



**Edition 1 October
2022**



THE GLOBAL MAJORITY



What's inside this edition?

- **The reasons why we started this magazine**
- **What the school is doing on our anti-racism journey**
- **Key figures in changing history**

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Introduction

Hello Forest Hill and welcome to our first edition of 'The Global Majority'.

This magazine came out as a response to the students in our school asking for more representation and celebration of Black and Brown people who are the global majority, hence the name! We have a well established magazine called Rainbow which celebrates the LGBTQ+ community and people, quite rightly, did not think it was fair that Black and Brown people did not have the same platform so here we are!

Thank you all for letting us know how we can improve & develop on our anti-racism journey, please keep it up- the

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work is never done!

We hope this magazine will raise the voices of Black and Brown people past and present and help to influence how we de-colonise our curriculum and work towards becoming an anti-racist school.

This is your magazine so please get in touch if there is anything you want included or if you have any tips or feedback.

So, enjoy edition one and please do not hesitate to come and see me if you would like to get in touch with future editions.

Miss Sparkes

p.sparkes@foresthillschool.co.uk

Room 37c



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What has the school done so far on their anti-racist journey?

***TRIGGER WARNING- POLICE BRUTALITY**

As many, if not all of you will be aware, on the 25th May 2020, George Floyd was killed by police officers while in police custody. This sparked a global reaction and started a much needed review of many institutions including our education system.

Although Forest Hill School has always worked hard to ensure students and staff are treated equally and offered opportunities regardless of race or ethnicity, what happened in May 2020 sparked a new

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approach and we realised we needed to make changes. In the first instance, we went about decolonising our curriculum. This means we made changes to what we teach to ensure our curriculum reflects different knowledge systems, philosophies and perspectives. Decolonising the curriculum is about being prepared to reconnect, reorder and reclaim knowledge and information that has been hidden, ignored or marginalised. It is also about representation; visually and academically to show a range of perspectives and people rather than just a limited few. What this looks like in the classroom is; studying books by Black and Brown authors in English, investigating and thinking critically about the British Empire in History and questioning if it is something to be proud of with its vicious military conquests, massacres and enslavement, being specific about the Music we study and not calling it “African drumming” but naming the specific country. The

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list goes on and will continue to go on until we have completely decolonised our curriculum.

As a school we also had training sessions delivered by The Prosperity Project (t.prosperityproject.com) who are an organisation dedicated to combatting racism and unconscious bias in schools and companies. And we hold our Safe Race Space in room 37c on Mondays at break time for KS4 and Thursday lunchtimes for KS3 for students. This is where you can be open, inquisitive and honest. We created this space because we listened to the students and they wanted to have somewhere they could ask questions and speak openly about racial matters.

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We have also had workshops with the Then & Now Project, Lewisham about Race & Identity and some year 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to create their own anti-racism workshop. They then went to Bonus Pastor School and worked with the Young Mayor of Lewisham as well as other Lewisham secondary schools to deliver and receive workshops about Race and Identity (check out their work here: <https://we.tl/t-fQYD2Diu2T>).

I have also attended an online conference called Transforming The Curriculum in Lewisham Schools and Colleges and made links with other schools about what they are doing on their

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anti-racism journey so we can share good practice and learn from one another.

The Drama department worked with Peoplescape on a Migration Stories project. The initial performance explored migration from the Caribbean in the 1960s and then the year 7s had the opportunity to create their own Lewisham Migration Stories to perform to the rest of the school and their parents/carers.

Our work is not done and we continue to strive to be an anti-racist school.



 The Prosperity Project

Peoplescape 
theatre

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What is anti-racism and what can you do on your anti-racism journey?

Anti-racism is a process of actively identifying and opposing racism. The goal of anti-racism is to challenge racism and actively change the policies, behaviours, and beliefs that perpetuate racist ideas and actions.

Anti-racism is rooted in action. It is about taking steps to eliminate racism at the individual, institutional, and structural levels. It is not a new concept, but the Black Lives Matter movement has helped increase the focus on the

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importance of anti-racism. The problem with systemic racism is that it is all around us. We are born into it. It is deeply embedded in our culture and our communities including our schools, the justice system, the government, and hospitals. It is so pervasive that people often don't even notice how policies, institutions, and systems disproportionately favour some while disadvantaging others. People often mistakenly believe that simply being “not racist” is enough to eliminate racial discrimination. The problem with this perspective is that White people are often unaware of their own unconscious biases. People often don't fully understand the

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institutional and structural issues that uphold White supremacy and contribute to racist behaviours, attitudes, and policies.

