

Member Spotlight

Leighton Grant

Oakleaf Floor 4



About ME:

By day I spend my time heading up technical operations for the Oakleaf Partnership group who have had the pleasure of my service for the last 11 years.

I am not all work though, in my other life, I am a happy husband and father of two with a keen passion for sports, everything from MMA to F1 (I would say ultra and obstacle course runs but those days are long past and an even longer story!!!). I Love food and drink but ultimately good company trumps all.

If I've missed anything out, I am happy to divulge over a coffee. I'm rarely unapproachable, (but biscuits help).

About OAKLEAF:

Oakleaf Partnership is the UK's largest Independent HR, Reward and Payroll talent Agency, both in the UK and internationally.

Founded in 2005, we have built enduring relationships with HR functions across every sector; thanks in part to our expertise, but also our collaborative approach.

We listen. We share our insights. We take the time to truly understand the culture of an organisation.

Want to be featured for next month? Email your Community team at poultry@wework.com

wework

Black History Month

At WeWork, we strive to be a place where every individual – regardless of their background, colour of their skin, gender, political or religious beliefs, sexual orientation or difference of any kind – is welcomed, included and cherished.

Below are some of our members here at No.1 Poultry that discuss why Black History is so important, and why we all should engage with Black histories, go beyond discussions of racism and slavery, and highlight Black leaders and accomplishments.



Marvin Tabi

Nationality:
Cameroon

Black History Month is important to me because each year we are able to hear of more and more stories and achievements by Black people past and present and how these achievements have and are influencing our society and culture today.

Throughout the month, I am able to learn about and experience other black cultures beyond my African Heritage. Celebrating Black History month is even more important today as issues of race and inequality have really come to the fore in the last couple of years. BHM can serve as an opportunity to educate our society and challenge more people to speak up against the injustices faced by Black People.

What makes me proud to be Black?: My vibrant African heritage, diverse culture, food



Jess Osborne

Nationality:
Jamaica and Guyana

Black History Month is important to me as we remember important people and events in history of our African diaspora fighting centuries allowing us to embrace the respect, dignity and equality we deserve.

What makes me proud to be Black?

Embracing my heritage and being able to share that with others



Leighton Grant

Nationality: Black British (St Lucian & Jamaican Heritage)

Black history means a lot to me, as someone born of mixed Caribbean heritage and as a father; being able to understand the rich tapestry of my culture and the history's influence on the here and now serves as a celebration and reminder of what came before. Standard history taught to me in school never really spoke to the breadth of the black experience; and I can see why some still question their sense of belonging; black history month provides an opportunity to shine a light on this and spark some interesting conversations and provoking thought pieces. It is great to black culture represented in all of its varieties; it's that old adage of "if you see it you can be it"

For me, for my children and the wider world at large, "black history" is also white history and it's important to understand that it is our shared history that has brought us to this point. Though your history may not define you, I believe it definitely shapes you.

What makes you proud to be black? There is no one thing that makes me proud to be black. I take pride in my history and culture as it is part of what makes me who I am.



Brenda Bokanga

Nationality:
African (DRC CONGO)

Though it should be celebrated everyday, black history is a month to celebrate black freedom, a time to appreciate and be thankful for our ancestors and the people who fought and paved the way for our brothers and sisters, to live in a world where we're able to express who we are and where we're from...unapologetically.

What makes me proud to be black? The love our community shares and my culture