

 With Eyes
Wide Open

The Student Newspaper

Black Monumental Figures

By Vanessa Ndebele

Just like in history, black history has its monumental figures. From bus boycotting to caring for wounded soldiers, black history has seen its downfalls followed by liberations. There are so many people that are extremely important to black history from a variety of races. For example, Abraham Lincoln, who abolished slavery -although it never should've existed to begin with- was a new and monumental beginning for people of colour.

Rosa Parks



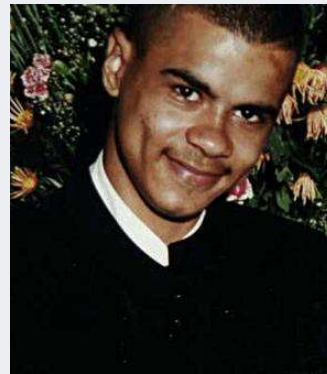
People mainly know Rosa Parks for the Montgomery bus boycott, but that does not fully represent who she is as a person.

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was born on February 4th 1913 to parents Leona McCauley and James McCauley. Her favourite book was the Bible and she loved math and reading. In 1915 her mother gave birth to her younger brother Sylvester James McCauley, who went on to

serve in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War. One difference about Rosa and her younger brother is that he went on to have several children and she had none! Her favourite colours were purple and pink and her favourite dish was chicken and dumplings.

Rosa Parks stands as a reminder to society that change is possible and all people need to do is stand for justice.

Mark Duggan



Mark Duggan died at 29 years old after being shot by police in Tottenham in 2011. Mark was a father, son and friend.

His death sparked protests to raise awareness of this injustice, but they quickly changed to one of the worst riots in British history. Mark's death is devastating because it was avoidable. It was a choice of life or death made by the police officer who pulled the trigger of a gun.

Mark was born on September 15th 1981, and his parents were of mixed Irish and African-Caribbean descent. He had 6 children and worked at

Stansted airport. One of his children is a well known drill rapper – Bandokay. Mark was more than a case of injustice, he was not a thug like the media presented him to be, he was human like the rest of us and he stands as a reminder to the wider community to put the weapons down and choose peace. What happened to Mark has left its mark in black history as it was arguably an injustice caused by the police and this isn't the first case.

What to do during Black History Month?

Black history month does not require certain behaviours or changes in attitude. What you can do is educate and praise. Praise the progress that has been made and educate one another on the things that people are still getting wrong and the things that are unequal. Don't be afraid to stand up for what is right and acknowledge the month for what it is- recognition and being seen. Black history isn't over as injustices do still happen even in 2024 and in years to come they will be in the history books.

The Power of Black Music

By Naia Jallow

In honour of Black History Month, I am excited to share a piece of important history with you - Black music. The sweeping influence of black music on the West is inarguable. With the vibrant and booming Harlem renaissance painting New York with jazz during the 1920s and 30s and the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush

in 1948, bringing in a breath of fresh air with reggae and calypso from Jamaica. Music is a crucial part of black culture and history.



[Illustration by Kemba Earle](#)

The arrival of the Windrush was pivotal in how UK music has developed over the 20th and 21st century. The Windrush generation brought exciting genres like reggae, calypso and ska. Their music was not only used as a form of cultural expression and identity, but it was a vessel for activism and resilience against the troubles and prejudices they faced in the 1940s. The late 1970s saw the emergence of iconic figures like Steel Pulse and Linton Kwesi Johnson. As England became more diverse, a second wave of Ska appeared in the late 70s, with people both black and white coming together to make music. Bands like The Specials, The Beat and The Selecter dominating the scene. Reggae not only continued to develop in England, but with the symphonies of Bob Marley and The Wailers and other notable figures, Jamaica continued to inspire and influence the heart of the UK. The arrival of this new music paved the way for the future of the UK's music and mothered the new generations of the UK music scene with Grime and artists such as Dizzee Rascal, Wiley and Skepta.



In the USA, jazz music originated in the late 19th century and early 20th century from Black American communities in New Orleans and Louisiana.



[Black Belt by Archibald Motley](#)

It was built on the roots of blues and ragtime. However, the Harlem Renaissance not only saw the celebration of black power, strength and jazz, but it saw a revival of Black culture panning from not only music but to dance, art, fashion, literature, theatre and politics as well. The Harlem Renaissance was the most influential movement in African American history.



[Bettmann Archive](#)

The music produced not only oozed out of clubs into the streets and the ears of people, but it carried the very important message of black strength, pride and unity. Artists that emerged during this time were talented musicians like Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Billie

Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and dancer/singer Joesphine Baker. Musicians like Louis Armstrong gave the world sweet melodies and artists like Billie Holiday wrote and sang the sombre and serious 'Strange Fruit' confronting the harsh treatment, racism and brutality faced by African Americans in the deep south.

Black music has influenced not only the west but the world. Especially with the arrival of hip hop, disco and rap in the 70s, 80s and 90s. It is, however, important to remember where it came from, and the real meanings people of the past aimed to deliver. Black music is not just a form expressive art, but it was a form of protest.

Black Empowerment

By Darcie James

Black empowerment is a multifaceted movement which seeks to uplift awareness and bring support for the unique experiences black people have endured. This on-going battle for civil rights contains various aspects including social , cultural and economic challenges. Black history month aims to not only address the historical injustices African people have faced but to also celebrate their strength in overcoming the wrongful conduct they have faced.

