

HILLPARK

NEWSLETTER

October 2023

S1-S6

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the October issue of Hillparks Newsletter! This month we celebrated Black History Month through all kinds of events and discussions! We also had some other exciting events take place in the school during the month of October!



MONTH IN REVIEW

This month at the end of term before the October Week we had our bring a tin! Hundreds of tins were collected and have been donated to our local foodbank. Thank you to all pupils and teachers who donated to the cause, we are sure the foodbank greatly appreciated it! Special Shoutout to Merrick House for getting first place in the Bring a tin house competition for donating the most tins!

During October we had our Hillpark opening evening where students from the catchment primary schools came up to our school and got a look around all the different departments. Thank you to our S6 leadership team for helping out during the night. Each department showcased their talents from our amazing dancers and netballers at the PE department to our science ambassadors showing off different experiments in the science department. Each department did Hillpark proud and we know now the primary kids are really excited to come up. Amazing work from Miss Downie for organising the evening.

The LCR department had a great achievement as they took part in the Great Scottish Run. The LCR represented Hillpark amazingly and we are proud to say that they raised £1500 for Scottish Autism. Keep up the Great work!

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The LCR at the Great Scottish Run, raising money for Scottish Autism



Bring a Tin October 2023!

Interhouse Competitions

Interhouse Competitions over the month of October made some changes to the scores, by the end of October here are the scores:

- 1st - Merrick - 29 points
- 2nd - Cairngorm & Lommond - 18 points
- 3rd - Pentland & Nevis - 17 Points
- 4th - Jura - 13 Points

This month's Hillpark Danceathon in support of Black History Month



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The History and Importance of BHM in the UK

HISTORY

Britain's foremost Black History Month was introduced by the Greater London Council (GLC) in October 1987. It coincided with the 150th anniversary of Caribbean emancipation of slavery as well as the 25th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity. Black History Month encompasses the history of the African and Caribbean people in this country.

THE FOCUS

The month focuses on individuals whose sacrifices, contributions, and achievements are often forgotten due to racism, inequality and injustice. This month includes highlighting colonial histories and legacies that unfortunately continue to shape British society. Black History Month provides a starting point for celebrating African and Caribbean heritage – from the incredible achievements to the hidden stories of the community both historically and in regards to the modern age.



HILLPARK

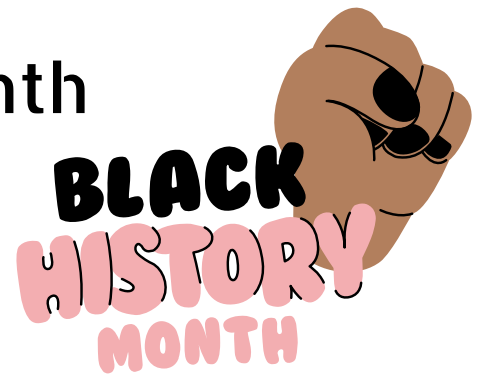
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Hillpark's Contributions to celebrating Black History Month

To celebrate Black History Month, the focus of our learning was themed around 'saluting our sisters', to highlight prominent black female figures in history and modern-day society. Different activities took place within the school to focus on this topic, such as playing primarily black female artists during 'Feel Good Friday', where Dr Garcia plays music at lunchtime to liven the atmosphere of the lunch hall.



To involve the whole school in celebrating Black history and culture, Hillpark hosted a Danceathon in which pupils learnt dances such as the 'Wobble', a dance inspired by the song "Wobble" by American rapper, V.I.C and Jerusalema, a viral dance challenge created by an Angolan dance troupe to the South African hit song "Jerusalema". Due to the success of the Danceathon, Hillpark was able to raise £240 which was donated to Black refugee families through the charity Refuweegee, which aims to help refugee families across the world.



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The respective departments within the school also had lessons to integrate Black History Month into their curriculum's.

Firstly, Personal and Social Education (PSE) classes watched documentaries to recognise prominent black figures such as Mo Farah, a British-Somali long-distance runner and Allison Hammond, a TV personality

Secondly, within the English department, Miss Gray's Higher pupils analysed the language in Martin Luther King Jr.'s famed speech, 'I Have a Dream' and Miss Kane's Higher pupils read 'To Kill a Mockingbird' - a novel by Harper Lee, which follows the childhood of two brothers as their father defends a black man falsely accused, which opened a discussion in the classroom about the roots and consequences of prejudice.

Additionally, during October, the Music department focused the pupils' learning on jazz; a music genre that originated in the African-American communities of New Orleans, Louisiana, in the late 19th century and blues, a musical form that emerged from oppressed African-American communities in the Southern states of America

Furthermore, the art department looked at the works of various black artists and discussed the social and cultural influences behind the artworks.

Finally, within the social subjects, pupils were taught about how Black people were persecuted under Hitler in World War II and about the Black regiments who fought in World War

In addition to the departments participation in incorporating Black History Month within their lessons throughout October, the school library also participated by displaying books that discuss racial inequality.

