yes, this stuff was a magnum opus of people coming together and making their voice be heard. However, there were so many more black people who contributed to the cause and they are mostly forgotten about because of this insolence and not just that, Black History is much more than just slavery and discrimination, black people have contributed to society just as much as white people, but that never gets talked about so it might make people think differently about black people.

Not learning much about black history contributes to racism. A friend of mine once told me that while he was playing outside he heard a bunch of kids use the 'N word' while they were singing. This made him feel aggravated and distraught.

I think the reason why they were saying such a despicable word is because educating black history is extremely limited on the national curriculum and they probably heard some African Americans use it as slang and think it's okay to use so they don't know about this ugly mark of a word and how serious it is, and just note, this is the next generation of mankind and the future of humanity so imagine if more people like this keep saying stuff like this and making it normal.

So that's why I support Troy's idea and it should definitely be looked into.

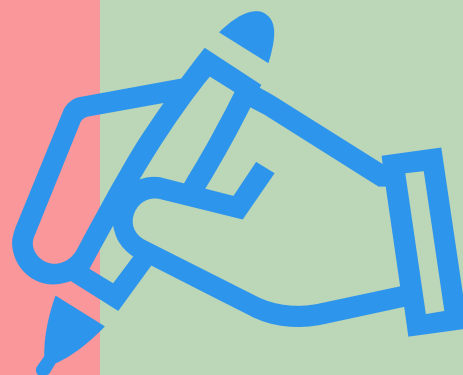
What I would like to happen is for you to help get Black History included into the National Curriculum, and for you to be my voice on the subject, so that students can learn about black role models throughout their time at school. I want it to be included, not a special add on that has been put in there to keep some people happy. There are so many amazing black role models like the pacifist Muhammad Ali, that we don't get exposed to and if we did, then society would be a more tolerant and happier place.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

Yours sincerely

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To read the response from the MP, see next page...

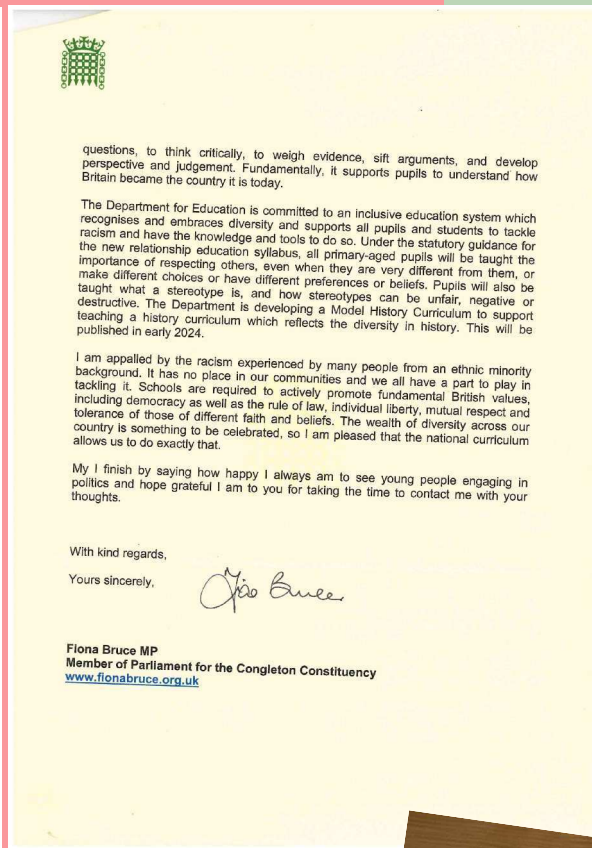
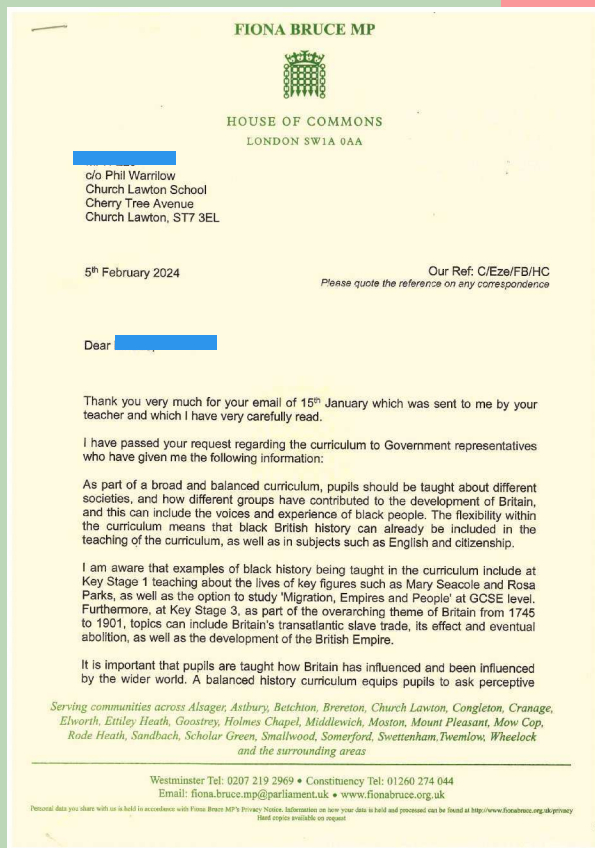