One critical role during the battle for civil rights was the bus boycott – led by Rosa Parks. She was an African American woman who played a pivotal role in the fight against racial segregation and thus furthering the civil rights movement. On December



1st 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger. This brave act of defiance sparked the Montgomery bus boycott and resulted in the us supreme court, ruling that segregation on public buses as unconstitutional. Beyond her role in the civil rights movement, Parks was an advocate for equality and justice. She had dedicated her life towards fighting against racism whilst also working tirelessly to promote civil rights and empower marginalized communities. Parks would continue with her battles but on a much larger scale with famous civil rights activist Martin Luther King. During this period, Parks would coordinate rides for protesters but was indicted, along with King due to her participation in the boycott. Her story remains a reminder of the importance of standing up and the power an individual has. Parks determination continues to influence generations to come and is a story etched in history as a beacon of hope and a symbol of resistance against oppression.

Alongside Parks, led Martin Luther King Jr. He had emerged as a prominent leader who advocated for nonviolent protests as a means to achieve social change. He believed in the power of peaceful protests, speeches and organised campaigns to combat racial suffrage. Kings leadership during events such as the march on Washington and the Birmingham campaign showcased his ability to mobilise in groups to articulate his aspirations. These acts alone helped galvanise national support for the civil rights reform and

contributed to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Famously, his “I have a dream” speech remains a monumental call for equality. The sheer devotion in this speech ensures an equal community for children all around the globe and the unity of all races – transcending differences to work together and create a harmonious society.

This restless journey towards black equality has been marked through the - celebrations during the month of October – also known as black history month. This annual celebration is used to honour the achievements black civilians have conquered throughout history, it serves the purpose of reflecting the horrifying struggles, like slavery, but also to embrace black culture and highlight the historical figures who have greatly influenced the progression of society. This is not only aimed at more famous activists like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, but also people like Mary Seacole , Emmett Till and Marsha P. Johnson. Life as we know it would appear differently without these brave and determined people – as a community we shall commemorate their spirit and praise their accomplishments.

College Life

By Otega Ikerewi

College life has been a rollercoaster. Although it may have been stressful at first, as the year goes by distress eases away and in comes the flourishing true nature of college life. I am a disabled student of City of

Portsmouth College and let's talk about my experience.

Well, on my first day of college, we had a tutor and several tasks but since my admission came in late, the college was not officially aware that I was a disabled student but once I brought it to the attention of staff, they immediately arranged for a learning support assistant. Provisions were made for me to be able to access all services in the college. As a student who has moved to this country, it was hard adapting to the educational system. However, I found that the staff were always there to support and help me anytime I run into a roadblock.

Let's talk about this stress of college life. As you may well know it is certainly different from secondary school life. You are encouraged to be more independent and encouraged to phase into the world of university or a world where you have to take initiatives to control your success. After speaking with other college mates and from my own experience I got to find out that one of the first stress a student faces in college is the stress of time management. Here at City of Portsmouth College, Sixth Form campus we practice the 50-50 system. You are given flipped tasks; the teacher does half of the work while you do the other half. This is very different to secondary school and requires a lot of discipline and time management to be able to get your work done when its due.

It is harder at college because there is a discipline system but not as stringent as at secondary school,

you must be disciplined and have self-restraint in order to be able to get yourself to the highest point possible. The teachers will always provide all the resources you need to be able to achieve great heights of success.

Apart from time management and self-discipline, you may find making friends hard. Particularly if you come from a school where few of your classmates have come to the same college.



Well, after talking about some of the stresses, I'm glad to let you know that there are also things put in place at City of Portsmouth College to help you cope with those stresses. We have the Student Hub which is located in room 15, there you will find services like Career support. The wonderful careers team at City of Portsmouth College helps you in taking steps to know what you would do when you leave college or if you already know, help you find roots to be able to achieve the greatest success in whatever you are about to do.

We also have the work experience team who help deal with students who would love to have experience in the chosen field of expertise. They give you work placements and make sure you are comfortable wherever you are.

We also have an international officer who help students who have come from other countries and make sure their stay is success and a wonderful time.

The E6 team operate an enrichment program that allows students to engage in different activities of your choice and of your liking. For example, we have the college gym and online courses. We also have enrichment clubs with other students. Clubs like football and other sporting activities, there is the well-being art and craft club, the D&D club and the chess club.

Well, apart from that, there is also emotional support for students dealing with issues either from their home environment or from college. We have the well-being team which is situated on the Mezz. This team helps cater to the needs of students who find anything in college a bit challenging. For example, pressure from completing your work or from your home environment. They are also dedicated to support students dealing with addictions and other related problems.

Well, some students may be wondering where to go if they feel threatened or insecure at college. That is where they safeguarding team comes in. We have the safeguarding team situated on the Mezz and they'll help you with any issues like that.

Well, one of the most important parts of college is the learning! I have found that my teachers are nice and wonderful people that are always there to help me. You'll have to believe me when I say that I have

received such great support from my teachers.



If you have extra learning requirements the staff in the study centre are always there to give you support with your educational needs. Adjustments might be made to your classes and other areas of your learning to make it comfortable for you to learn in a safe environment and as successfully as any other student.

This has been long article but there is one more thing that I can assure you about City of Portsmouth College and Sixth Form Campus. This is that no one is left out, no matter your country or your disability and consideration is made throughout the College. This is because we have a student voice meeting held every term where students can come and add other views on subjects and issues and you can see the changes taking place no matter who you are, where you are from, or your life circumstances at that moment, you are always warmly welcome.

I hope you, like me, will also find a college that cares and is ready to cater for your needs - both educationally and emotionally.