



FHS

RAINBOW!

Forest Hill School's LGBTQ+ magazine!

Issue 13 – 31 January 2022



SNEAK PEEK AT WHAT'S INSIDE...

- LGBTQ+ Ancient & Modern History
- Role model of the month- Sally Ride
- LGBTQ+ book- *Coming Out Stories*
- ...and much more!

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be proud of
who you are.



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HELLO FOREST HILL SCHOOL!

Happy LGBTQ+ History Month!
Every year we celebrate this important month with a range of different events. This year we have focussed on LGBTQ+ ancient & modern history, in order to explore figures in cultures across history and across the world. This is so enlightening and we hope you enjoy it!

Forest Hill School is committed to improving equality for everyone. If you have any ideas on how we can continue to work on this, please do let us know.

#equalitymattersatFHS

We would love to hear from anyone that would like to contribute to the magazine. Please contact our editors, Ms Suart and Mr Cox:
e.suart@foresthillschool.co.uk
m.cox@foresthillschool.co.uk

We hope you enjoy this edition!

Ms Suart & Mr Cox



Some highlights
from last edition

LIFE AS A
UNICORN

Under the new Stonewall
awards criteria, we are
the **FIRST SCHOOL IN**
LONDON to achieve the
Stonewall Gold award. We
are also only the **SECOND**
SECONDARY SCHOOL IN
THE COUNTRY to be given

Gold!

WOW!!



**SCHOOL & COLLEGE
CHAMPION AWARDS
GOLD 2021/23**

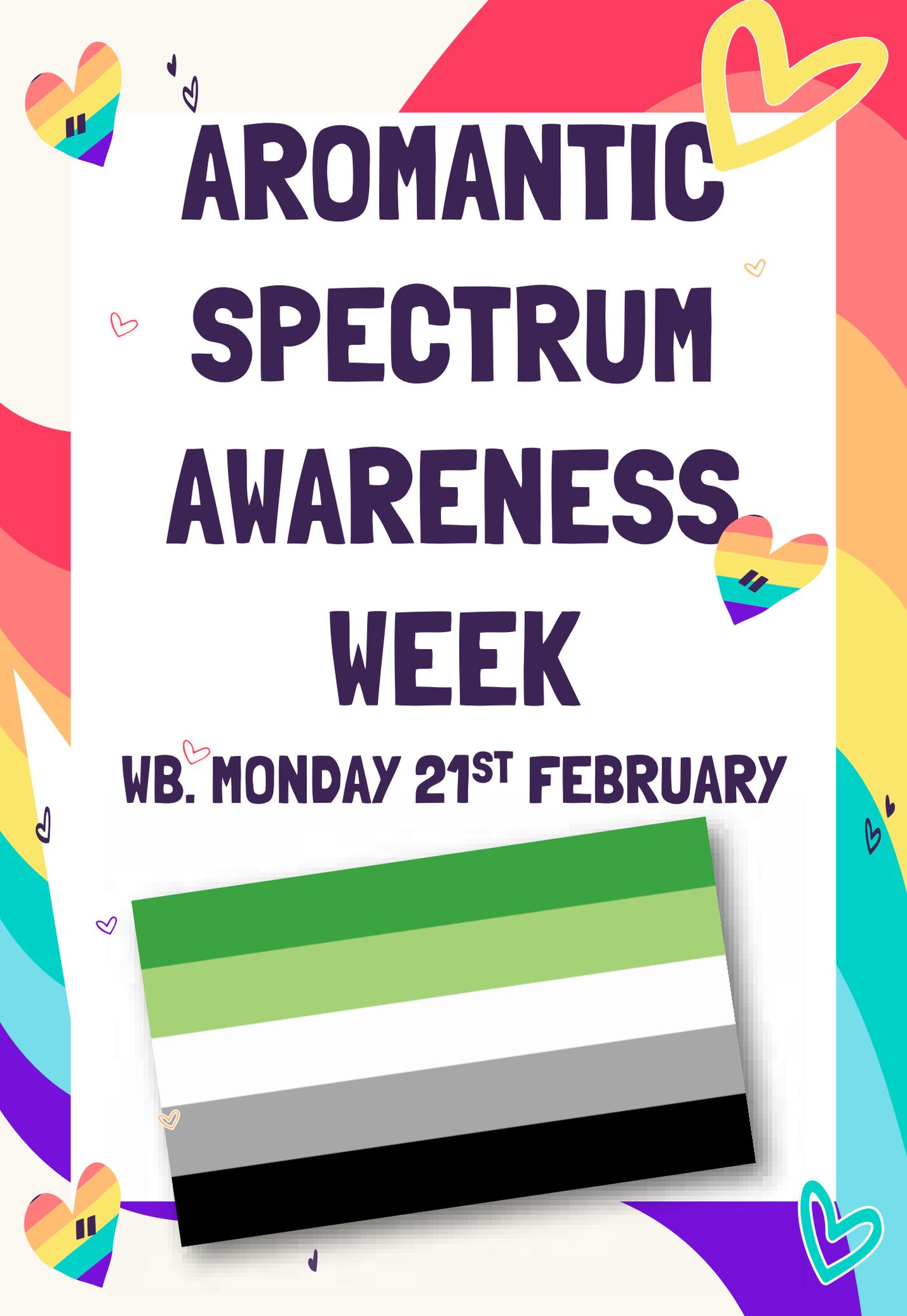
**SCHOOL & COLLEGE
CHAMPION AWARDS
GOLD 2021/23**

