

Black History Month Evaluation

Overall summary

The objective of Black History Month was to:

- Promote knowledge of black history, culture and heritage
- Disseminate information about positive black contributions to British society
- Heighten the confidence of black people to their cultural heritage.

An evaluation with a total of **714** responses from students in Years 7 to 13. The total responses by year groups were:

Year 7: **155**

Year 8: **144**

Year 9: **85**

Year 10: **95**

Year 11 : **122**

Year 12: **68**

Year 13: **44**

Of the respondent questions:

98% of students stated that they had a better knowledge and understanding of the contribution of black women to British society

70% of students surveyed stated that Black History Month had changed their attitudes about the contribution of black people to British society.

89% of students stated that they had an increased understanding of the contribution played by black women in specific subject areas.

Survey by Year Groups	Y 7	Y 8	Y 9	Y 10	Y 11	Y 12	Y 13
Students stated that they had a better knowledge and understanding of the contribution of black women to British society	100%	99%	100%	98%	96%	96%	95%
Black History Month had changed their attitudes about the contribution of black people to British society.	92%	92%	80%	90%	75%	46%	64%
Students stated that they had an increased understanding of the contribution played by black women in specific subject areas.	89%	95%	95%	85%	84%	87%	89%

Things that went well:

- Key Stage 3 students felt that Black History Month (BHM) had a significant impact upon the way in which they viewed black British women. They felt that it had enlightened them to the

contributions which they had made in a variety of different fields. They liked the fact that they could go into greater detail about the individuals

- KS4 students really enjoyed the opportunity to listen to assemblies. They liked the opportunity to listen to their peers and many felt that it made them reflect on what their experiences had been. Some students felt that it had also given them an opportunity to speak about or promote their cultural heritage for the first time.
- KS5 students felt that where the curriculum areas had addressed BHM, it had made them enlightened by the contribution that had been made by black British women. They had found the assemblies very powerful. This was evidenced with the outside speakers and the video about Black History Month.
- Across the Key Stages, students consistently stated that BHM was very powerful in making them value the contributions made by black British women

Things to be developed:

- Students want to see Black History Month not be reduced to one month. They want to see the figures that have been discussed woven more into the curriculum. They also felt that it would be an opportunity for departments to review their existing schemes of learning to see where black women had made a substantial contribution to specific fields of study
- Students would like to see more opportunities to have assemblies from outside speakers and their peers about key issues raised during and from Black History Month

Some quotes taken from the survey:

“It has shown me our school represent everyone and no one is left out. “ (Year 7)

“It made me see how influential black women made so many impacts [sic] that are more related to me than I thought.” (Year 8)

“It has showed me that the school is in solidarity with the minorities in the school.” (Year 9 student)

“It makes feel more proud of my history and widens my knowledge of what black people have contributed to society.” (Year 10)

“Helping me see role models and people like me be successful and come up with big, life changing ideas, makes me feel like I can do the same if I work hard”. (Year 11)

“Black history month is very important to me as I believe it is a month to celebrate black culture and excellence especially the curriculum only teaches us about the negative aspects.” (Year12)

“I’ve really enjoyed it this year as it’s been celebrated much better than previous years and people were able to see there’s more to black history than struggle” (Year 13)

Recommendations

1. That black history is interwoven into the curriculum throughout the academic year. Where opportunities arise for the recognition of black people, that this is naturally promoted in subject areas. Therefore, BHM is not reduced to an annual October event
2. Planning for next year starts in the Summer Term. There is a committee which is made up of teaching staff and students to look at the organisation and coordination of the event.
3. Students also emphasised that they felt that they would also benefit from other experiences by listening to other students or outside speakers. They really enjoyed listening to outside speakers who could give them real life experiences.

