

# THE BLACK CURRICULUM

### IMPACT REPORT 2021



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### FOREWORD

Never before has it been more important to ensure that Black British history is given the prominence it deserves on the national curriculum. In an increasingly divisive world, education is the key for us and future generations to build a fairer and more inclusive society.

Racism and xenophobia cannot be truly addressed – let alone eradicated – unless we all share a common knowledge and understanding of how Black British history helped shape the United Kingdom. Understanding concepts such as Empire, diaspora, and immigration is critical to giving people of all backgrounds the racial literacy they need to have meaningful, important conversations about race.

That is why The Black Curriculum's work is so important. By teaching children about this part of history, which is too often overlooked, we equip them with the knowledge to recognise and challenge the systemic, structural racism which they may face in life.

It is a true privilege to be a member of The Black Curriculum's Advisory Board, and to be a part of this journey. As we reflect on another exciting year, it is important to look back at how far we have come and what we have already achieved. Between launching our brilliant Springboard programme, building and developing exciting partnerships, and continuing to deliver the highest quality educational materials and workshops across the country, it truly has been an electrifying year.

#### IN AN INCREASINGLY DIVISIVE WORLD, EDUCATION IS THE KEY FOR US AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO BUILD A FAIRER AND MORE INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.

A special thanks goes to our exceptional patrons Jade Bentil, David Olusoga and Maro Itoje, whilst we mourn the devastating loss of our very first patron, the immense Virgil Abloh, who will be greatly missed.

Of course, reflecting on this past year also gives us an opportunity to look ahead to 2022, and to consider how we can consolidate and continue to build upon our truly remarkable achievements so far. I have no doubt that you will all share my excitement and anticipation for what lies ahead.

### JOSHUA SCHUERMANN, THE BLACK CURRICULUM, ADVISORY GROUP MEMBER

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic caused 2021 to be a challenging year for The Black Curriculum and its supporters. However, this did not stop the commitment of our CEO Lavinya Stennett and her team in their mission to enable the education of Black British history in the school curriculum all year-round.

#### THIS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE IMPACT THE WORK HAS MADE IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

The challenges inspired The Black Curriculum to find alternative ways to engage with students, teachers and community groups. From online workshops, videos and podcasts to working collaboratively with teachers to compile reading lists, we have contributed to expanding the available resources to learn about Black history and its contribution to British history.

The Black Curriculum also delivered on its commitment to expand our Springboard programme of arts based learning to reach and inspire young people outside of London. We have now held in-person sessions in Liverpool and Manchester.

This report highlights our key achievements and the impact the work has made in the lives of young people. These achievements would not be possible without your help. We thank our donors, partners, patrons and supporters for enabling The Black Curriculum to continue advancing the education of Black history.

### CASSANDRA ARCHER, THE BLACK CURRICULUM, ADVISORY GROUP MEMBER



### **REVIEW OF THE YEAR** LAVINYA STENNETT, CEO & FOUNDER

This year, from our **#TBH365** collaboration with Lush that birthed TBC bath bombs in stores across the UK, to partnering with our Patron Maro Itoje on the 'A History Untold' exhibition, and newly appointed team members, we have had a very busy and insightful year in the face of many challenges. I am very proud and thankful to our team and you, our supporters, for continuing our mission to empower all students through the teaching of Black history. Since January, we have reached 1800 young people through our direct work of the Ambassador Scheme as well as our renewed Springboard programme.

It has been wonderful hearing their feedback based on our work, as well as the 6000 teachers and senior leaders across the country who have all deeply engaged in learning how to practically embed Black history in schools through the provision of racial literacy. I am pleased to see that as we build up our evidence based approach, community partnerships, the reality of what we are trying to achieve becomes a lot more tangible.