Celebrate



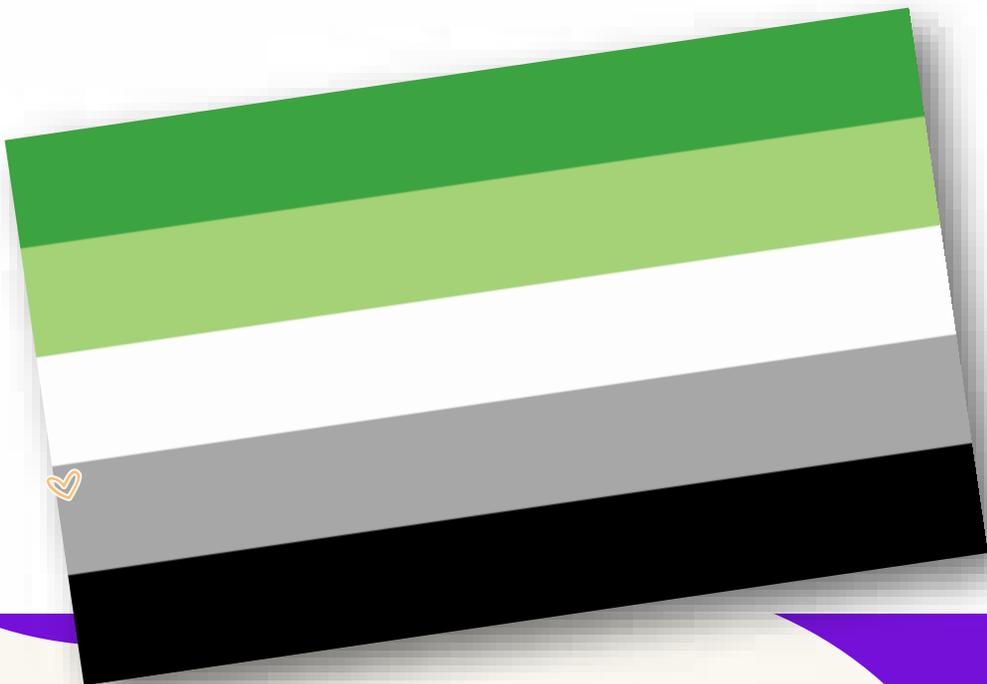
LGBTQ+ History
Month!
ALL OF FEBRUARY!



The poster features a white central area with dark blue text. The background is decorated with colorful, curved stripes in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, and purple. Several rainbow hearts are scattered around the text, some containing a black double-line symbol. Small, faint hearts are also visible. At the bottom, a large, tilted rectangle displays the aromantic spectrum flag, which consists of five horizontal stripes: dark green, light green, white, grey, and black.

AROMANTIC SPECTRUM AWARENESS WEEK

WB. MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY



LGBTQ+ NEWS

Munroe Bergdorf has become the first out trans woman to grace the cover of Cosmopolitan UK.

Read all about it!

The model and activist appears on the cover of Cosmopolitan UK's 50th anniversary edition, beaming next to the caption: "Munroe Bergdorf shows us how to change the world".



DC's Legends of Tomorrow introduces TV's first asexual superhero

Michaela Jaé (Mj) Rodriguez has become the first ever trans actor to win a Golden Globe, taking home the award for Best Actress in a Drama TV Series for her role in Pose.