Saying “but I’m not racist” also allows people to avoid participating in anti-racism. It’s a way of saying “that’s not my problem” while failing to acknowledge that even people who are not racist still reap the benefits of a system that is biased against other people.

Another problem is that research has found that people who believe that they are not racist are often much more prejudiced than they think they are. One study found that people who described themselves as believing strongly

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in racial equality tended to have significant implicit biases against Black people.

"The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And that's the only way forward."

- Ijeoma Oluo

So, what can you do? I would suggest first off you read and you investigate what anti-racism is. When you start listening and learning and you start to change the way you see things and you

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start to have different conversations, you will have started on your anti-racist journey, its then time to start teaching others and being more active in your journey.

For students & staff, a great place to start is the school library. Read as many books as possible on the topic of anti-racism & start to broaden the people you follow on social media and listen to on the TV, internet and podcasts; surround yourself with people who are actively anti-racist.

For parents/carers, visit your own libraries or get down to your (independent) book shops and get hold of as many books

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on anti-racism that you can get
hold of.



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Front Page Focus

‘Front Page Focus’ features the stories of those people on our front page. Once all those on the front page have been featured, we will either change the pictures on the front page or simply change you we are highlighting- what do you think? Change the front page or just change the people we write about?

Either way, for this week we have; Amanda Gorman, Kamala Harris and Annamie Paul. These people were featured in our Black History Month posters that you will have been shown by your tutors. The reason we are using them again is to ensure that they become more well known

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to you and to make sure we are highlighting them and their impact on Black History (and present) all year and not just during October.

Amanda Gorman (1993 – present)



Amanda Gorman is the youth poet laureate and activist who's taken the world by storm and, despite being such a modern (and young) figure, age just 22, she's already become an icon for living Black history. Amanda seemingly become an overnight sensation when she was propelled into the spotlight following her poem recital at the Inauguration of Joe Biden. However, she received her laureate several years ago, and has been active since she was 16.

In 2021 alone Amanda's recited to a global audience of millions; first with her inauguration day poem, then she became the first ever poet to perform at the US Super Bowl, watched by over 145million. She appeared on the front cover of Time magazine, where she was also cited in the *100 Next List*, and established herself as a best-selling author of two books.

Her work focuses on issues of race, feminism, and the African diaspora. She's an inspirational powerhouse who represents the voice of the next generation, and everything it can achieve.

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Kamala Harris (1964 – present)



Kamala Harris symbolises a current figure of hope in today's world; in January, she officially became the United States first female vice president – and with it, the first Black woman to hold this position.

Harris is not afraid to speak her mind, ask difficult questions, and challenge the status quo. Biden reportedly asked her to bring her “lived experience” to the political sphere, and no doubt her race and gender will influence just some of the causes she champions and fights for in office. She's spoken out in support of everything from women's reproductive rights, minimum wage and police reform, and developed programs to combat female sex trafficking, end child exploitation, and protect LGBTQ+ students.

Her huge platform gives an opportunity for one Black female to bring to light the stories, challenges and experiences of other less visible Black voices and women, and effect genuine change.

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Annamie Paul (1972-present)



Like Kamala Harris, Annamie Paul is a woman of firsts. She's the first Black Canadian and the first Jewish woman to be elected leader of a mainstream political party: the Green Party of Canada.

Born in Toronto, Annamie is a daughter of immigrants and describes herself as a "descendant of slaves." As well as her work to support women, Indigenous people and People of Colour, she's also committed to support indigenous people in their fight against racism within the police force, and a champion for true racial equality.

She recently called on the Canadian Government to recognise August 1 as Emancipation Day which is the day that slavery was first abolished in Canada. If her call is successful, it will mark an official day to both celebrate and give recognition to the remarkable contributions of Black and Indigenous People in Canada.

Speaking to CBC News she said: "Whilst we acknowledge how far we've come, we still know that we have a long way to go."