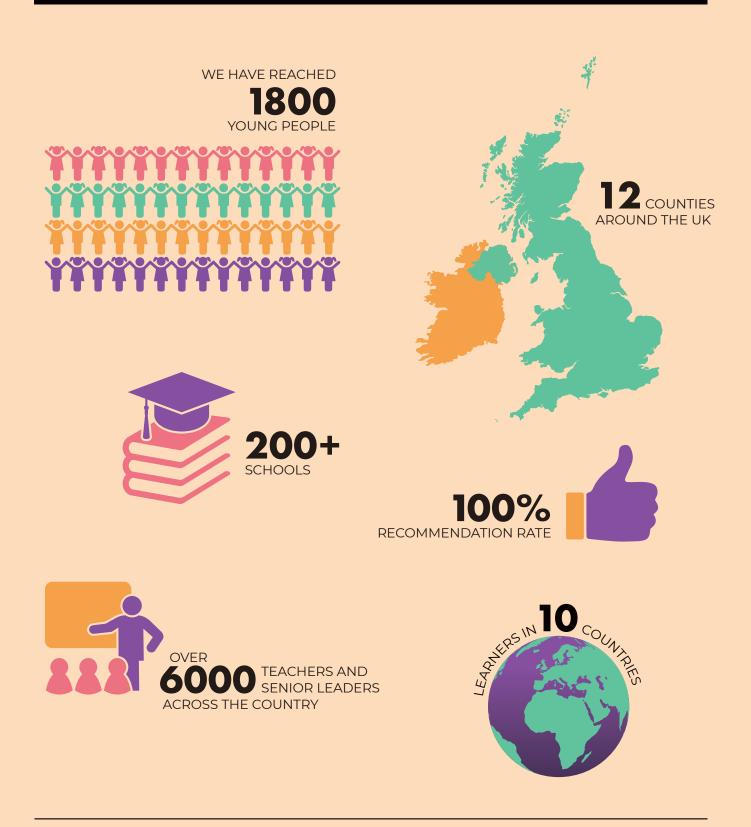
The importance of our work only increases as we encounter emerging changes to society and practice within the socio-political space, especially as a growing social enterprise entering its third year in 2022. The impact of 2021 and the waves of demand that followed for us, has allowed us to uncover more gaps in the education system but also to reflect on our mission. As the leading arts based enterprise committed to embedding Black history, we are constantly defining our approaches based on what young people are asking for. Through this, our 2022 strategic focus only becomes more tunnel visioned as we build a community of young people whose sense of identity and belonging in the UK and the world improves through the teaching of Black histories. Funding across all streams of The Black Curriculum work from our programmes, policy to resources, therefore has never been more necessary. Our work in schools and organisations relies on your support and buy-in, and we are so grateful for this support.

As we spotlight the highlights and learnings from 2021, we hope that you will continue to act on our **#TBH365** mission in a manner that speaks to you and your community. We at TBC look forward your continued support and journey with us.





### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**



### **ABOUT TBC**



#### **OUR MISSION IS...**

To ensure that Black British history is taught all year round in schools across the UK and to support its delivery. We believe doing this will:





Create a sense of identity and belonging among young people.



🚯 Reduce the attainment gap.

Improve social cohesion and accelerate systemic change.



"The training delivered by Christina was excellent. Clear ground rules were laid at the beginning of the first session. The sessions were very well structured, informative and allowed for staff interaction and discussion."

#### **CARLTON SCHOOL**

# **Our Vision**

#### **OUR VISION IS...**

To ensure every young person is equipped with a full sense of identity and belonging and improve social cohesion between young people.



"Clarity of delivery, clear expertise of trainer, well prepared and thought provoking resources and discussions. A highly skilled way of managing questions/views/interpretations which was supportive but clear. Excellent delivery, all involved at Cranmer have commented positively on the session. Thank you Kwame! "

**CRANMER PRIMARY SCHOOL** 



# **Our Goals**

#### BY 2025 WE AIM TO ...

🗞 Reach 20,000 young people annually.

🗞 Work with every major UK exam board.

See that Black British history is embedded within the national curriculum.

Have employees in every major city across the UK.

Become a global and trusted provider of Black British history.



" Challenging and thought provoking. Many applications of learning to classroom and school policies. Engaging and effective delivery to create a safe space to enquire. Effective pre-reading and useful post-delivery follow-up. Some of the best CPD experienced."

**RSA ACADEMY ARROW VALE** 

# Our Work

#### WE HAVE DEVELOPED, AND CURRENTLY **DELIVER A SERIES OF PROGRAMMES AIMED AT:**



teach Black British history all year round.