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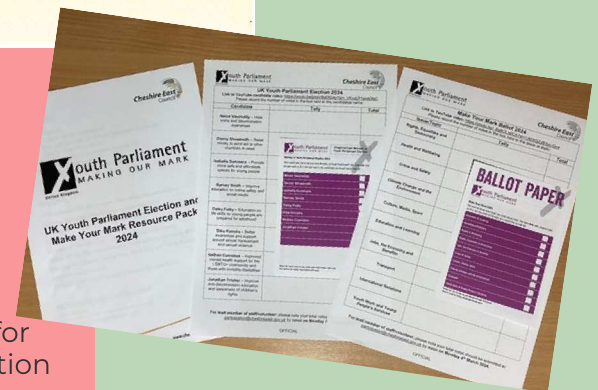
Well done for writing an absolutely fantastic letter on such an important subject!

UK Youth Parliament

In March, Church Lawton students aged 11-18 had the option to participate in the UK Youth Parliament election for Cheshire East.

They had a group discussion around what election and parliament are and what it means to be able to have an elected voice and vote for topics to bring about social change through meaningful representation in our local area.

They watched the candidates campaign videos and voted anonymously to elect the person and topic students felt important to them. Topics ranged from: rights, equalities and democracy, health, crime, safety, education, transport, young people's services and many more.



The Importance of the Curriculum (Pg 5 Curriculum Policy)

In the pursuit of knowledge, as the core purpose of education, the curriculum on offer to all pupils is of central importance. However, there is often much misunderstanding as to what the curriculum actually is.

To be clear, it is not a scheme of work, it is not a series of learning objectives, and it is not assessment objectives – all of these things contribute to the delivery and impact, but the curriculum is the over-arching structure and content of learning over a significant period of time, which reflects that which we think is essential for our pupils to learn and know as they progress through school. A 'good' education is one whereby all pupils can develop and grow in their knowledge and understanding, so that they become learned and valuable members of society (Crossley and Hewitt, 2021, p. 35).

What is a diverse Curriculum?

A diverse curriculum refers to a curriculum that encompasses a wide range of perspectives, experiences, cultures, and identities. It aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the world by incorporating materials, content, and teaching methods that reflect the diversity of society. This includes representation from different ethnicities, races, genders, sexual orientations, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities, and religions.

Key components of a diverse curriculum may include:

- Multicultural content: Introducing materials and topics that reflect the experiences and contributions of diverse cultural groups.
- Inclusive literature: Including literature written by authors from various backgrounds, featuring protagonists from different identities and experiences.
- Global perspectives: Incorporating content that explores issues and events from different regions of the world, fostering an understanding of global interconnectedness.
- Critical perspectives: Encouraging critical thinking about power dynamics, privilege, and social justice issues within historical and contemporary contexts.
- Representation in STEM: Ensuring that science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education includes diverse perspectives and representation to inspire students from all backgrounds to engage with these fields.
- Culturally responsive teaching: Adapting teaching strategies and approaches to meet the needs of diverse learners and create an inclusive classroom environment.
- Carefully selected resources: ensuring texts, videos, presentations, podcasts and other resources used reflect a diverse population.

Overall, a diverse curriculum aims to promote equity, empathy, and understanding among all students and all humans, by recognising and valuing the richness of human diversity. In our schools it also seeks to promote their own abilities both as diverse individuals and as autistic students with the aim of promoting a sense of belonging and encouraging self-efficacy and belief.



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Schools EDI Updates Thames Valley

Thames Valley held assemblies
about:-

The **World Day of Social Justice**
(20 February). Link to
PowerPoint presentation [here](#)



Women's History Month
(March). Link to PowerPoint
presentation [here](#)



TVS Speech & Language Therapist Word of the Week during Women's History Month was '**Activist**' and lots of work was done around this - [click here](#) for the PowerPoint presentation

Famous activists



**Mahatma
Gandhi**



**Malala
Yousafzai**



**Nelson
Mandela**



**Rosa
Parks**



**Greta
Thunberg**

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Schools EDI Updates
Thames Valley



Tutor groups in Thames Valley held further discussion around the Black women in science poster shared last month.

