



FHS

RAINBOW!

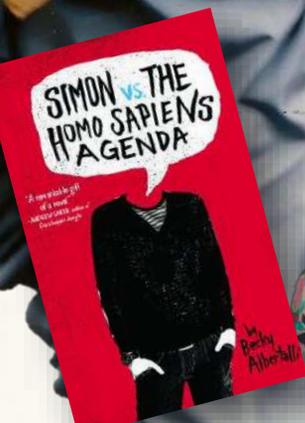
Forest Hill School's new LGBT+ magazine!

Issue 3 – 22 February 2021



SNEAK PEAK AT WHAT'S INSIDE...

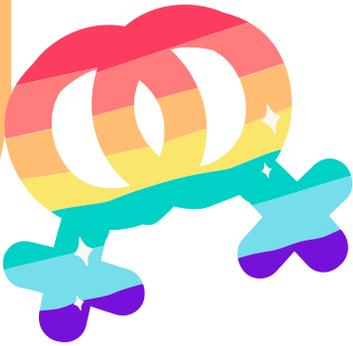
- LGBT+ History Month
- Weekly feature—Stonewall riots and Marsha P. Johnson
- Intersectional role model of the week—Munroe Bergdorf
- LGBT+ book of the week
- ...and much more!





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HELLO FOREST HILL SCHOOL!

Can you believe that it's already our third issue of *FHS Rainbow!* and almost the end of LGBT+ History Month!

It's been a fabulous month of celebration, community and education. We have been so pleased with the reaction from our first two editions of the magazine and it has been great to have contributions from various different people.

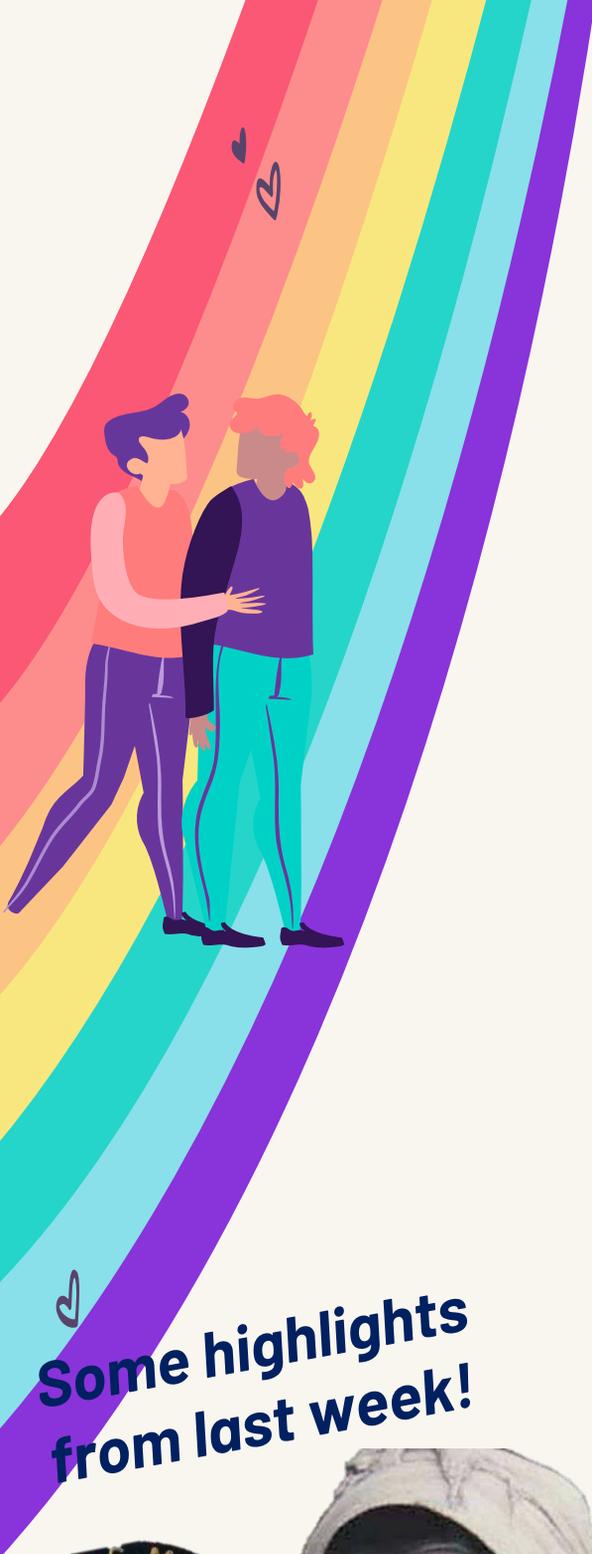
Remember that Forest Hill School is committed to improving equality for everyone. If you have any ideas on how we can continue to work on this, please do let us know.