Equipping students with the skills and resources ٩ų, they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

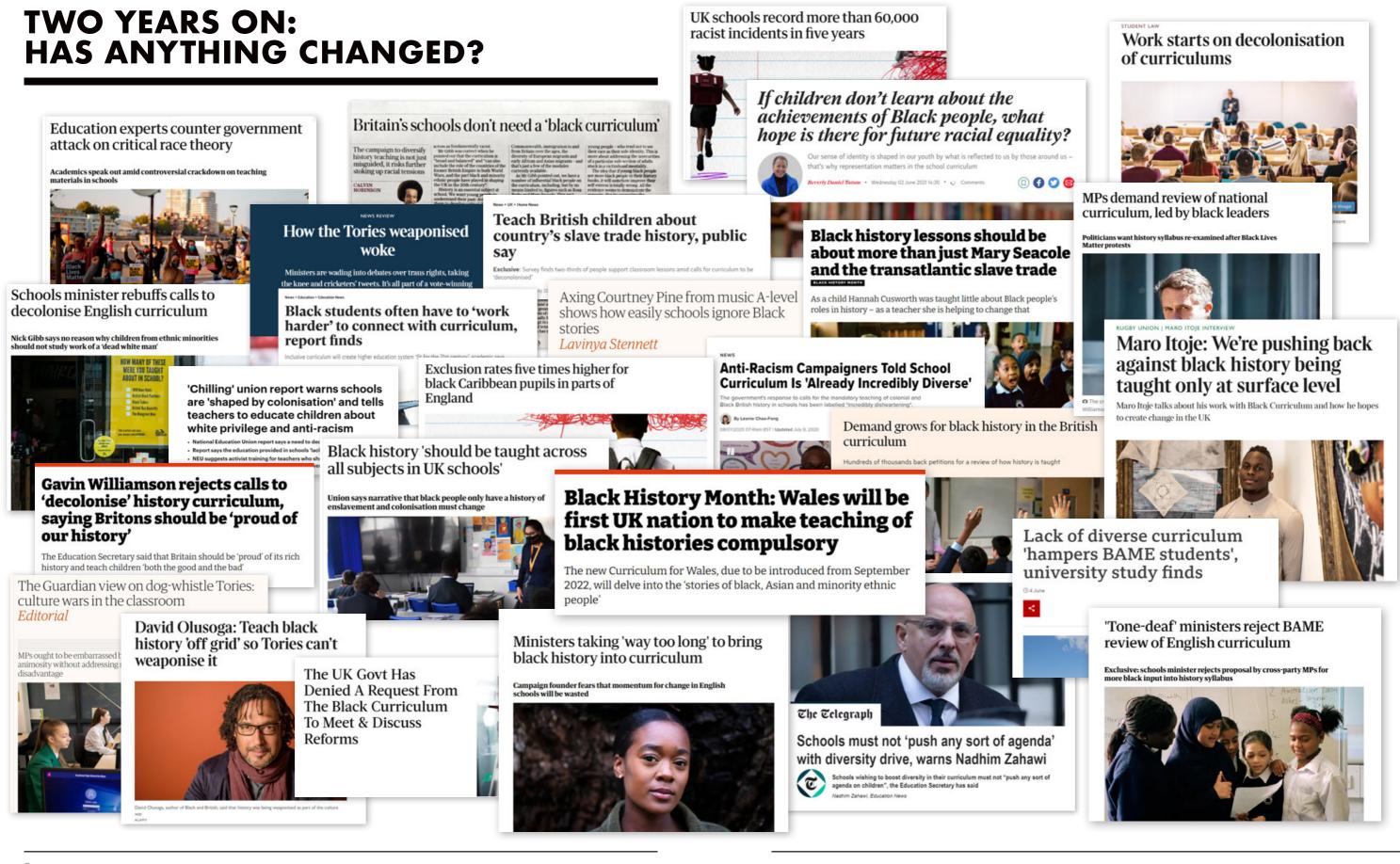


Making it easier for parents to talk about topics they may not feel comfortable with and helping them make the transition.



" I liked the examples that were used for discussion. They were thought provoking and it was great to be able to discuss these with colleagues without judgement. It was also great to be able to feed back to the group but also there not to be any pressure to feedback as that meant everybody felt they were able to speak openly in their smaller groups. \*\*

#### ST URSULA'S CONVENT SCHOOL





## **OUR WORK WITH SCHOOLS**

#### OVERVIEW

Despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19 within the education sector, 2021 was still a very successful year for the delivery of our core programme.

