

TAARC WORKSHOPS FOR SCHOOLS

2023 - 2024

TELFORD AFRICAN AND AFRO-CARIBBEAN RESOURCE CENTRE (TAARC)
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AN INTRODUCTION TO TAARC

Telford African and Afro-Caribbean Resource Centre (TAARC) is a small, non-profit community organisation that was founded in 2016 and has been a UK registered charity since 2017. Our goal is to showcase the best of African and Afro-Caribbean cultures, while raising awareness of Black history, with a vision of promoting a greater appreciation of diversity, and greater cross-cultural harmony, equality and inclusion in our society.

To this end, we host family-friendly community events throughout the year, which are well attended by several ethnic sub-communities within Telford. We have also delivered workshops through our hub in Hadley as well as in schools for the past five years. With these workshops, we seek to help schools to embed equality, diversity, and inclusion within their curriculum, while reinforcing British values and highlighting relevant protected characteristics.

We have achieved our highest impact to date in 2022, having delivered workshops to over 6,600 students, in over 20 learning institutions, involving nursery settings, primary and secondary schools in Telford and Wrekin and beyond.

Over the past five years, our sponsors and collaborators have included:

- Police and Crime Commissioner
- West Mercia Police
- Telford Elim Community Church
- Telford and Wrekin Council
- Telford and Wrekin Multicultural Development Team (MDT)
- Telford and Wrekin Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team
- Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Council
- Mitie, Hadley Learning Community
- Wellington Community Art Gallery (WelliArt)
- Wellington Orbit Cinema
- Avara Food Group
- Asda Donnington
- Morrisons Wellington
- Jules Convenience Store
- Bayfield Vehicle Hire



OUR TEAM – WHO DESIGN AND DELIVER WORKSHOPS



Natalie Headley
Founder of TAARC



Heather Reid
Board Member of TAARC

Natalie and Heather have worked together in Telford for five years, advising school leadership, hospital departments and local police teams on strategies for strengthening inclusivity. They have the unique advantage of working with multiple schools across Telford and Wrekin, and observing first-hand the systems that work well, and other systems.

Natalie brings a wealth of awareness of the experience of local families, having established strong, trust-based, inter-generational networks amongst local African and Caribbean families within Telford, over her 20-plus years as a Telford resident. These demographics are often described by local authorities as 'hard to reach'. Natalie has shared their victories, heard their frustrations and commiserated with their grief. Natalie has also developed strong alliances with the leadership of several other ethnic communities. So, Natalie embodies deep empathy and local knowledge and experience, which she relays in the classroom as she presents TAARC workshops.

Heather brings her background of Mathematics, Statistics, and more recently Art and Poetry, which influences the depth and breadth of our research, the clarity of our presentations, and the level of creativity incorporated in TAARC workshops. Heather has helped to develop workshops for children, teens and adults, as well as supplementary schools in the Caribbean, inner-city Birmingham, and Telford,



addressing audiences exceeding 2,000 participants. Heather served as the first Wellington Resident Poet during 2021-22 and inspired thousands of local residents during the isolation of lockdown, presenting her poetry both face-to-face and virtually. With her business partner, she runs a local community art gallery, presenting culturally diverse art workshops to children and adults, including the elderly. Heather also applies her personal experience of working with children on the autistic spectrum, thus strongly influencing TAARC's approach to engaging large numbers of diverse students with varying learning needs.

Natalie and Heather speak with passion and authenticity as they weave their own oral histories and local families' lived experiences into their presentations, while relating them directly to British values, thus making TAARC workshops an irreplaceable experience.