Rodriguez, who played Blanca Evangelista in the groundbreaking FX series, made history at the Golden Globes on Sunday 9th January.

FHS NEWS

Read all about it!

The Armada Project is finally relaunched!



In 2019, the Pride Ambassador group pitched for money from Team London to run a project exploring the Armada portrait of Queen Elizabeth I. The pitch was so successful that **we won £1000!** In January 2020 we started to run the project but this was completely halted by Covid-19!..



We have now finally relaunched the project with a group of 12 pupils across KS3 and together we have been exploring the following question: **'How does our clothing link to power, gender and post-colonialism?'**

FHS NEWS

Read all about it!

The Armada Project is finally relaunched!



Ms Suart and Mr Cox have been running sessions after-school and have also been working with **external designer, Sebastian Freeburn, who works in costume at the Royal Opera House** and has a wealth of experience in fashion design. His creations have been featured in publications such as Vogue Italia and Sunday Times Style, as worn by **Hollywood actress Helena Bonham Carter!** We are so lucky and thrilled that he has agreed to work with us!

The project has begun with four after-school sessions and will then run throughout the rest of the year with **pupils designing their own costumes** in response to the discussions in the sessions. We will work towards a showcase of the work in the Summer term and will also be doing some **fundraising for METRO charity**, a London charity whose work includes **supporting LGBTQ+ young people.**

FHS NEWS

Read all about it!

The Armada Project is finally relaunched!



Here are some of the collages the group has made so far!



**LGBTQ+ ROLE
MODEL OF THE
MONTH**



Sally Ride

(Astronaut/ Lesbian)

Sally Ride was the first lesbian astronaut ever!



"The best advice I can give anybody is to try to understand who you are and what you want to do"



"I didn't succumb to the stereotype that science wasn't for girls."





LGBTQ+ WORD OF THE MONTH

Aromantic

A person who does not experience romantic attraction. Some aromantic people experience sexual attraction, while others do not. Aromantic people who experience sexual attraction or occasional romantic attraction **might also use terms such as gay, bi, lesbian, straight and queer in conjunction with asexual** to describe the direction of their attraction.

Why have we chosen this word?

The week beginning **21st February is Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week.** We would like to make sure that everyone at FHS is knowledgeable on many different LGBTQ+ identities and this includes people who identify as aromantic!

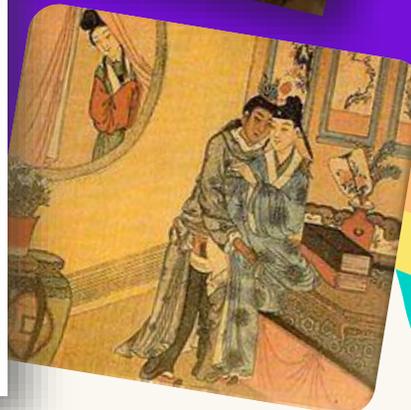


FEATURE OF THE MONTH

February is LGBTQ+ History Month.

In honour of this, this month's feature looks at...

LGBTQ+ Ancient & Modern History





Some common questions

As Pride Ambassadors, **we are always here to answer any questions** which you might have about anything to do with LGBTQ+ identities and issues. However, when these issues are discussed, **we are often asked questions which imply that being LGBTQ+ is something new**. For example:

When were the first gay people?

How long have people been trans?

How long have there been LGBTQ+ people?

Why has this only been discussed recently?

For this year's History Month we have decided to focus on **LGBTQ+ ancient and modern history** across the world, looking for clues within art, photography and literature which reveal that **there have always been LGBTQ+ people across history, in cultures around the world.**



Let's travel through history: Sicily & Egypt

c. 9,600 BCE – c.5,000 BCE

Sicily

Mesolithic rock art in Sicily depicts male figures in pairs that have been interpreted variously, including as hunters, acrobats, religious initiates, and **depictions of male homosexuality.**

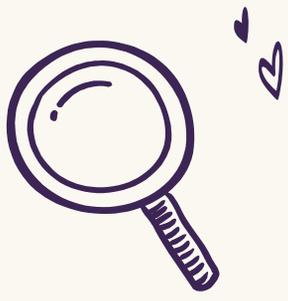


c. 2494–2345 BC

Nyankh-khnum and Khnum-hotep

Khnumhotep and Niankhkhnum are believed to be the **first recorded same-sex couple in history.** Both men had families of their own with children and wives, but when they died their families apparently decided to bury them together in one and the same mastaba tomb.