#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 week!





Happy

LGBT+

History

Month

2021

Our theme this year is
HIDDEN HISTORIES.

**Together we will be looking at
some of the marginalised or
invisible LGBT+ people and
stories and sharing them here.**

**INTERSECTIONAL
ROLE MODEL OF
THE WEEK**



Munroe Bergdorf

(trans woman, model, activist)

*"Feminism must serve as an **inclusive tool of liberation** for all female identities and experiences"*

*"We're beginning to understand that identity isn't always black and white, it's more like **a sliding scale in which all can self-identify**"*





LGBT+ WORD OF THE WEEK



Gender identity

- *noun*
- A person's **innate sense of their own gender**, whether male, female or something else (see non-binary below), which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth.
- This is different from your sex which is assigned to a person on the basis of primary sex characteristics (genitalia) and reproductive functions.

Why have we chosen this word?

- *It is important for everyone to understand that your gender is different from your assigned sex.*
- *Some people feel **distress or discomfort** due to the mismatch between their gender and assigned sex. This is called **gender dysphoria**.*



TRANSGENDER 101

The word 'transgender' means someone who does not identify as the sex they were assigned at birth. 'Trans' is sometimes used as an 'umbrella term' to describe lots of different gender identities.

Here are some identities that fall under the 'trans umbrella'...

Trans Man

Someone who was assigned female at birth, but now identifies as male

Trans Woman

Someone who was assigned male at birth, but now identifies as female

Gender Fluid

Someone whose gender expression changes

Agender

Someone who does not identify with a gender at all

Trans Feminine

Someone who identifies more female than male

Trans Masculine

Someone who identifies more male than female

Multigender

Someone who identifies with more than one gender (e.g. bigender)

Non-Binary

Someone who does not identify within the gender binary (neither male or female)

Two-Spirit

Someone who fills one of the many mixed gender roles in Native American Cultures

Remember – gender identity is ultimately defined by the person expressing it – so it may not fit exactly with these definitions!

OTHER IDENTITIES

Cisgender

Someone who is not trans (they identify as the gender they were assigned at birth)

Intersex

Someone born with sexual characteristics that do not fit the 'male' or 'female' binary.

Drag Queen/King

Someone who wears flamboyant clothing (usually of the opposite gender) to perform for entertainment. Some drag artists are also trans.

PRONOUNS 101

Pronouns are the words we use to refer to people.

People who identify outside of the gender binary may not use pronouns such as he or she, and there are some gender neutral pronouns which people feel more comfortable with instead.

It is good practice never to assume somebody's pronouns until they have expressed how they would like to be referred to.

Some examples of pronouns include...

TYPE	PRONOUN	EXAMPLE
Feminine	She, her, hers	She went to the shop. I spoke to her. It was her apple.
Masculine	He, him, his	He went to the shop. I spoke to him. It was his apple.
Gender Neutral	They, them, their	They went to the shop. I spoke to them. It was their apple.
Gender Neutral	Ze, zir/zem, zirs/zes	Ze went to the shop. I spoke to zir/zem. It was zirs/zes apple.

FEATURE OF THE WEEK

This week our chosen feature is on a story of people taking a stand against discrimination and then the subsequent origins of LGBT+ Pride.

We will be looking into...

The Stonewall protests and Marsha P. Johnson



Wording from Newsround:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52981395>



Who was Marsha P. Johnson?

Marsha P. Johnson was an **African-American, transgender woman** from New Jersey, whose activism in the 1960's and 70's, had **huge impact on the LGBT+ community**. She played a big role in important moments for the LGBT+ movement, such as the Stonewall protests.

Marsha was a **self-declared drag queen**, and said the 'P' in her name stood for "**Pay it no mind**" - a phrase she used when people commented negatively on her appearance or life choices.