PHOTOS OF PAST WORKSHOPS

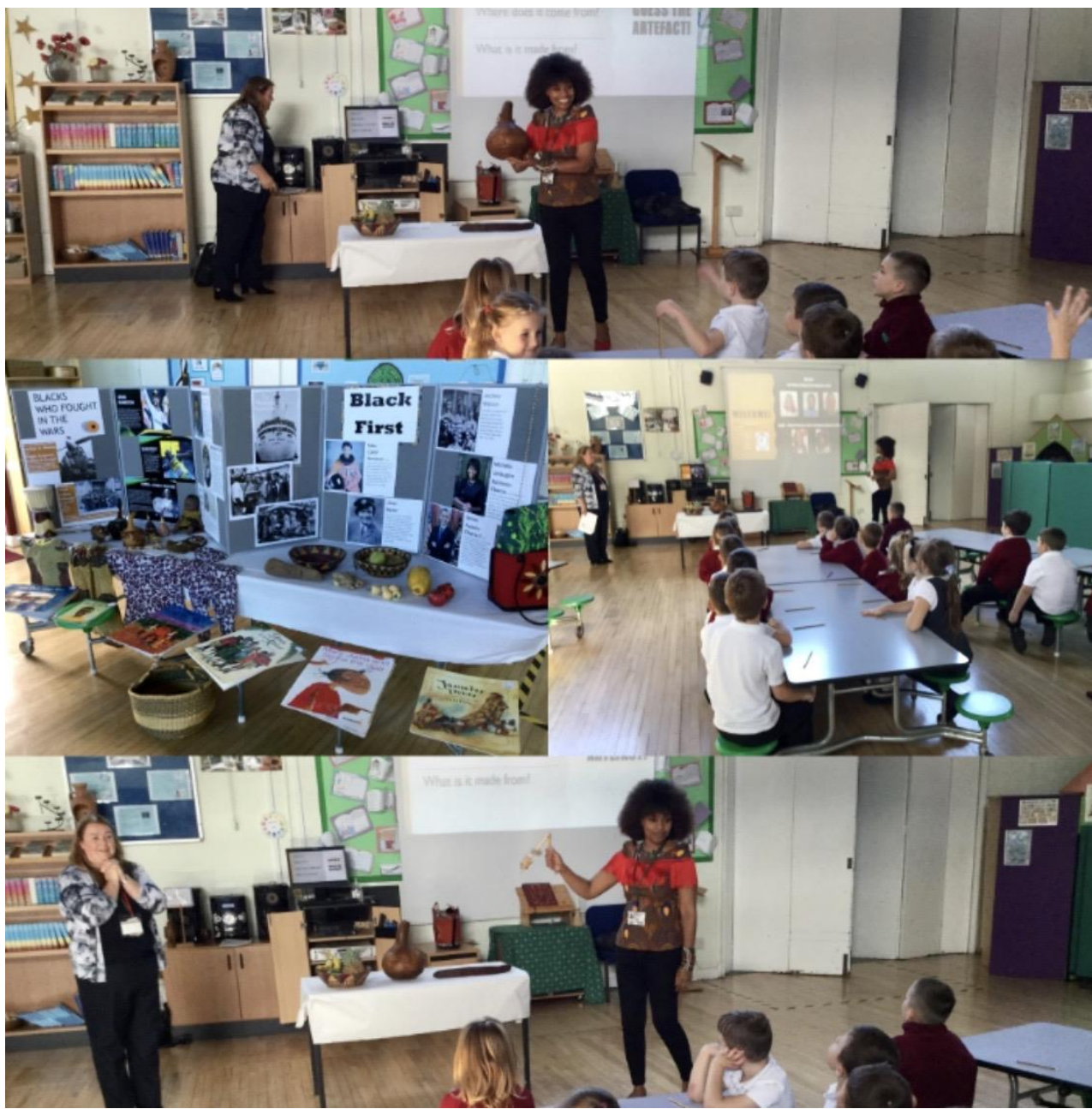
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MORE PHOTOS OF PAST WORKSHOPS



MORE PHOTOS OF PAST WORKSHOPS





MORE PHOTOS OF PAST WORKSHOPS





LIST OF WORKSHOPS

1. BLACK HISTORY MONTH WORKSHOPS

These highly popular workshops are offered in the month of **October**, normally in collaboration with the Telford & Wrekin (T&W) Multicultural Development Team, on a range of topics that are pre-set from year to year. They are typically free or subsidized to T&W mainstream schools, and offered on a first-come-first-served basis. They are usually funded by the T&W Council and/or West Mercia Police.