Let's travel through history: China & Greece

Ancient China

Homosexuality in China has been recorded since approximately 600 BCE. Homosexuality was mentioned in many famous works of Chinese literature.

There are also **descriptions of lesbians in some history books.** It is believed homosexuality was popular in the Song, Ming and Qing dynasties.



**630 BC
Sappho**

Sappho, a **Greek lyric poet** born on the island of Lesbos, was born between 630–612 BCE, and died around 570 BCE.

The Alexandrians included her in the list of nine lyric poets. She was **famous for her lesbian themes**, giving her name and that of her homeland to the very definition of lesbianism (and the lesser used term of "sapphism").



Let's travel through history: India & Native America

Indian History

Throughout Hindu and Vedic texts there are many descriptions of saints, demigods, and even the Supreme Lord **transcending gender norms and manifesting multiple combinations of sex and gender.**

In South Asia the **Hijra** are a group of third-gender, or transgender people who live a feminine role. Hijra may be born male or intersex, and some may have been born female.



Native American Indigenous peoples

Among Indigenous peoples of the Americas prior to European colonization, a number of nations had **respected roles for homosexual, bisexual, and gender-nonconforming individuals**; in some Indigenous communities, these social and spiritual roles are still observed.





Let's travel through history: Britain

117–138 AD

Hadrian

Emperor Hadrian, ruled Britain from 117 to 138. You've probably heard about the famous Hadrian's Wall in England. Hadrian was known for his love of Greek culture and tireless travels all around the empire. **He happened to be homosexual as well.**



Hadrian was also the first leader of Rome to make it clear that **he was in today's language what we would call gay**. He wrote poetry about his lovers. No evidence points towards Hadrian being attracted to women. A well-known love story between Hadrian and Antinous is a **strong proof of Hadrian's love for men.**





Let's travel through history: Britain

1500-1800

United Kingdom

Following the codification of anti-sodomy laws with the Buggery Act of 1533, **homosexual sex and relationships were greatly looked down upon civilly prosecuted.** Although section 61 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 removed the death penalty for homosexuality, male homosexual acts remained illegal and were punishable by imprisonment.



In contrast, **lesbian relationships were frequently overlooked** and legal codes that targeted homosexuality often didn't include sapphic love. In one Scottish court case, a judge deemed sexual relationships between two women imaginary. This demonstrates how people's identities have been **erased within the documentation of history.**



Modern Britain

1972

The first UK Pride March

Speaking about his experience of this march, LGBTQ+ Rights Campaigner, **Peter Tatchell** said:



*"In those days, LGBTQ+ people were invisible. Nearly everyone was closeted. Many gay people felt ashamed of their sexuality. **Homosexuality was widely condemned as sinful and shameful.***

*On 1 July 1972, GLF held the UK's first-ever "Gay Pride" march. **Our aim was to show that we were proud, not ashamed.***





Recent advances towards equality

- 2003- **Axing of Section 28** which banned the promotion of homosexuality in schools.
- 2010- **Equality Act**. This protects people against discrimination regardless of identity.
- 2014- **Same-sex marriage becomes legal** in England and Wales.
- 2021- **UK census asks questions on sexuality and gender identity** for the first time.



HOWEVER, we know that prejudice still exists and sadly, many LGBTQ+ people still experience discrimination due to their identities.

This is why we must all be allies and take active steps against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. At school and beyond, always report it and **never be a bystander**.



...And at FHS?

We are dedicated to continuing to **improve equality and representation of LGBTQ+ people** at FHS and beyond.

We are so proud of all the work we have done and for all your contributions. Even reading this magazine and learning about these areas is **a small step towards the greater goal of equality for everyone.**



Stonewall SCHOOL & COLLEGE CHAMPION AWARDS GOLD 2021/23

For further information on LGBTQ+ History Month:
<https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/>



LGBTQ+ BOOK OF THE MONTH

Coming Out Stories-
Eds. Emma Goswell &
Sam Walker



Available in
the library!

Waterstones says...

"Based on the hugely popular Coming Out Stories podcast, this **empowering, humorous and deeply honest** book invites you to share one of the most important moments in many LGBTQ+ people's lives.