After two years in operation, we continue to refine and develop our Teacher and Senior Leader training programmes to support the mindset and cultural changes required to embed Black British history within a school's curriculum and enhance the racial literacy of the staff delivering this content.

We transitioned well to remote delivery, with the majority of our bookings now delivered this way. Our content is consistently praised and appreciated for its engaging and accessible approach, practical recommendations and resources and this has increasingly led to requests for bespoke consultancy with organisations, individual schools and school trusts.

#### **CURRICULUM CONSULTATION AUDITS**

Our curriculum audits focus on reforming schemes of work used by teachers and offering pragmatic and practical advice for schools to follow on how to embed Black British histories and experiences of the Global South into each Scheme of Work. This directly helps with providing a sense of identity and belonging for students who will experience a representative curriculum being taught to them.

We are currently working on CCAs with Haringey Education Partnership, Merton, Greenwich, and standalone schools (Alleyn, Enfield, Charville, Harris Academy, Hertfordshire) and will begin work with Lambeth and Kensington & Chelsea next year.

Outside of our work in schools, TBC run projects to increase knowledge of Black British history. In 2021 we offered online courses via Future Learn, increased our library of online resources and wrote a series of books on Black British history.

#### FUTURE LEARN X TBC

The Future Learn course allows people to learn, practice, test and discuss new knowledge about Black British history, whilst moving at their own pace. This free course encourages people to delve further into key concepts such as eurocentrism and ethnocentrism, whilst gaining practical skills surrounding language use and how to embed Black British history into the school curriculum.

We are extremely happy with the international reach of this course, and although the majority of learners have been in the UK, we have reached learners in Somalia, Mexico, India, US, Turkey, Egypt, Colombia, Spain and Italy.





# **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### IN 2021, WE DELIVERED

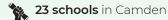


Assemblies + student workshops to **1,805 young people** 



Teacher + Senior Leader training to 6,063 teachers and leaders

We continued our work with Local Education Authority (LEA) Learning Hubs and have supported and continue to support:



21 schools in Greenwich

8 schools in Haringey

🗽 41 schools in Islington



42 schools in Merton

We also continued to expand outside of London delivering TBC Teacher Training in Berkshire, Devon, Essex, Hertfordshire, Leicester, Norwich, Scotland, Stockport, Suffolk, Wales, West Sussex and even Canada.



Excellent knowledge and expertise from the Lead Educator (Kwame). The session was really accessible for everyone yet also challenging and intellectual. Lots of deep thinking and questioning that led to reflection and a real sense of the need for action.

MIDDLE PARK PRIMARY

#### NEXT STEPS

We will continue to review, revise and develop our content and in 2022 this review will take on board expected changes to school practice to be announced by the Department for Education. In 2022, we plan to work more with LEA Learning Hubs as this way we can maximise our impact and accelerate progress, taking essential steps to embed Black British history throughout the UK effectively and sustainably. Alongside this and in partnership with our research team, we are revising our feedback methods to better capture the views of all attendees and provide tangible evidence of longer term impact.

#### GET INVOLVED

If you are an educator or parent who would like to bring a more diverse and inclusive approach to the curriculum to your school please message us at **learning@theblackcurriculum.com**.

You can also check out our resources here: <u>https://theblackcurriculum.com/downloads</u> and sign up to our FutureLearn course here: <u>https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/teaching-</u> <u>black-british-history-a-guide-for-teachers</u>



"This made everyone reflect on their teaching practice in relation to dealing with racism. It gave us time and space to discuss potential issues and how to deal with them so that we don't feel we have to ignore them for fear of saying the wrong thing."

**CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS** 

#### 100% OF OUR CLIENTS WOULD WORK WITH US AGAIN AND RECOMMEND TBC.

### OUR NATIONAL SPRINGBOARD PROGRAMME

#### OVERVIEW

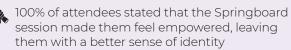
Our National Springboard Programme provides free out of school workshops, sponsored by Universal Music, for young people aged 11-16, where they learn Black British history through the lens of music, including afro beats, reggae and much more. Despite a challenging year for in person events we managed to get the programme underway. Over the past year, we onboarded and trained new educators to prepare and deliver our nationwide Springboard workshops. Our educators have worked with commitment and creativity to maximise their passions and subject knowledge and to ground their workshops in engaging, accessible and localised content. A clear scope of learning and development has been established in order to support workshop preparations and delivery.

#### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**



Delivered arts-based workshops on local Black British history to young people in 3 major UK cities

Gained the endorsement of Black artists in the music industry, whose involvement in the sessions excited and empowered the young people in attendance



I liked it very much, and I'm glad I was part of this experience.

Manchester attendee, 13.11.21.

It was fun and I enjoyed joining with others and talking about our history.

Liverpool attendee, 02.10.21.

#### FEEDBACK

Rating out of 5, how satisfied were you with the session?	5=100%
Rating out of 5, how confident do you feel about your knowledge of Black British history post session?	4-5 <b>= 82.3%</b>

Has the Springboard session made you feel empowered and given you a better sense of identity?

Yes = 100%

#### **NEXT STEPS**

We look forward to rolling out the next set of workshops throughout 2022, with our educators preparing content on the themes of 'STREET SPACE AND RESISTANCE', 'BLACK LIBERATION', 'STYLE AND SOPHISTICATION (BLACK MUSIC & FASHION)' and 'LANGUAGE AND POWER'. Due to the ever changing situation with COVID-19, we are redesigning the workshops for 2022, allowing them to be delivered online (if necessary) whilst still being just as fun and engaging, and plan to deliver a Springboard workshop every weekend.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

We would love to see as many young people as possible at our Springboard workshops.

If you are based in or around London, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool or Manchester and aged 11 - 16 you can sign up to our sessions here <u>https://theblackcurriculum</u> .com/springboard and sign up to our newsletter <u>here</u> to receive information on future workshops.

We were all together expressing our opinions and it made us feel included.

Manchester attendee, 13.11.21.

I really enjoyed the lesson and have learned a lot of new things from it.

Liverpool attendee, 02.10.21.



### OUR NATIONAL AMBASSADOR SCHEME

#### OVERVIEW

The **National Ambassador Scheme** (NAS) is an online programme that provides young people aged 14 - 18, with an opportunity to advocate and educate in their school community.

NAS aims to engage young people through curriculum reform and identity reconciliation in Britain. The scheme serves to make curriculum reform relevant and impactful, by ensuring young people are at the forefront of the action and included in these discussions. It enables young people to actively and directly participate in developing their school community and improves their sense of identity and empowerment. The scheme also aims to equip young people with skills and opportunities for their own personal and professional development.

#### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

As part of our 2020/21 pilot, we ran workshops with key educational hubs, the Huntley Archives, Bush Theater and the Patchwork Foundation.

In 2021 we fully launched the scheme with 81 young people taking part.

#### NEXT STEPS

Moving forward, we aim to widen our reach on a national level, ensuring that schools across the UK have access to the NAS programme, and that more young people have access to the opportunities afforded by the scheme. Depending on government guidelines, we hope to include more in-person activities within the scheme in the future. We are also working on solidifying our post-scheme benefits network, a project which will provide graduates of the scheme with long-term access to work experience opportunities, mentorship and accelerator programmes.

In our efforts to market NAS to schools and young people more nationally, we aim to work closely with councils, offering package deals, whereby councils can bulk book our services for schools within their constituencies.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

If you would like your school, council or organisation to be part of NAS you can **find out more and sign up here**.



" I have always wanted to utilise my love and interest for my history and heritage. Being an ambassador fulfils me so much and gives me a sense of pride. We are truly a part of history in the making. The process has forced me to fact check everything and is teaching me to be more mindful with sensitive matters. "

YEAR 12 FROM ACLAND BURGHLEY, LONDON

### OUR POLICY AND CAMPAIGNS WORK

#### OVERVIEW

Our ultimate goal is to embed Black British histories into the national curriculum. In 2021, our policy team worked with young people, educators, researchers and political representatives to ensure our mission incorporates the learnings and innovation from key educators in the UK and across the world, and to translate our knowledge into key messages and approaches that can help us reach our goal.