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Important Dates

October

Black History Month

4th- Dussehra (Hindu)

7th-8th- Mawlid un Nabi (Islamic observance)

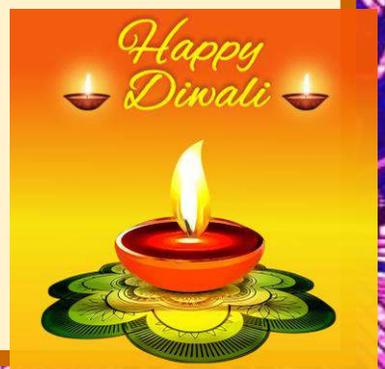
9th- Birthday of Guru Ram Das (Sikh)

10th- Indigenous Peoples' Day (United States): formerly called Columbus Day, honors the indigenous people of North America

18th- Anti Slavery Day

24th- Diwali (Hindu): significant celebration in the Hindu faith in which they praise diverse deities

24th – Bandhi Chhor Divas (Sikh)



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November

Native American Heritage

Month: celebrates the culture and heritage of individuals who deeply enrich the United States

31st October-2nd November – All Saints Day/All Souls Day/Día de los Muertos: commemorates those who have passed away in the Christian faith and Mexican and Aztec communities

8th- Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev (Sikh)

16th – International Day for Tolerance (United Nations): founded by the UN to promote respect for various religions, languages, ethnicities, and cultures

24th- Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)

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December

2nd- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

8th- Bodhi Day (Buddhist)

18th- International Migrants Day

26th – Kwanzaa; 8-day holiday inspired by African harvest celebrations



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School Staff

Interview

Mr Ovir



What is your role in the school?
Head of Year 7

How long have you worked here? In my 3rd year now!

Why did you choose FHS? I wanted to work in a school where the vision was clearly set out and all staff wanted the best from the pupils

Why did you choose to work in education? I wanted to make a change for children and get them to understand the importance of learning.

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What was your experience of education when you were at school? I had a poor educational experience and was not encouraged by teachers to do well.

What else would you like to share? If you put your mind to it, you can achieve anything and be whatever you want to be. But the secret ingredient to this is hard work!



**Work
hard!**

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In The News

Anthony Joshua and stars attend dazzling tenth edition of Best of Africa awards

The theme for this year's event was 'Rooted' and brought together both African and Caribbean communities together to unite their roots of both continents and regions. THE BEST of Africa Awards (BoA) which celebrates the inspiring philanthropic work of those of African heritage, was back in London after two years, on Sunday, October 9.

Set in the iconic London Hotel in Leicester Square, the awards were hosted by comedian Eddie Kadi and actress Sophy Aida.



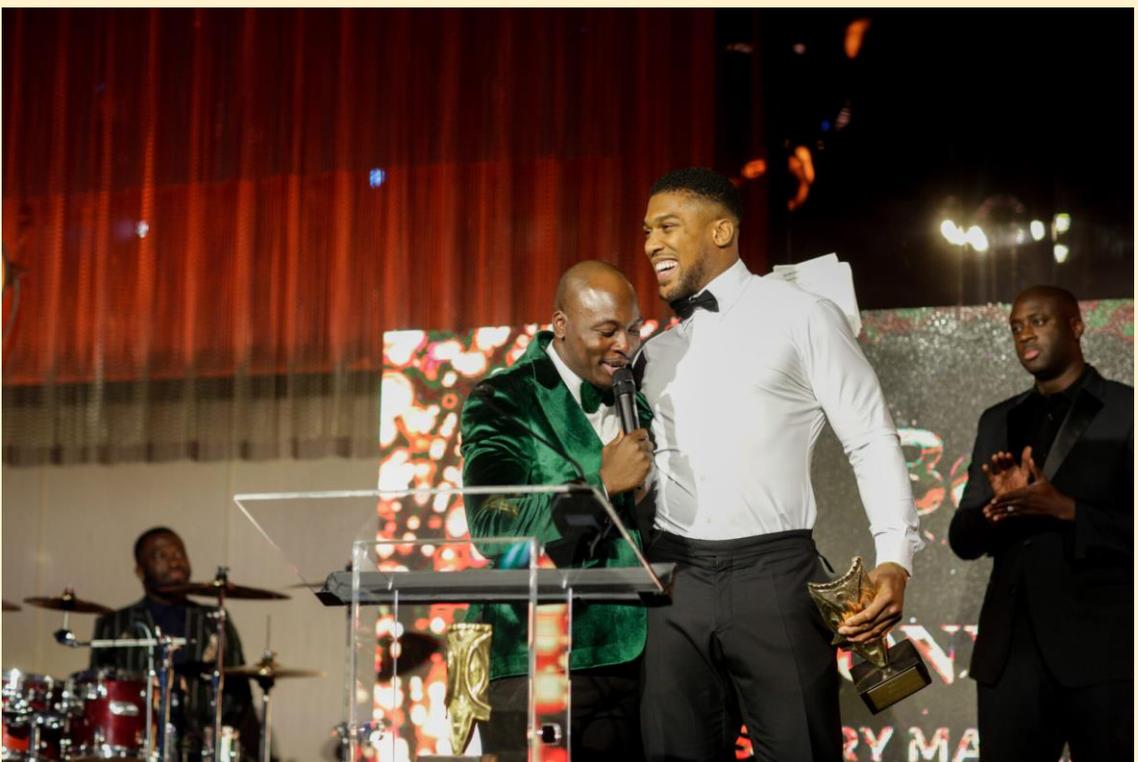
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The BoA awards was an evening of celebration and togetherness featuring sporting greats and leaders across business, entertainment and education alongside philanthropists; it honoured the amazing achievements of African and Caribbean heritage worldwide. With speeches from boxing legend Anthony Joshua and ITV News and Loose Women presenter Charlene White, the awards culminated in awarding the prestigious 'Baobab Award', named aptly after the strongest tree, Baobab, which recognises and celebrates the contributions and achievements of pioneering leaders across sports, entertainment and business.