Whether you're **gay, pan, queer, bi, trans, non-binary, or an ally**, this uplifting go-to resource is filled with helpful advice and tips on what to expect, and inspirational quotes from leading LGBTQ+ figures, to **help you live your life as your most authentic self. Welcome to the family!"**



LGBTQ+ BOOK OF THE MONTH



Coming Out Stories- Eds. Emma Goswell & Sam Walker

Ms Suart says...

"One of the best things in our school is the library. Mrs Hans and Ms Gooding have an excellent eye for diverse, inspiring stories and texts and this one is no different. *Coming Out Stories* will help any reader to understand and empathise with the experience of coming out as LGBTQ+. We should all be allies and this is a perfect place to start."



AND IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE IN THE LIBRARY, MRS HANS ALSO RECOMMENDS...



LGBTQ+ BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY



FOREST HILL SCHOOL
ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Our school library has lots of books with LGBTQ+ themes.

Please see below the links to find them and borrow them!

- LGBTQ+ books to read on the eplatform
- LGBTQ+ books to listen to on the eplatform
- LGBTQ+ books to click & collect from the library

PRIDE AMBASSADORS

EVERY MONDAY LUNCHTIME, ROOM 123

ANYONE CAN ATTEND,
REGARDLESS OF SEXUALITY OR GENDER IDENTITY.

LGBTQ+
SAFE
SPACE



Are you interested in:

- Finding a **safe space** in the school?
- **Fighting for equality** within the school?
- Discussing how we can **celebrate the LGBTQ+ community** and challenge homophobia/ biphobia/ transphobia at FHS?
- Joining a **multi award-winning group**?!?
- Learning more about these issues?

See you there!

Ms Suart, Mr Cox & Ms Learoyd





NEED ADVICE?

If you have been affected by anything in this issue, need support or would like more information, there are lots of people and organisations who can support you.

For example:

At FHS:

- **Equality Ambassadors:
Ms Suart, Mr Cox & Ms Learoyd**
- **Your tutor**
- **Your Head of Year**
- **Any member of SLT**
- **Ms Rhodes (school counsellor)**

External organisations and charities:

- **Stonewall** <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/>
- **Metro** <https://metrocharity.org.uk/>
- **Mermaids** <https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/>

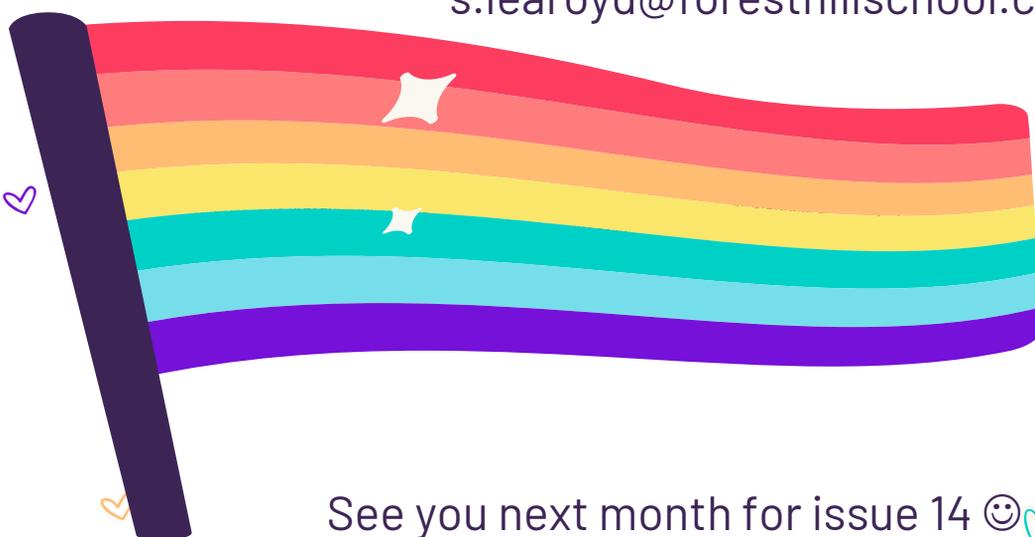


THANKS FOR READING!

For anyone needing support or feeling marginalised due to your identity... we are **PROUD** to be in solidarity with you.
You matter.

Please email Ms Suart, Mr Cox or Ms Learoyd for any further information or support:

e.suart@foresthillschool.co.uk
m.cox@foresthillschool.co.uk
s.learoyd@foresthillschool.co.uk



See you next month for issue 14 😊