At this time, being gay was classified as a mental illness in the United States. Gay people were **regularly threatened** and beaten by police, and were shunned by many in society.



What were the Stonewall protests?

In June 1969, when Marsha was 23 years old, police raided a gay bar in New York called The Stonewall Inn. The police forced over 200 people out of the bar and onto the streets, and then used **excessive violence against them**.

Marsha was one of the key figures who stood up to the police during the raids. She resisted arrest, but in the following days, **led a series of protests and riots demanding rights for LGBT+ people**.

News of these protests spread around the world, **inspiring others to join protests and rights groups to fight for equality**.



A month after the protests, the **first openly LGBT+ march** took place in New York, **a pivotal moment for the LGBT+ community everywhere**.

What impact did Marsha have?

Even though the Stonewall protests **kick-started this wave of support for the LGBT+ community**, there was still a lot of discrimination against them. It was **common for young gay and trans people to be kicked out of their family homes** by their parents.

Marsha **dedicated much of her life to helping others**, despite suffering several mental health issues herself. She was nicknamed the '**Saint of Christopher Street**' (where the Stonewall Inn is located), because she was known for her **generosity towards people in New York's LGBT+ community**.



What happened to Marsha?

Sadly, Marsha died in 1992. She went missing and police found her body after six days. Police said she had taken her own life, but many friends argued this ruling at the time, saying attacks on trans people were common. **Others said they saw her being harassed** by a group of 'thugs' a few days before she died.

Twenty years later, in 2012, campaigner Mariah Lopez was successful in getting the New York police department to reopen Marsha's case as a possible murder. After the NYPD reopened the case, the police **reclassified Johnson's cause of death from 'suicide' to undetermined.**



Marsha's legacy lives on today in organisations such as the Marsha P. Johnson Institute, which protects and defends the human rights of black transgender people.

In February 2020, the Mayor of New York announced there will be a statue created in her honour, to be unveiled in 2021.



Further information

Marsha P. Johnson, her friend Sylvia Rivera and everyone else involved with the Stonewall protests were **key figures in the fight for LGBT+ equality**. It is because of their stand against discrimination that Pride began and that LGBT+ visibility and equality began to increase in many places across the world

RIP Marsha 

Look here for further information:

For information on Pride
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52872693>

For information on the Marsha P. Johnson institute
<https://marshap.org/>



COMPETITION!

Marginalised LGBT+ historical figure



Design a fact-file, letter, collage or poem about a marginalised LGBT+ figure from history. You should explain why we should teach about them in school.



Email your entry to Ms Suart
e.suart@foresthillschool.co.uk

PRIZES FOR THE BEST
ENTRIES!

Deadline Friday 26th February.



LGBT+ BOOK OF THE WEEK

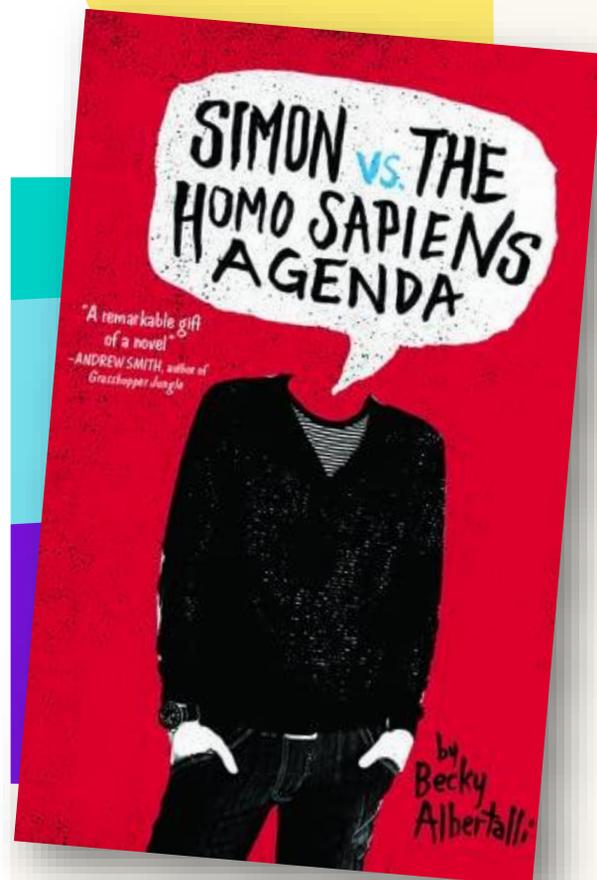
Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda- Becky Albertalli

Waterstones says...

"Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda is the **YA phenomenon** that swept North America and is now making waves here. **Big-hearted and brimming with authenticity**, Becky Albertalli's debut takes on one boy's hesitant path toward coming out as gay and creates a story filled with **humour and very real drama**. From the wild eccentricities of his family to the growing feelings between Simon and the mysterious, online figure of Blue, **you'll find yourself rooting for one of the great new heroes of contemporary YA fiction.**"

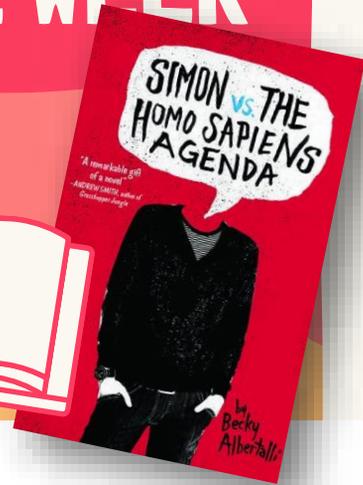


Now released as a movie
with the title 'Love, Simon'



LGBT+ BOOK OF THE WEEK

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda- Becky Albertalli



Mrs Hans says...

"I read *Simon vs. the Homo-Sapiens Agenda* a few years ago when it was chosen as one of the Lewisham Book Award Older titles – this was on the recommendation of a Forest Hill School pupil and all the librarians across Lewisham selecting the LBA Older titles agreed with him. The story hooks the reader in immediately with **the gut punching revelation** that Simon's private email has been read (his PC was used straight after him in the library and his Gmail account came up logged in for the next person).

Of course, it wouldn't be much of a storyline if Simon had nothing to hide, but he had been emailing under a false name, corresponding with another teenage boy. Now Simon has to think seriously about becoming openly gay, how that might negatively affect his anonymous friend. What choice will Simon make now he is being 'blackmailed' by a fellow pupil who has taken a screenshot of the emails and wants Simon to do something in exchange for keeping the information private?

This might sound like a serious and niche novel, but it really isn't. It's a **very easy-to-read, well-told, funny and relatable** Young Adult story with an added pinch of mystery and intrigue. Anyone who **likes real life issues and relationship stories – friendships, family & romance**, will enjoy learning and laughing about life and love with Simon. I haven't seen the film, but there is always more to savour in a book so I definitely recommend reading the book, or at least doing so before watching the film!"