#### OUR KEY OBJECTIVES ARE TO:



Present and translate research into powerful policy points and standards

Support and equip the custodians of young people and their organisations with relevant, accurate and timely information regarding the embedding of Black history across the nation

Engage and enable local community groups to engage gatekeepers around our mission

#### NEXT STEPS

In 2022, we will continue to work with key stakeholders to build the evidence and support required to create strong, evidence-based policy positions that influence the education landscape and drive policy change. Our policy and research teams are working together to strengthen our internal evaluation frameworks to better assess the impact of our work and capture key insights.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

The policy team is looking to collaborate with think tanks, independent researchers and education activists who share The Black Curriculum's vision and values, with an eye to developing high-quality, innovative and data-driven research projects that can strengthen our understanding of curriculum design and implementation and its impact on the sense of identity and belonging of young learners in the UK.

Support our policy goals by writing to your MP about the need to include Black British history in the national curriculum.

(You can use this **template**, courtesy of Impact Omisson.)





## **OUR RESEARCH WORK**

#### OVERVIEW

Our research team serves to evaluate and measure the impact of The Black Curriculum's services. Over the past year, we have been analysing The Black Curriculum's organisational goals and values, and generating a logic model. The logic model illustrates how all sections of the organisation work towards our short to long term goals. It will evolve alongside the organisation, and will serve to identify gaps and opportunities to allow us to better serve the community.

#### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

Evidence based research has been in crucial in helping identify gaps and creating sustainable solutions. Our research into attainment levels in London boroughs provided insightful data which will be used to evaluate these gaps and establish ways in which the teaching of Black British histories can remedy disparities in attainment.

To evaluate the impact of our programmes, we held a range of focus groups and workshops. This research has enabled us to develop a Theory of Change for our Springboard Programme, which serves to refine our programmes in order to meet our organisational goals.





#### NEXT STEPS

In 2022, the new organisational structure will allow the research and policy teams to evaluate current frameworks and establish opportunities to improve our efforts to have a positive impact on young people via the teaching of Black British histories. Our research methods will measure the impact of The Black Curriculum's programmes on young people, and identify ways in which we can improve the quality of our services. We are looking forward to expanding the research team throughout 2022 and building an evidence-based organisation.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

To keep informed on our research findings **subscribe to our newsletter**.

# OUR REACH

#### OVERVIEW

Our online presence has been a key player in reaching communities and stakeholders. We are committed to producing accessible digital content which educates, informs and empowers our audiences. In this increasingly digital age, social media has been an important tool in communicating our mission. This year, we've amassed over 213,000 online followers across our social media platforms.

#### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**



We gained over 109,200 video views on our Youtube channel, including interviews, event highlights, and educational animations on Black British history.



We published 20 blogs, and worked with several guest writers to create pieces on topics such as; educational inequality in lockdowns, racial literacy and pedagogy, and iconic Black women in British history.

We published a Zine exploring the history and culture of Black hair. With special contributions from Charlotte Mensah, author of 'Good Hair' and thrice crowned 'Afro hairdresser of the year', Alice Dearing, Olympic swimmer and champion of sports inclusivity, and The Halo code, a collective working to create a future without hair discrimination.



We collaborated with The Gorillaz through the *#BeTheChange* campaign, which celebrated change-makers in Black British history.

#### NEXT STEPS

Social media will remain a strong focus for us in 2022 and we will continue to create fresh, creative and informative content. We will be working closely with our Patrons and ambassadors to deliver a number of new campaigns and activities throughout the year. We also have some exciting content partnerships planned which will increase both our output and our outreach.

#### GET INVOLVED

You can support and spread our message and increase our impact by following the mantra Follow, Like and Share. You can find us on all of these platforms:



These stories are so inspiring! Love knowing more about the history of education and the teachers who have helped shape it.

I love how The Black Curriculum focuses on black role models and their positive stories for young people. These stories contribute massively to British history and are often overlooked by the whitewashing of it.



# **OUR PARTNERS**

#### OVERVIEW

Working with other people and organisations to reach our goals is integral to our way of working at TBC. Our partnerships are based on a mutual desire to see change in the national curriculum and a more equal, cohesive society. Our Partners provide the funding, skills, insight, space and other key resources we need to run our programmes. We want to thank all supporters including Universal Music, Pearsons, M&S, Future Learn, DK Publishing, Camden Learning Hub, Camden Sparks, Lush, DeMellier and Mayor of London.

#### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

This year our partners have helped us:



Launch and run our Springboard Programme, bringing arts based Black British history workshops to young people around England



Bring Black History to over 3,000 people around the world



Literally rewrite the history (and geography and English) texts books and produce resources to help teach Black British history



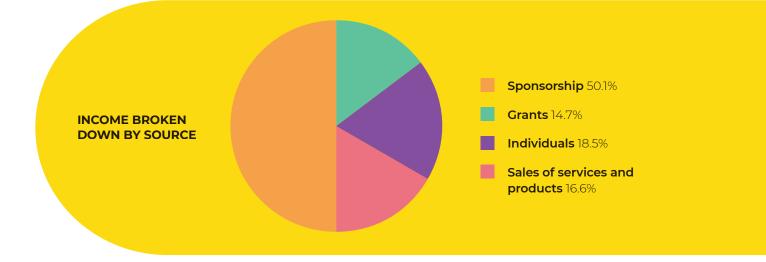
#### NEXT STEPS

In 2022 we plan to build on and create more partnerships with businesses, publishers, community groups, museums, arts organisations and political bodies to further our aims. We are already planning to run two more national programmes that work directly with young people and hope to build this number to six national programmes alongside a handful of more localised pilot projects.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

We are always looking for more people to join us in our mission. If you or the organisation you partner with would like to collaborate with us please email **partnerships@theblackcurriculum.com** 

Partnerships, along with donations from individuals and charitable grants provide the funds that enable us to do our work.



## LOOKING AHEAD

#### LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022, we hope you will join us in our campaign to Teach Black History 365 days a year (#THB365).

We all have a part to play in creating a society in which all young people have a sense of identity and belonging. Any one of you can become an ally, advocate, ambassador, donor or fundraiser.

#### HERE IS QUICK LIST OF THINGS YOU COULD DO



🗽 Share this Impact Report with all your contacts



Write to your MP about the need to include Black British history in the national curriculum. (Template courtesy of Impact Omission)

Speak to your child's teacher and head teacher about:

- Signing up for a free TBC assembly
- Signing up to our National Ambassador **Scheme**
- Using our online resources

Speak to your company about donating to or partnering with TBC partnerships@theblackcurriculum.com

Sign the young people in your life up for our free Springboard programme





Sign up to our newsletter to keep up to date with all TBC news.





### WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN MAKE #TBH365 A REALITY!

Alongside our achievements we would also like to acknowledge the following organisations and campaigns working with us towards the same goals.

#### FREE BOOKS CAMPAIGN

https://www.freebookscampaign.co.uk/

Access to books is important for many reasons, from developing the essential reading and writing skills needed to navigate the education system and beyond, to also providing fertile ground for people of all ages and backgrounds to explore their creativity, fuel their imagination and for some, be their escape and reprieve from the harsh realities of living under austerity. With hundreds of library closures, access to these vital books are increasingly becoming scarce. The Free Books Campaign is a non-profit, community interest company dedicated to getting books by authors of colour to those who cannot afford or access them.

#### LIT IN COLOUR

#### https://www.penguin.co.uk/campaigns/lit-in-colour. html

Fewer than 1% of students at GCSE study a book by a writer of colour. Books create belonging. They help us see each other and understand one another. They shine a light on the world. It's vital that the books we read in our formative years reflect the rich diversity of the society we live in. That's why Penguin joined forces with The Runnymede Trust to explore how to support schools to make the teaching and learning of English literature more inclusive and increase students' access to more books by writers of colour.

#### IMPACT OF OMISSION https://impactofomission.squarespace.com/

Impact of Omission aims to make education on Britain's imperial past part of the compulsory national curriculum. They work through collective action such as petitions, providing letter scripts, and the original survey that clearly proved to us the discrepancies in teaching, as it saw 86.2% of our 56,000+ respondents educated indepth on Henry VIII but only 9.3% educated on the role of slavery in British Industrialisation.

#### ANTI RACIST CUMBRIA https://antiracistcumbria.org/about-us/

Anti Racist Cumbria is a voluntary organisation created in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. They exist to identify, challenge, tackle and end racism in Cumbria. Their vision is simple, an actively anti-racist county. Their projects are practical and deal with the root causes of systemic racism in our schools, businesses, communities and wider organisations.

> Thank you for sharing. This is great and fits well with our assembly today.

Thank you for the amazing and important work you do educating educators. It is so important that children (and adults) know our history.



### The Black Curriculum CIC

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