

Teachers Notes

Marvin Rees

Slide 1 – title slide

Slide 2 – the role of the mayor. Explaining what the role of the mayor is and how this linked to national politics

Slide 3 – Background info about Marvin Rees for discussion

Slide 4 – see Marvin Rees poem worksheet with questions

Slides 5-8 – Debate on the effective of the leadership of a mayor. Two sides to the debate (see table on slide 5). Suggestions for evidence to use on slides 6-8. Possibility for students to research this too. Suggested questions to consider on slide 8.

Slide 9 – plenary asking students to summarise where the power lies within a city.

Please find the text for the poem “Brother Marvin” by Lawrence Hoo on the following page.

Brother Marvin

As we achieve through standing on the shoulder of all who stood before us
We must continue this legacy for all those who trusted as well as lost trust

Marvin Rees is one such person who had much to bear
After becoming Europe's first African Caribbean Mayor

Marvin Rees was born in Bristol in 1972 at the height of the UK's Sus Laws
When incarcerating African Caribbean men due to suspicion was a just cause

The signs in the windows that greeted Marvin's father on his arrival had all disappeared
Racism was now hidden from plain view while still being confronted daily and feared

Being born of a Jamaican father and English mother was not widely accepted
It was looked down on by many, leaving families feeling shunned and rejected

The inner city of Bristol became a safe haven for the African Caribbean community
This is where Marvin's family settled as it offered them a sense of belonging and security

But even within this community
Marvin was a member of a new minority

Who were classed as half-breed or half-caste
Which could have you classed as an outcast

Growing up in the inner city of Bristol also exposed Marvin to the extreme divisions
of wealth and opportunity within the city
Just a mile away there was another life where crime wasn't permitted; the streets were kept
clean
And the houses looked pretty

The inner city streets of Bristol were neglected and suffered from numerous acts of crime
That corrupted children before they had an understanding of life resulting in many doing
time

Marvin's mother's care, love and affection is a clear reflection on
the direction Marvin took in life leading to his election

Marvin took a route that steered him away from the streets
This resulted in him striving for and achieving great feats

Marvin learned discipline from an early age through joining his local boxing gym
Along with attending church this installed faith, self-belief and what it takes to win

Through these disciplines Marvin focused his will to excel and create change
Believing life's injustices were unjust and that he could work to break the chains

Graduating from several universities, including gaining a fellowship at Yale
Marvin progressed instead of accepting the stereotypes that had labelled him to fail

Marvin moved on to work for the BBC, the NHS and Labour Party
Fuelling his passion to work towards a City that is equal and free

Marvin has stayed true to this cause
And now reaps the rewards
Of following his dreams
As all can be more
Than at first it seems

Marvin Rees was elected Mayor of Bristol on the 5 th of May 2016
Marking an incredible achievement for one who followed a dream

Now Marvin Rees's legacy has truly begun
A son of Bristol who became Europe's number one

Lawrence Hoo