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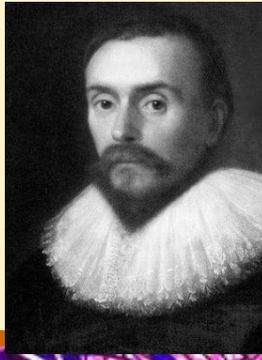
This year's awards saw appearances from tech CEO Dean Forbes, Crystal Palace manager Patrick Vieira, award winning musician and actor Kano plus many more high profile and notable figures attend. After a two year hiatus the invite-only BoA awards aimed to root people in the joy and wonder of Africa, the Caribbean and all its heritage.



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The Names of Our Houses & Why We Changed Them

The names of our old school Houses were; (Sir Francis) **Drake**, (Ernest) **Shackleton**, (William) **Harvey** and (Joshua) Reynolds. These people are all historically significant and they served us well for a long time and many people remember them fondly but they are not fully representative of our school. First of all, they are all white men and Sir Frances Drake was strongly linked to the slave trade.



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So, our Houses were rebranded. Students and staff voted and the following were chosen;

Rosa Parks
Anti-racist activist



Ofosu-Asare
Past Forest Hill Student



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Alan Turing
Computer scientist



Walter Tull
First Black British Army Officer



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Black History Month

2022



Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It has since been celebrated around the world and is still so important because so much of what we study in school and what is celebrated and promoted focusses predominantly on white people so Black History Month will still be important and relevant until all people are represented equally.

The Black History Month theme for this year is; **Time for Change: Actions Not Words**. This year, to celebrate Black History Month

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in school, we have;

- **Shared posters in tutor time of Black and Brown people past and present who have been influential, made a change and who's work deserves celebrating. There was a new person for every day in October (also featured in this magazine)**
- **Black History Month assembly**
- **Wear Red Day to raise money for Show Racism the Red Card charity**
- **Showing of the film 'Hidden Figures' to raise money for charity**
- **Olive Dining will be offering a Black History Month inspired menu on the 18th October**



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- **Launched this magazine!**

What more do you think we should be doing? What could we include next year to improve the way we deliver and celebrate Black History Month?



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salt, maggi, bay leaves and curry. Stir and fry for another 5-7 mins. Once completely cooked add 5.5 cups of water to the and bring to boil on medium heat. In a separate deep non-stick pan add 2tbspn of oil, heat and then add 4 cups of basmati rice and stir for 2-3 mins on a medium heat. Add the boiling water and tomato/pepper/onion/water mix and then turn heat down to lowest possible and cover pot with lid and steam for 25-30 mins.

Turn off heat and leave covered for 10 mins.

Mix rice up ensuring the tomato mix has blended in properly with the rice.

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Serve with meat/chicken/fish + plantain.



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Our plans for
2022-23

Next Steps

As a school we would like to see the following over the next school year;

- **All staff and students to feel confident in tackling racism and any racist language or behaviour they encounter**
- **More students to have their say and get involved in writing articles for this magazine**
- **Sharing good practice with other schools to ensure we are doing everything we can to be an anti-racist school**
- **Continue to de-colonise our curriculum**
- **Continue to work with the Then & Now project to promote anti-racism and**

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a positive self-reflective approach for all our students.

