

**Black History Month 2020**  
**Great Achievers Featured by EGS Music Dept & EGS Sixth Form**



**Adedoyin Olayiwola "Ade" Adepitan MBE**, who is a British **television presenter** and **gold medal winning wheelchair basketball player**. He is also an extremely nice guy. In 2020, Ade was included in the Powerlist of the 100 most influential Black British people.



Born Lance Taylor in New York (1957) is better known by the name **Afrika Bambaataa**. Afrika was an **electro-funk pioneer**, a music which later led to Hip Hop. He fronted the group Universal Zulu Nation and **brought hip hop to the world**. If it wasn't for his influence, most of the rappers we know today wouldn't be doing their music. A real pioneer of music.



**Paul Yaw Boateng, Baron Boateng** (born 14 June 1951) is a British Labour Party politician, who was the Member of Parliament (MP) for Brent South from 1987 to 2005, becoming the **UK's first Black Cabinet Minister** in May 2002, when he was appointed as Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Following his departure from the House of Commons, he served as the British High Commissioner to South Africa from March 2005 to May 2009. He was introduced as a member of the House of Lords on 1 July 2010.



**Robert Nesta Marley** (1945-1981) also known as **Bob Marley** is one of the **most internationally recognised names in reggae music**. His success helped propel Jamaica as a major player in music culture. His dreadlocks were an outwards symbol of his Rastafarian religion. His unique voice and style is still as relevant today as it was in 1970. His influence is unquestionable.

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**Clive A. Sullivan MBE** (born 9 April 1943 in Cardiff, died 8 October 1985 in Hull) was a Welsh rugby union and professional Rugby League World Cup winning footballer of the 1960s, 70s and 80s. A Great Britain and Wales international winger, he played with both Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers (possibly the greatest rugby league team of all time) in his career, and also played for Oldham, and Doncaster. He was the **first black captain of the Great Britain Lions and for any national British sporting side.**



**LaDonna Adrian Gaines**, better known by her stage name **Donna Summer** (1948-2012) was a singer **known as 'The Queen of Disco'**. Her most famous songs include 'love to love you baby' (later covered by Beyoncé), and the ground-breaking synth classic 'I feel love'. For those of you who sung 'Diamonds' in the key stage 3 concert a few years back - Donna Summers daughter is the singer in that group!



**Idris Elba.** Idris is an English **actor, writer, producer, rapper, singer, songwriter and DJ!**



**James 'The Hardest Working Man In Show Business' Brown!** (1933-2006). '♪ Ahhhh, good God, almighty! ♪  
Without James Brown there would have been no Breakbeat, without Breakbeat the would've been no Hip Hop. **He is one of the most sampled artists ever!**  
His stage performances were legendary, as was his temperament. He pushed his band hard and produced some of the most iconic songs of the 20th contrary.

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**Lewis Hamilton MBE HonFREng** (born 7 January 1985) who is a **British racing driver** currently competing in Formula One for the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team. A six-time Formula One World Champion, he is widely regarded as **one of the greatest drivers in the history of the sport**, and considered by some to be the greatest of all time



**Little Richard** (1932-2020). His nick name **'The Architect of Rock'n'Roll'** shows his influence on music. His most famous song is Tutti Frutti.  
In a time of segregation of black and white people in America, his crowds would include bring all colours together.  
He toured Europe with The Beatles as his support group even teaching the how to play his music and his unique vocal style.  
Little Richard was also wore makeup and female clothes and has often provided contradictory messages about his sexuality in media.  
Richards died earlier this year but his legacy will live on in the music we listen to now.



**Luther Vandross** 1951-2005, silky smooth voiced idol this evening, was an American singer who started his career (as did many great singers) as a sought after backing vocalist. He fronted his own band for a bit before launching his own solo career. From then on it was stratospheric!  
His songs 'never too much', 'Always and Forever' and 'Never too Much' define his career but his legacy defines his life. He sung on Beyoncé's debut album shortly before a stroke took his life.



**The incredible Marvin Gaye** (1939-1984). Marvin is famous for such songs such as 'Heard It Through The Grapevine' and 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough', 'Let's Get It On' but it was his album 'What's Going On' that caused the biggest stir. It's sound was very different from his previous records and the explores the darker themes of drug abuse, poverty, and the Vietnam War.  
Gaye was shot dead by his father while intercepting in an argument between his parents.  
His legacy lives on.



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**Mary Jane Seacole** who was a British-Jamaican **nurse, healer and businesswoman who set up the "British Hotel" behind the lines during the Crimean War.** She displayed "compassion, skills and bravery while nursing soldiers during the Crimean War" and was posthumously awarded the Jamaican Order of Merit in 1991. In 2004, she was **voted the greatest black Briton**



**Michael Fuller**, who was **Britain's first black Chief Constable** and was appointed in April 2004. He served as the Chief Constable of Kent Police from January 2004 until March 2010. Michael also helped set up the Racial and Violent Crime Task Force and drew up an action plan in response to criticism of the Metropolitan Police. The Force was accused of 'institutional racism' by the Inquiry, following mistakes made during the Stephen Lawrence murder investigation. He also set up and commanded the Operation Trident command.