In 2023, the topic will be *'Windrush 75 – A Lasting Legacy'*. It includes an introduction to the Windrush Generation, the British civil rights movement, including the Bristol bus boycott which led to the 1965 Race Relations Act, as well as outstanding contributions by local T&W Windrush residents and their descendants.

2. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE BRITISH COLONIES TO THE WORLD WARS

Preferable Dates:

This workshop is available all year round. During **November**, it is themed as a **'Remembrance Workshop'**.

Topics:

For Reception, Y1, Y2 (possibly Y3 depending on schools' preference) we present a colourful picture book via PowerPoint with a simplified, child-friendly message. We then accompany this with pictures of Black icons of the Caribbean and Africa who fought alongside British soldiers. We also mention those who aided from other regions of the British colonies/Commonwealth. We will have an appropriate interactive activity to engage students. We end with a period of stillness as students watch a video of a bugler playing *'The Last Post'* in iconic British destinations.

For Y3 (depending on schools' preference), Y4, Y5, Y6 and secondary: we typically cover the following topics, in an age appropriate manner:

- What is Remembrance Day? (aka Armistice Day)
- Why is it commemorated?
- When is it commemorated? (and how)
- Why do we wear poppies?
- A brief age-appropriate, history of WW1 and 2
- Experiences of children at the time - seeking to make it relevant and relatable – in the UK and in various African countries (without gory detail)
- Numbers of soldiers from African and Caribbean countries in the British Empire who fought alongside British soldiers. Unique experience and contribution of the African and Caribbean soldiers.
- Information on some contributions of the Indian Subcontinent (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, etc.) and other regions of the British colonies/Commonwealth.



- OPTIONAL – 2022 was the year of the former Queen's Platinum Jubilee (and death) we could also inform students of how she chose to serve as a mechanic in the military, while a princess, while highlighting African/Caribbean people who also served as mechanics.
- OPTIONAL – As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush in 2023, we may include a video testimonial of a Windrush member who served in the Royal Airforce.
- OPTIONAL – We have modified presentations for Year 6 and secondary - we may provide information on some of the inequalities within the armed forces – allocation of responsibilities, roles, remuneration – between the British and those who were from the colonies in Africa/Caribbean/Indian Subcontinent, the mutiny that resulted within allied forces, and how it was handled by the authorities. We explore the lessons we can learn and apply from this portion of history, as well as the wider conflict.

3. CONTRIBUTIONS OF ICONIC BLACK WOMEN TO BRITAIN AND BEYOND – PAST AND PRESENT

Preferable Dates:

This workshop is available all year round. During **March**, it is themed as an **International Women's Day workshop**.

Topics:

For Reception, Y1, Y2 (possibly Y3 depending on schools' preference) we present a colourful picture book via PowerPoint with a simplified, child-friendly message, highlighting the life of one (or a few) Black women, with accompanying video. We then follow this up with pictures of current Black icons – British and global – who students may be familiar with, as well as images of the less familiar global Black icons. We constantly encourage feedback and engagement from students, keeping it relevant and accessible to their age group. We cover aspects of Black female fashion, including hairstyles, body art, and styles of ear and neck jewellery.

Lots of resources tend to be available on Black American icons; we do not omit these, yet we prioritise Black British icons, as well as African and Caribbean.

We reinforce the importance of British values acknowledging that this world has different cultures and we show all tolerance and respect.

We will ask students to express what job/service they see themselves doing when they get older.

For Y3 (depending on schools' preference), Y4, Y5, Y6 and secondary: we typically cover the following topics:

- What is International Women's Day?
- Why is it commemorated?
- When is it commemorated?
- A brief age-appropriate history of the progression of women's rights; age-appropriate discussions introducing to the concept of gender inequality and practical ways we can seek to correct that.
- Traditional versus progressive/modern perceptions on acceptable roles for women.
- Highlighting Black female icons in Telford, Britain and globally.