Comments from pupils included:

"Days like International Women and Girls in Science Day are important because they help us break the assumption that only men are scientists. It is important that women and girls know about all the different jobs they can have".

"Women have done lots of important things for us like send an American to space. The world is changing so it is important that women do things too and not just men. Diversity is important and people should be represented".



Thames Valley are working on ensuring their curriculum is diverse by making deliberate choices. For example:-

- When picking classes novels, they deliberately ensured that they studied books by authors from different backgrounds, classes, genders, race as well as ensuring that the stories, sometimes reflected this.
- In Science, they are looking at a range of scientists and the Year 6's have written a piece on Charles R. Drew when we studied blood. They also looked at Maggie Aderin-Pocock earlier this year.
- In Humanities, pupils are studying the Zulu Kingdom and the study of Africa, in addition to the subjects of the national curriculum.



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Schools EDI Updates Vanguard

Vanguard celebrated LGBTQ History Month in February.

Click [here](#) to view the LGBTQ History Month PowerPoint which was used for in-class assemblies.



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Word On The Curb presents a Spoken word short film on YouTube that expresses a pupil's frustration at the teaching of Black History Month in schools. [Click here to view.](#)

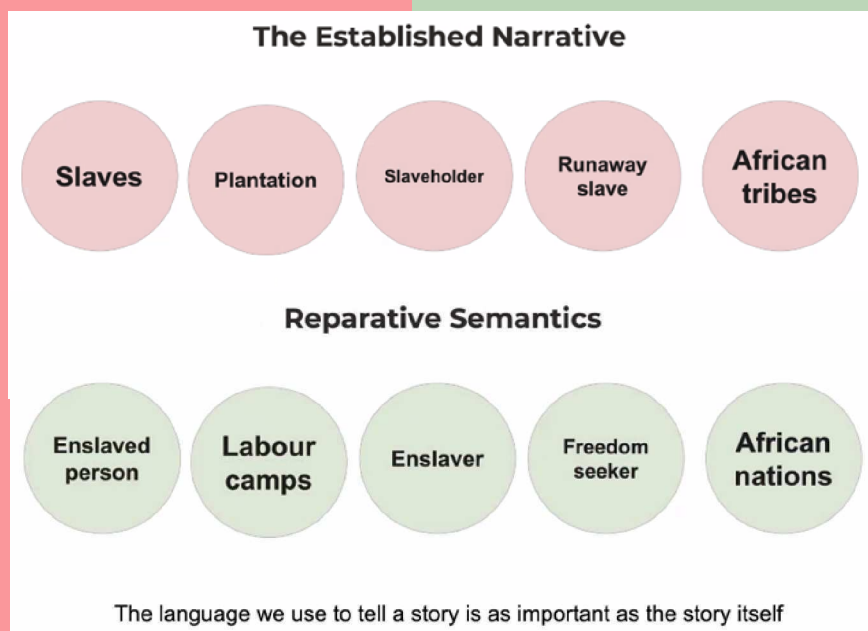
Free resource!

The National College has some really useful, bite-size explainer videos covering topics such as hate crime, online racism, identity, self image, mental health, wellbeing, etc.

<https://nationalcollege.com>

Each video is 2 - 5 minutes long so perfect to refresh on certain issues.

Tweaks around how language is used in teaching, can have a huge impact -



Reflections on a diverse Curriculum in action from our Director of Education

This term I have seen a number of teachers successfully rise to the challenge of implementing a more diverse curriculum whether that is in the form of observed lessons, displays or in our new curriculum planning documentation. Thank you to all our teachers for making this a priority! It is so important, in all our schools.

I would like to share with you a standout lesson for me. This term I observed a fantastic lesson on the Shakespeare classic, The Tempest. Life in the authors era and life on board a ship in a storm were really brought to life by introducing the play by first talking about colonialism, imperialism and the slave trade. A text which is far away from our pupil's context and experience was made more relevant by skilled questioning about how would you feel to be in that situation. Morality and ethics were cleverly woven in too by discussing power and hierarchy. All of these were in language and using examples our pupils understood. This successful lesson was highly effective in developing critical thinking and helping students to make informed opinions. The lesson set the scene for future lessons and I suspect that included how Shakespeare himself in the play commented on the negative effects of colonization. Pupils were interested and engaged, because the subject matter was important! Because it had relevance for now and for the future. Thank you, Steve Carroll at Vanguard School!

I am well aware that there will be many examples I miss but do please get in touch if there is something you are particularly proud of and want me to see. Let's celebrate our best work or ideas and the difference you are making!