LGBT+ BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY



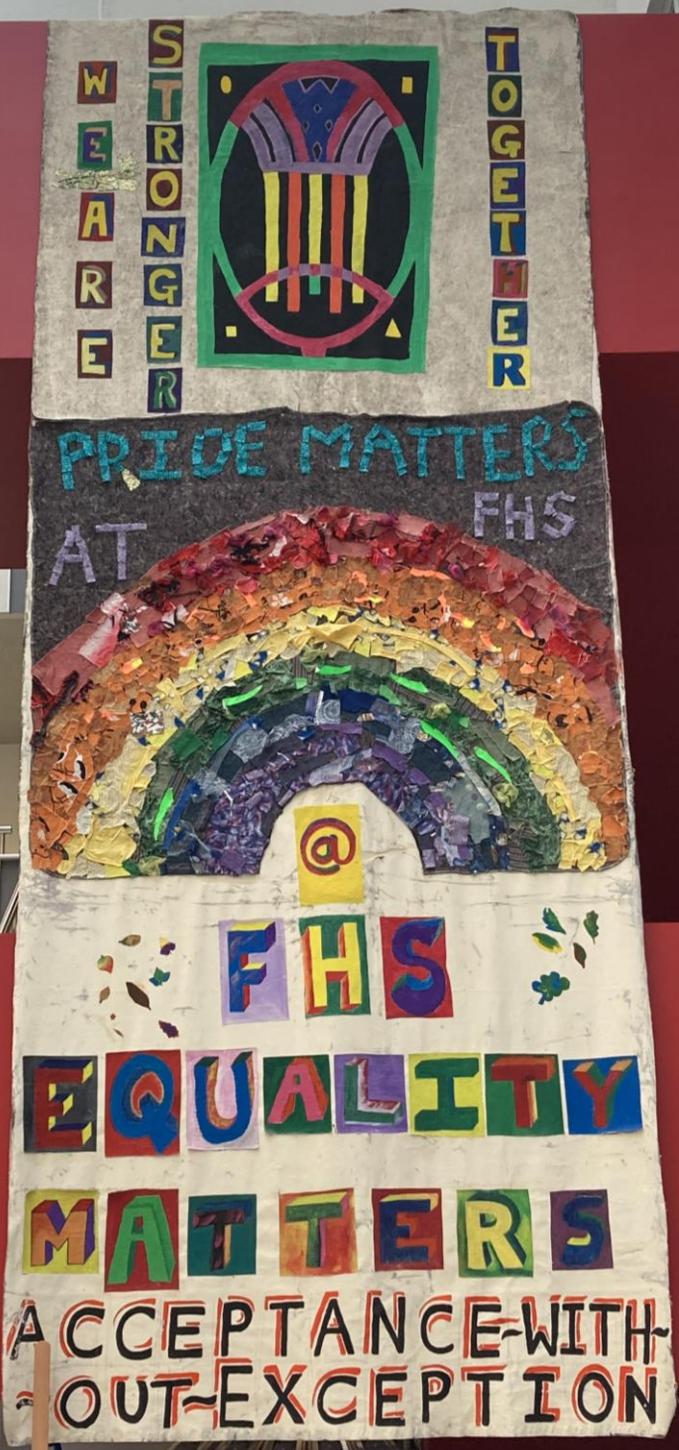
FOREST HILL SCHOOL
ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE TOGETHER



Our school library has lots of books with LGBT+ themes. Please see below the links to find them and borrow them!

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

LGBT+ SCHOOL DISPLAY OF THE WEEK!



Our school has lots of wonderful LGBT+ displays. Each week we will choose one and share it with you.

This week it's our amazing **Equality Matters** banner which hangs in the atrium! The middle section of this was made by the Equality Group in 2018, when **they won a place on the official London Pride parade**. They took the banner on the march and demonstrated **FHS's commitment to LGBT+ equality**. It has great history behind it!

THROWBACK TO FHS EQUALITY GROUP ON THE OFFICIAL LONDON PRIDE PARADE 2018!





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/>



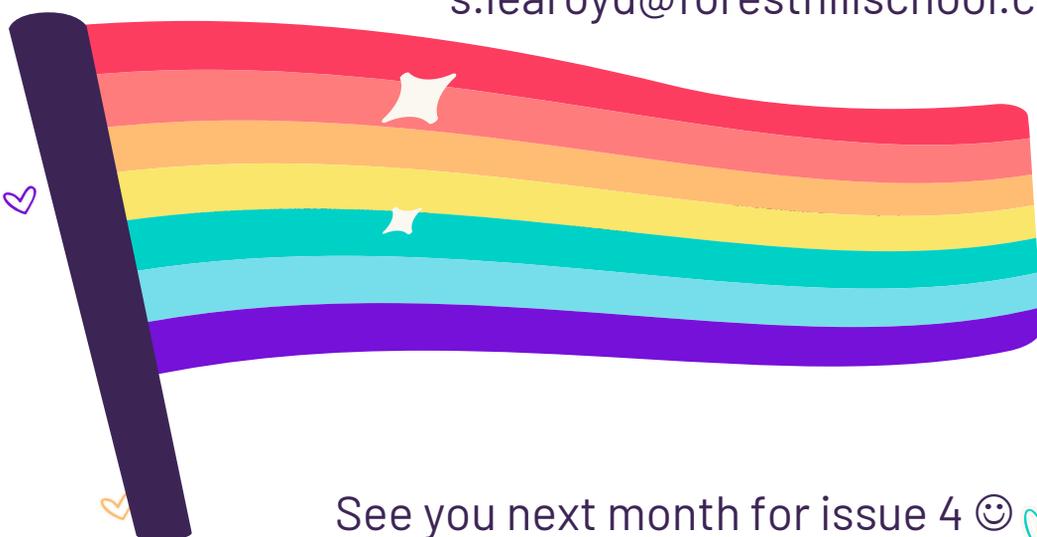
THANKS FOR READING!

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 4 😊