- We will ask students to express what job/service do they see themselves doing when they get older.

4. CONTRIBUTIONS OF ICONIC BLACKS TO BRITAIN AND BEYOND – PAST AND PRESENT

Preferable Dates:

This workshop is available all year round. We present outstanding British and global Black icons.

Topics:

For Reception, Y1, Y2 (possibly Y3 depending on schools' preference) we present a colourful picture book via PowerPoint with a simplified, child-friendly message, highlighting the life of one (or a few) Black people – male and female, with an accompanying video.

We present a brief history of Blacks in the UK, including but not limited to the Windrush generation. We accompany this with pictures of current Black icons – British and global – who students may be familiar with, as well as images of the less familiar global Black icons. We cover influential figures in various fields, including politics, business, literature, the arts, entertainment, sports, environment/conservation, and science.

Lots of resources tend to be available on Black American icons; we do not omit these, yet we prioritise Black British icons, as well as African and Caribbean.

We reinforce the importance of British values acknowledging that this world has different cultures and we show all tolerance and respect. We present famous inventions of Black icons, in an age-appropriate manner. We will ask students to express what job/service they see themselves doing when they get older.

Similar topics are covered for older students – **Y3 through to secondary** – modified based on the age grouping.



5. ICONIC BLACK ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Preferable Dates:

This workshop is available all year round. It is particularly relevant in the month of **April**, as Earth Day is commemorated in April, (or in **June** when World Tree Day is commemorated).

Topics:

We present the work of iconic environmentalists including Wangari Maathai of Kenya, who received a Nobel Peace award for her work, having founded The Green Belt Movement which planted 51 million trees in Kenya.

6. THE WINDRUSH GENERATION

Preferable Dates:

This workshop is available all year round. It is particularly relevant in the month of **June**, as Windrush Day is commemorated annually on 22nd of June.

Topics:

We present the 'who, what, when, where, why and how' of the Windrush generation, including information on local Telford families, as well as the contributions of renowned Windrush members or children of the Windrush generation, with significant national influence.

This will be done in an age-appropriate manner, as follows:

- Colourful picture book presentation for EYFS, Y1 and Y2 students (possibly Y3, depending on the school's preference)
- PowerPoint with video and archival images for older ones
- Sensitive discussions on past and present inequalities
- We discuss the range of emotions experienced by the Windrush generation and their children; we define the term 'barrel children'
- For secondary students, we explain the more recent 'Windrush scandal'.
- The importance of British values: respect and tolerance for all.

For all age groups, we include several visual aids/artefacts, e.g. exotic foods, fashion and music of Africa and the Caribbean.



7. BESPOKE WORKSHOPS

We offer bespoke, age-appropriate workshops all year round based on the needs of individual schools. In the past, we have offered:

- **‘Conversations on Race’ - Part 1 and Part 2**
- **‘Language/Terminology to Enhance Inter-Racial and Cross-Cultural Relationships at School’**
- **‘Let’s Take a Peek at the Art and Culture of Mozambique’**
- **‘Strategies for Understanding and Overcoming Unconscious Biases’.**

Some of these workshops include small-group restorative work, involving those perceived as ‘victims’ and/or ‘offenders/perpetrators’ in one room, or any other target groups; we highlight that there are not always clear boundaries between these roles – sometimes one individual can experience/function in both roles. We discuss terms such as: racism – individual and institutional, racist incident, unconscious bias, prejudice, and discrimination, with strong use of visual aids and engaging exercises. We highlight the importance of reflection, respect and tolerance.

We highlight (in particular for the third topic) that language is dynamic, and acceptable terms change over time; we point out the difficulty/clumsiness of some of the terms/labels used, and that some do not have universal acceptance.

We are also available to do tailored workshops with members of staff and student leadership groups.

