

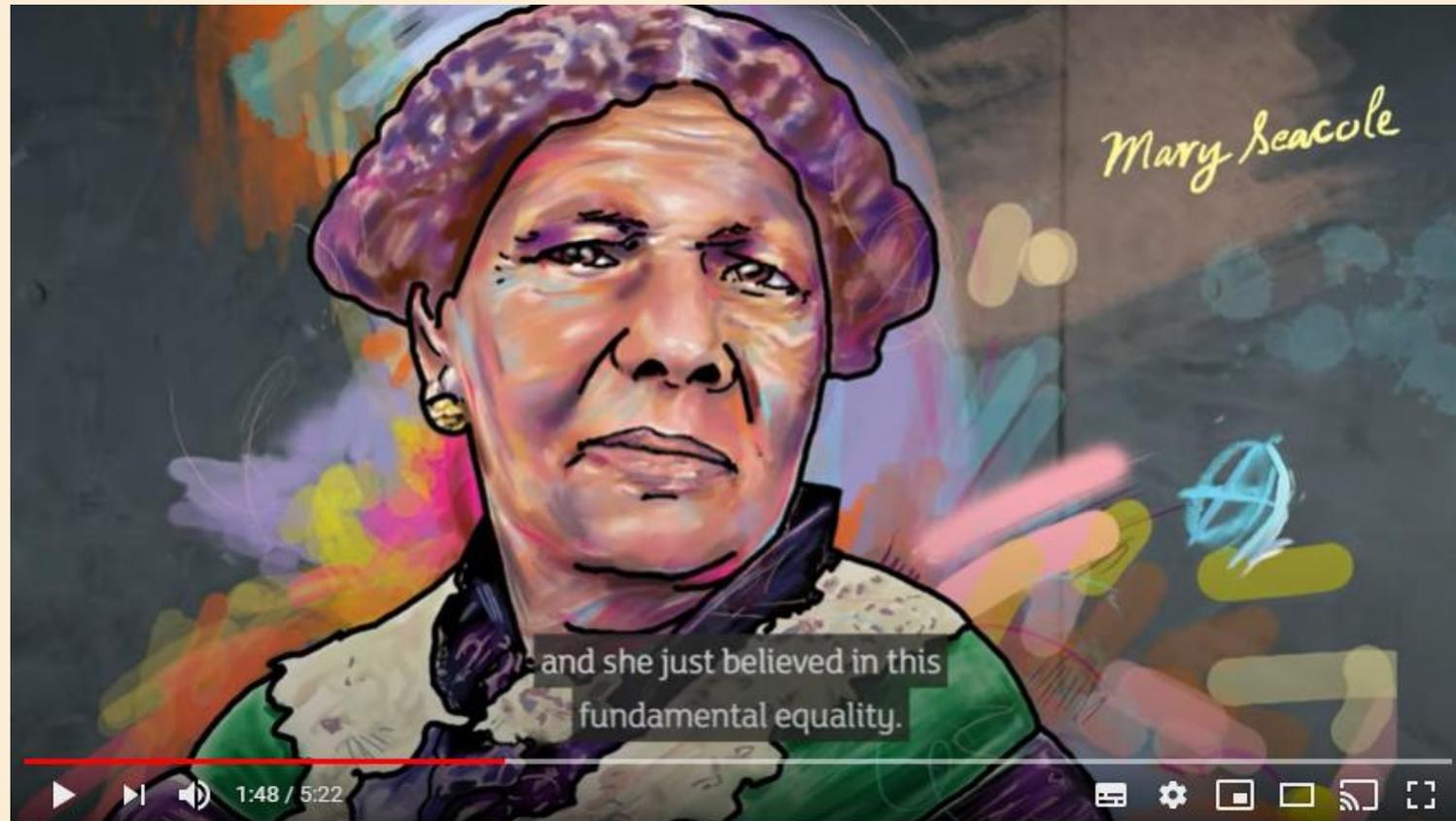
Black History Month

During Black History Month it is crucial that we take the time to recognise the prominent and important individuals and events that have helped to shape Britain as we know it today.

Here at Fortis we are very proud of our multi-cultural and diverse student population and it is only right that what we learn in school should address this diversity all year round.

However, today's assembly will pay particular attention to the Black History of Britain.

The Importance of Black History



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LS6IjrpH0jQ>

How Black History has Shaped Britain as we know it.

"We have existed in Britain and been pioneers, inventors, icons. And then colonialism happened, and that has shaped the experiences of black people - but that is not all we are."

These are the words of Lavinya Stennett, founder of The Black Curriculum, an organisation which teaches black British history in schools - and is campaigning for Education Secretary Gavin Williamson to make it compulsory.

- For example, Black people have been in Britain since the Roman era! An example is the Ivory Bangle Lady whose remains were discovered in York in 1901. Archaeological analysis reveals that although she was born in Roman Britain, she's likely to be of North African descent.
- She was found with jet and elephant ivory bracelets, earrings, pendants, beads, a blue glass jug and a glass mirror. In other words, she wasn't poor and could have been of wealthy or noble birth.

The Ivory Bangle Lady



Britain's first Queen of Black Heritage?

Many historians believe Queen Charlotte (married to George III) had African ancestry.

It's been argued that despite coming from Germany, Queen Charlotte was descended from a black branch of the Portuguese royal family.

King Afonso III of Portugal conquered the city of Faro from the Moors - Muslims from North Africa who lived in modern-day Spain and Portugal during the Middle Ages - in the 13th Century. Afonso was thought to have had three children with the city governor's daughter.

One of their sons, Martim Afonso Chichorro, is also said to have married into a family with black ethnicity. He and his wife, Ines Lourenco de Sousa de Valadares, founded the Portuguese house of Sousa-Chichorro, which had many descendants, including Queen Charlotte.

Queen Charlotte's great granddaughter? Queen Victoria



Black Soldiers in World War One.

16,000 west Indians alone fought for Britain during World War One

The soldiers from the British Empire were crucial in Britain's ability to win the war.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoFboGU_eMM

Britain's Black Panthers.

Similar to America, although not the same, Britain also had their own Black Panther movement which fought for further education and better Black civil rights within the UK.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAEUAN42glo>

Britain's History is not complete without learning about its Black History.

We often discuss Britain's Black History at the beginning of the Slave trade but the Black population have been in Britain for a lot, lot longer.

The Black British population have helped shape Britain into what it is today.

They made crucial changes during Britain's civil rights movements of the 60's.

So it is crucial that we continue to learn about and enjoy Black history in our education.

Especially during such a prominent time in British History, understanding Black History has never been more important.

