

## Black History Month begins at South & City College Birmingham

3 October 2024 by Daniel Dourado



Black History Month for 2024 is here, and staff and students already have their plans under way to make it a special month. This year's theme is about celebrating our Change Makers – shining a light on the historically and culturally significant black figures who have blazed trails and brought about great positive change in their fields.

Birmingham is a cultural hotpot of diversity, and we are proud that our eight campuses across the city reflect that in our student and staff backgrounds. We continue to champion the importance of developing from each other's lived experiences, not just in words but in action and spirit.



Earlier this year we teamed up with BRIG and Birmingham Metropolitan College to hold the Pass the Baton anti-racist festival at our Digbeth campus, joined the Colleges West Midlands' Racial Equality Project towards creating a more diverse FE workforce and unveiled a blue plaque in Handsworth to memorialise Birmingham's first black councillor elected in 1979.





As such, this Black History Month is an opportunity that we will not miss to bring new experiences to our students. Each curriculum is focused on a change maker in their industry, such as producing presentations on influential black trailblazers in care (**Dr Cecilia Akrisie Anim CBE**), automotive (**Lewis Hamilton**), electrical (**Charles Stewart III**), media (**Jordan Peele**), science (**Dr Charles Drew**), business and more. As part of reclaiming the narrative, students will research and give presentations to bring that life story into the open.



**Students will also be giving powerful creative exhibitions across the campuses, to develop their skills while exploring black culture.**



Music students will be drawing on black musical artists to create a set list for two live performances, while art students will be examining abstract pieces from American artist **Jean-Michel Basquiat** to create their own exhibit. Our foundation learning students will be also holding a poetry competition across the campuses inspired by Birmingham changemaker **Benjamin Zephaniah's** work.



Every Wednesday, canteens across the campuses will focus on a different **cultural cuisine** from many diverse backgrounds, and there will even be **African drumming** sessions for staff and students to enjoy. **Showcases about black history** will be delivered by staff at campuses, and our libraries will be making displays of **black literature**. These are just the planned events, as last year's BHM at SCCB also included guest speakers, open mics focused on songs by black artists and a cultural dress festival called Avant-Garde.



**Keep an eye on the college's various social media platforms** over the month to get a taste of these eye-opening equality and diversity events across our Birmingham campuses. Black History Month continues to be a major part of South & City College Birmingham's educational journey, as part of our goals for bringing people of all backgrounds together for a better Birmingham.