CALENDAR OF SCHOOL WORKSHOPS/PUBLIC EVENTS – 2023/24

Month	Themed School Workshops/Public Events
September 2023	
October	Black History Month workshops and evening of culturally relevant entertainment
November	Remembrance Day workshops
December	Community Christmas meal & entertainment
January 2024	
February	
March	International Women’s Day workshops
April	Iconic Black Environmentalists
May	
June	Windrush Generation workshops
July	Annual Family Fun Day, HLC grounds
August	

This does not include our regular weekly or monthly social/physical events, available to subsets of the community.



TESTIMONIALS

This was our first time participating in BHM and we thoroughly enjoyed it. The resources were really clear and easy to follow and the workshops were engaging and interesting. The children loved the portrait competition. There was a buzz around the school as children learnt new topics and themes and were encouraged to think deeply and consider their responses to difficult issues. Thank you for your support.

Primary School Head Teacher

It was noticeable how enthusiastic the team were and how relaxed and at ease they made everything. Thank you for giving staff (EYFS) advice on how to approach teaching about significant people.

Primary School Deputy Head Teacher

...the workshop gave me and the students a greater understanding... and was an important reminder that Black history should not be focused on for 1 month of the year but throughout all our teaching. The children were talking about it and asking further questions. It was well presented and interesting. We look forward to the next one!

Secondary School English Teacher and EAL Coordinator

I was recently lucky enough to watch Heather Reid deliver an assembly ... and to say the children were transfixed would be an understatement. Heather had pitched the assembly perfectly and the children were in awe. It was wonderful to share which countries and cultures supported England in WW1 and 2.

Primary School Music Lead

During Black History month TAARC have been working hand in hand with the Council over the past three years to deliver pupil friendly, interactive, engaging workshops which help pupils develop their understanding of Black History, culture and life here in the UK from a community viewpoint. Their good rapport with staff and pupils sparks a desire to learn more!

Telford Multicultural Development Team Member

For the last two years, TAARC have delivered informative and engaging workshops at our school teaching children about Black History. In 2020, it was the first opportunity for many of our pupils to study Black History. Upon arrival, they were able to view displays showing a vast range of African art, music, fashion, food, cultural and heritage items as well as showcasing the importance of prominent Black figures in history. The children also had the opportunity to watch a video explaining what Black History is, where it comes from and how Black History encompasses many centuries of influence that has impacted our world today. In 2021, the focus of the workshops was on the Windrush Generation, providing pupils with the chance to learn about what, where, who, when and why. Both the children and staff found the workshops educational and enlightening and provided extremely positive feedback about the sessions. Natalie and Heather, who delivered the sessions, were extremely friendly and ensured the content was age-appropriate and accessible for all children. Additionally, the pupils really enjoyed participating in the art competition, and seeing their artwork publicly showcased was a particular highlight. We are really looking forward to working with TAARC again this year and highly recommend booking their workshops.

Primary School Head Teacher



PRICING OF WORKSHOPS – 2023/24

All workshops (except the free Black History Month workshops) are priced as shown below.

Prices may be subject to change, depending on any additional funding we receive during the year to subsidise costs, or the long-term association with a particular school.

- **£100 for a single session up to one hour, or**
- **£250 for 3 sessions up to one hour each (presented consecutively in one day), or**
- **£400 for 5 sessions up to one hour each (presented in one day).**

There may be a small travel charge for return journeys of 30 or more miles.

For the Black History Month workshops in 2023, the subsidised pricing is as follows:

- **£65 for a single session up to one hour, or**
- **£190 for 3 sessions up to one hour each (presented consecutively in one day), or**
- **£300 for 5 sessions up to one hour each (presented in one day).**

For workshops hosted using the facilities at our Hub in Hadley (which has a large screen for audio-visual PowerPoint presentations, and comfortably seats 125 participants).

For presentations done away from our Hub, in T&W schools, there is an additional daily, flat-rate travel fee of £20.

To make a booking, or to discuss your unique requirements, please email: contactus@taarc.uk
We sincerely look forward to partnering with you to enrich the experience of students and staff in schools.

Thank you.