- Reduce the numbers of exclusions of our Black African and Caribbean boys

What more do you think we should be doing? Have your say and let us know.

If you are not sure what to do next, take the advice of Nova Reid;

“We can all do little things consistently that have real impact,” [Reid] stresses. “Stay curious, and avoid the debate of who’s right, who’s wrong and who gets to maintain innocence. Lead with humility. There are always going to be things you



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don't know or things to learn and do better by. But apologise, take responsibility and make change. That's the key thing for me. It's taking responsibility when we do get things wrong and knowing what you can do better next time."

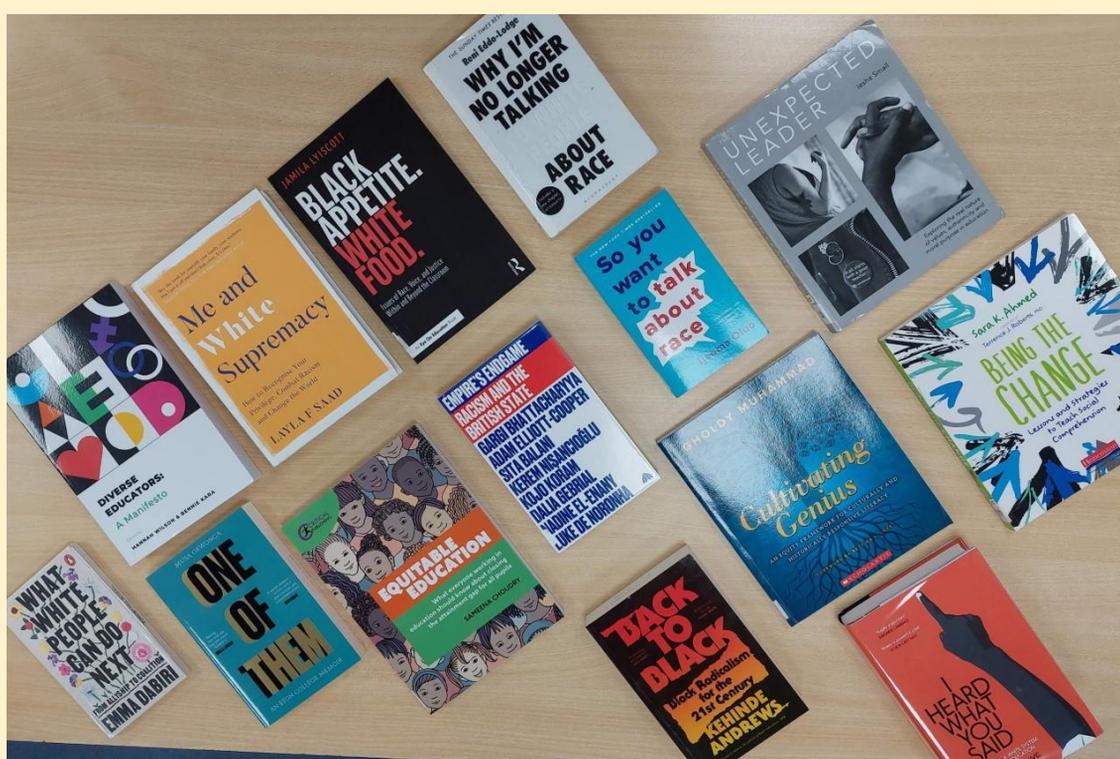
However, when we fall into the trap of not holding ourselves, and others around us, accountable, that's when we can slip back into apathetic habits.

"You have to make anti-racism an intentional practice because we're so used to not centring Blackness. Racism has been so normalised in society so we have to be intentional with unlearning that."



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Reading is key!



Black History Month FHS 2022
Be the change: Read, Think, Act!



Use the links below to the library
(click 'guest' if you have trouble logging in).

[Anti-racism](#)

[Black History](#)

[Black writers: biography & poetry](#)

[Black writers: fiction](#)

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Come along, have your say and get involved!

Have you ever experienced microaggressions?

Have you ever been called a derogatory racial slur?

Do you want to share your experiences about race with other people?

Do you want to talk about race in a safe space?

Do you have ideas about how we can keep tackling racism?

if you answered yes to any of these questions then you should come to the...

WHERE?
Ms Sparkes
room 037C

**SAFE
RACE
SPACE**

WHEN?
Monday
break for KS4
and Thursday
lunch for KS3