**Nile Rodgers (1952)** is **the man behind one of the most successful disco bands ever, Chic, and the producer behind some of the worlds biggest selling albums.** His hits include 'everybody Dance', 'Good Times' the later was sampled by the sugar hill gang for the tune Rappers Delight (the first commercial rap tune and the beginning of hip hop as a global mega force). Rodgers wrote and produced music for other artists, including the songs "He's the Greatest Dancer" and "We Are Family" for Sister Sledge and "I'm Coming Out" and "Upside Down" for Diana Ross. After Chic's breakup in 1983, Rodgers produced several major albums and singles for other artists, including David Bowie's Let's Dance, "Original Sin" by INXS, Duran Duran's "The Reflex" and "Notorious", and Madonna's "Like a Virgin". He later worked with artists including The B-52s, Jeff Beck, Mick Jagger, The Vaughan Brothers, Bryan Ferry, Christina Aguilera, Lady Gaga, and Daft Punk, winning three Grammy Awards in 2014 for his work on their album Random Access Memories

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**Nina Simone** (1933-2003) was a **singer and pianist**. She was born into a poor family and was the sixth of eight children. She loved playing the piano and applied to go to the legendary Juilliard School of Music but was denied. Simone attributes this denial of access to racism. Simone's real name was Eunice Kathleen Waymon, she choose to play 'the Devil's Music' (non-church/jazz) and used the stage name Nina Simone. In her song 'Love Me or Leave Me' her solo in the middle shows her classical piano skills.  
**She is true hero who overcame racial discrimination and financial hardship to bring joy to the world.**



**Celebrating Olaudah Equiano** who was born in Africa c1745, he was sold into slavery, later buying his freedom. A **leader of Britain's black community, he worked to abolish slavery** with Granville Sharpe and Thomas Clarkson. His autobiography was one of the most important literary contributions to the abolition campaign.



Our **future black history makers**. This image shows a group of South London **Oxford undergraduates** who are making history. You could join numerous former EGS students who are and have studied at top universities worldwide.



**Oswald Boateng, OBE** who is a **British fashion designer** of Ghanaian descent, known for his trademark twist on classic British tailoring and bespoke style

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**Paul Stephenson, Roy Hackett and Guy Bailey** who were the brains behind the **Bristol bus boycott in 1963**. They took inspiration from the bus boycott in the US, which started when Rosa Parks rightly refused to give up her seat for a white passenger.



**Robert Johnson** (1911-1938), a **blues musician who's influence is still felt in music today** despite his short, and troubled, life. Did he sell his soul to the devil 🐈 in order to gain his impressive musical gift? That's what the legend says! You make up your own mind.



**The king of soul' Sam Cooke** (1931-1964). Starting in gospel music and then moving (secretly) to non-secular music. Although he used another name to record non-gospel music he was quickly found out - his beautiful vocal sound was a dead giveaway. Although much of his songs are love songs, he hit a much darker tone on the haunting civil rights themed song 'A Change is Gonna Come'. He met a very suspicious, and untimely, end at the age of 33. His legacy lives on.



**Sheku Kanneh-Mason MBE** (born 4 April 1999) is a British cellist who won the **2016 BBC Young Musician award**. He was the **first Black musician to win the competition** since its launch in 1978. He and his siblings competed on Britain's got Talent before pursuing young musician of the year award. He's also been aware an MBE from the queen! Kanneh-Mason was a member of the Chineke! Orchestra, which was founded by Chi-chi Nwanoku for black and minority ethnic classical musicians. And he's still only 21!!!

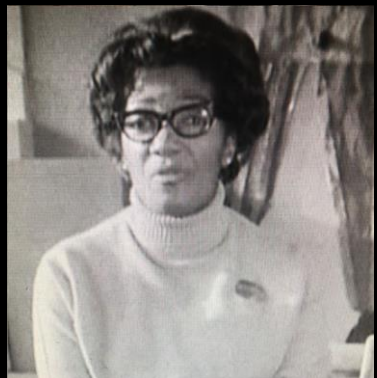
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**Trevor McDonald.** Born in Trinidad in 1939, Trevor **worked in various aspects of the media including local newspapers, radio and television. Once viewed as the best-spoken person in the country.** In 1992 he received an **OBE** in the Queen's Honours List, and received a **knighthood** in 1999. He continues to be the anchor for the News at Ten



What can you say about this lady!? One of the voices of all time! **Whitney Houston** (1963-2012) was an **American singer** known for such hits as 'I Will Always Love You', 'I'm Every Woman', 'One Moment In Time' and so so many more. Her influence and style will echo through many generations of singers to come yet! She's gone in body but her spirit lives on in her beautiful vocal performances.  
Btw: Netflix has a very sad but incredible documentary on her life



**Yvonne Conolly** was **Britain's first female black headteacher** and refused to be defined by the racist abuse she suffered, instead focusing on building strong relationships with her students