

Black History Month



Fabrice Muamba

An English retired professional footballer, Fabrice played for Arsenal, Birmingham City and Bolton Wanderers as a central midfielder. Born in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo), he moved to England at the age of 11 and subsequently played for England up to under-21 level. Despite having arrived in Britain aged 11 unable to speak English, Fabrice achieved 10 GCSEs and A-levels in English, French and mathematics. In March 2012, Fabrice suffered a cardiac arrest during a televised FA Cup match between Bolton and Tottenham Hotspur, from which he recovered despite his heart having stopped for 78 minutes. Following medical advice, he announced his retirement from professional football in August 2012. Since retirement Fabrice has achieved degree with honours in journalism, worked in media and devoted himself to coaching the next generation at Rochdale. He said, 'I have much to be thankful for. I thank God that I am alive.'

Craig Pinkney

Growing up in Birmingham, Craig is renowned and respected for his work with young people both locally and across the nation. Working with challenging young people, offenders, victims of gang violence and disengaged youth for 15 years, led to his specialism in criminology. With a degree in Youth & Community Development. Master's in Criminology and a PhD underway, he is respected as a lecturer, trainer, speaker and mentor. A strategic thinker and advisor to multiple agencies, Craig recently founded Solve: The Centre for Youth Violence.

Diane Abbott

A British politician, Diane has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Hackney North and Stoke Newington since 1987. A member of the Labour Party and Labour Party Black Sections, Diane has served as the party's Shadow Home Secretary from 2016 to 2020. The first black woman elected to Parliament; she is the longest-serving black MP in the House of Commons. Diane is an advocate for human rights, civil liberties, women's rights and speaks up for the people of Hackney.

Bruce Dyer

Born in Ilford, Bruce was football mad from a young age. He started his career in the Watford youth system as a schoolboy in 1990. His hard work paid off! Incredibly, he became the first teenager to be sold for £1 million pounds in 1994 to Crystal Palace as their striker. A committed Christian, he played professionally until 2008, scoring a total of 119 goals throughout his career. He now leads Barnsley Love Life Ministry with his wife, engaging communities, schools and prisons through a range of football, music and faith events.

Alfred Enoch

Born in Westminster, London, Alfred is an English-Brazilian actor who followed in his father's screen acting footsteps. He is best known for his great work in the Harry Potter film series and in the ABC legal drama television series, How to Get Away with Murder. Alfred is quoted saying "There is a life outside of social media, which I'm very happy to embrace". He advocates for Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation (CSSF), a cultural education charity dedicated to transform the lives of young people across the UK.

Andrez Harriott

An urban artist who found success in the 1990s as part of the British RnB band Damage, Andrez sold over 2 million records and toured the world. A qualified Criminologist and Sociologist, Andrez is committed to working with vulnerable and at-risk young people in schools and custodial institutions. A husband, father, Christian and founder of the Liminality Group, he strongly believes in raising self-esteem and advocates for early intervention. For your contribution to music, your passion for young people and your ability to remain humble across all fields, Andrez – we celebrate you!