

# LEARN ABOUT BRITAIN

## CONTEMPORARY BRITISH HISTORY ADVISORY PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE – SEPTEMBER 2023

Learn About Britain is new organisation educating young people, new migrants and the wider public about British history, citizenship, culture and values. Core to this mission is a commitment to education about our country's history which is inclusive and representative of all who make up our nation. With this in mind, during 2023-24 we plan to develop educational materials, teacher training and consultancy for schools and educational institutions that meet this commitment and do so in a manner which is research-informed, pedagogically cutting edge and rooted in the historical discipline. We believe it is important that Britain's diverse and challenging histories and contemporary debates are faced head on and that our young people should have the opportunity to learn about them in a rigorous, non-judgemental and sensitive way. Furthermore, we believe that where young people feel moved to respond these histories and their impact on contemporary Britain, they should be supported and empowered to do so through social action programmes.

Core to our historical education principles are:

- The classroom being a safe space for enquiry and discussion of both historical issues and their contemporary impacts and equipping students with the skills and language to engage in such discussion
- The discipline of history being upheld and focused on enquiry-based learning, promoting creative and critical thinking, and placing the student at the heart of the learning experience
- Presenting history in an inclusive and representative manner, using a wide range of source materials, individual testimony and experiences, varied interpretation which enable students to develop their own conclusions in an authentic manner.
- Enabling and empowering students to be able to respond to their learning in meaningful ways.

### **Our team**

We were founded by Joe Hayman, the former Chief Executive of the PSHE Association and former Managing Director of the Holocaust Educational Trust. Joe is also the author of two books about modern Britain – British Voices and British Journey.

Our Head of History is Ben Fuller, a passionate educator and historian whose career has spanned the state school system, higher education, and at national level working with educational charities, publishers and providers.

We have a talented and ambitious Board with a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences all committed to ensuring young people, new migrants and the wider public have the best possible opportunity to learn about Britain. Further information on our team can be found [here](#).

### **Advisory Panel**

We are recruiting an Advisory Panel who can offer expert support, guidance and challenge to us as we develop educational the materials and resources which will form our history offer to schools. The panel will be comprised of a diverse collective of historians, educationalists, and practitioners who have expertise in relevant fields relating to our work. We would like the group to include members from across different disciplines and perspectives, the nations of the United Kingdom and diverse ethnic, religious, social and cultural backgrounds.

The Advisory Panel will be asked to:

- Attend quarterly meetings with the Head of History to advise, review and feedback on:
  - Educational principles and practices
  - Topics and areas for developing resources
  - Historical knowledge and expertise
- Review documents and materials in advance of meetings
- Connect our work to your networks
- Engage in occasional 'critical friend' discussions with the Head of History by appointment/based on availability

Meetings may be held individually or as a whole panel and will be conducted outside of regular teaching hours. Meetings will be held online unless otherwise necessary.

### **Your commitment**

We recognise how busy people are and would seek to minimise the time we ask for. As a minimum we would request:

- Attendance at two-hour quarterly meetings
  - held online unless otherwise arranged
  - meetings may be arranged on an individual or whole panel basis depending on availability and discussion focus
- One hour preparation before each meeting with papers sent at least a week in advance
- Occasional requests for specific aspects of work where you have capacity. E.g.
  - review a lesson plan and give verbal or emailed feedback
  - calls to discuss aspects of work which touch upon your expertise

Beyond the regular scheduled meetings we will always aim to work around your availability.

This is a voluntary role although we will always cover any costs you incur in the role. For applicants who are not in full time employment, have practical requirements such as childcare or who are not in a position to volunteer their time, a limited number of bursaries to aid participation will be made available. Please note on your expression of interest email if you would need a bursary in order to participate.

### **Expressions of interest in joining our Advisory Panel**

If you would like to play a big part in shaping a new and exciting development in the British educational landscape and feel you have the knowledge, expertise and passion that can help us, please email our Head of History Ben Fuller ([ben@learnaboutbritain.uk](mailto:ben@learnaboutbritain.uk)) with your CV/biography and a short cover email explaining your interest in the initiative and identifying any areas where you feel you could add particular value. We are considering applications on a rolling basis. If you have any questions, please email Ben, or to find out more about our work, visit [our website](#).