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be proud of  
who you are.

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# HELLO FOREST HILL SCHOOL!

This month, we have continued to celebrate our **Stonewall Gold award** and were excited to be written about in the press! Our Pride Ambassador group has also started to meet again on Monday lunchtimes in room 123. We'd love to see you there!

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.

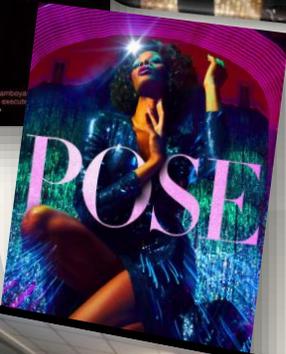
#equalitymattersatFHS

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

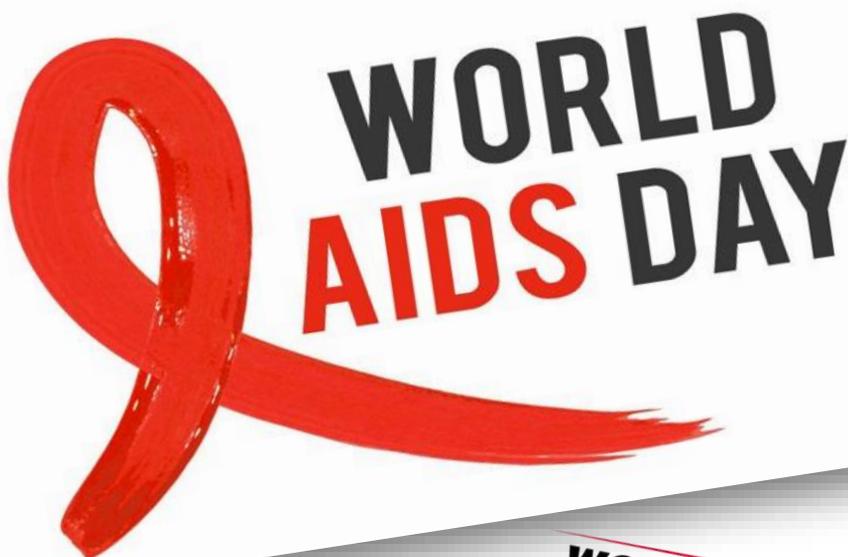
Some highlights  
from last edition!



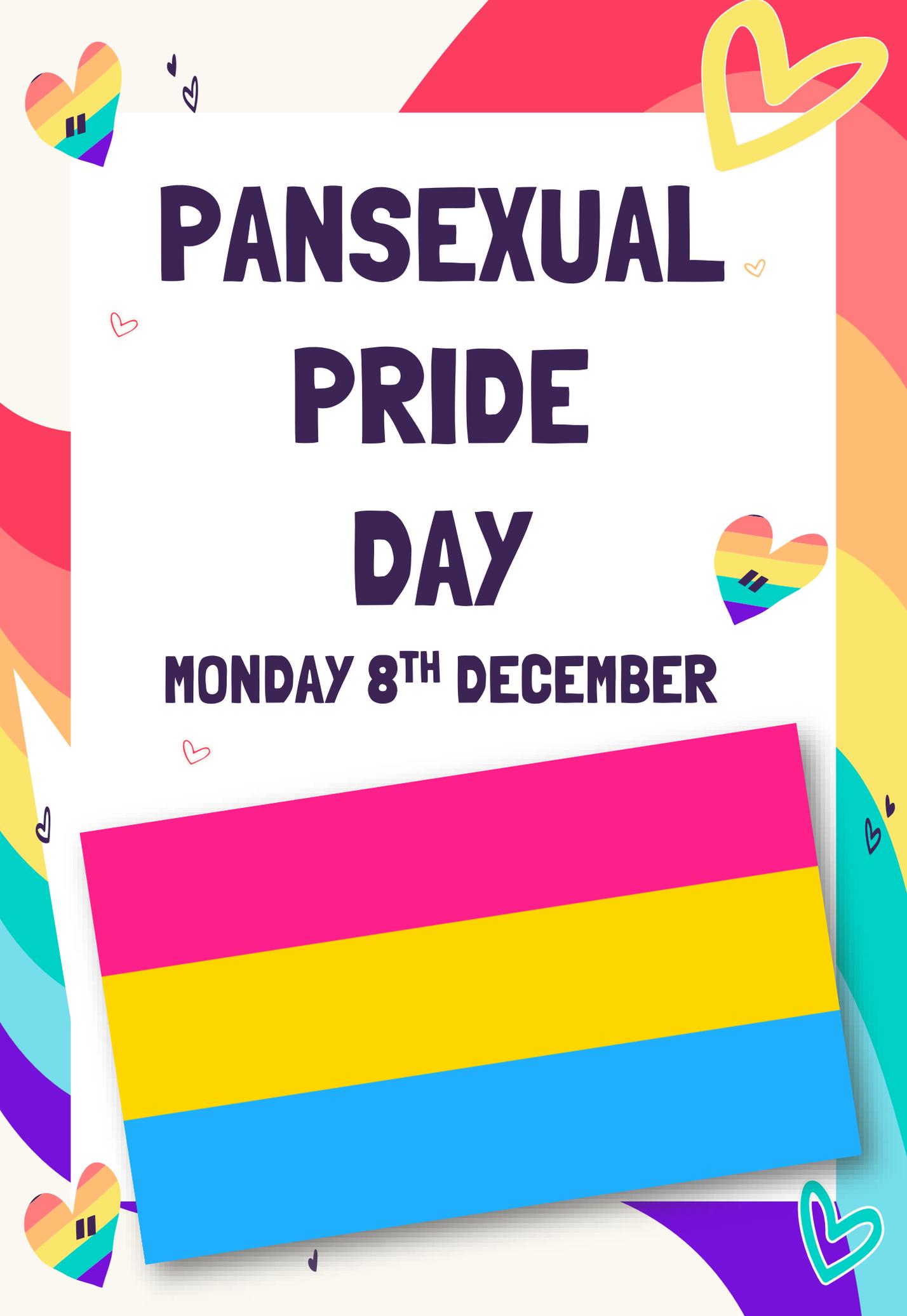


**WORLD  
AIDS DAY**

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**



**WORLD AIDS DAY**  
**ROCK  
THE RIBBON**



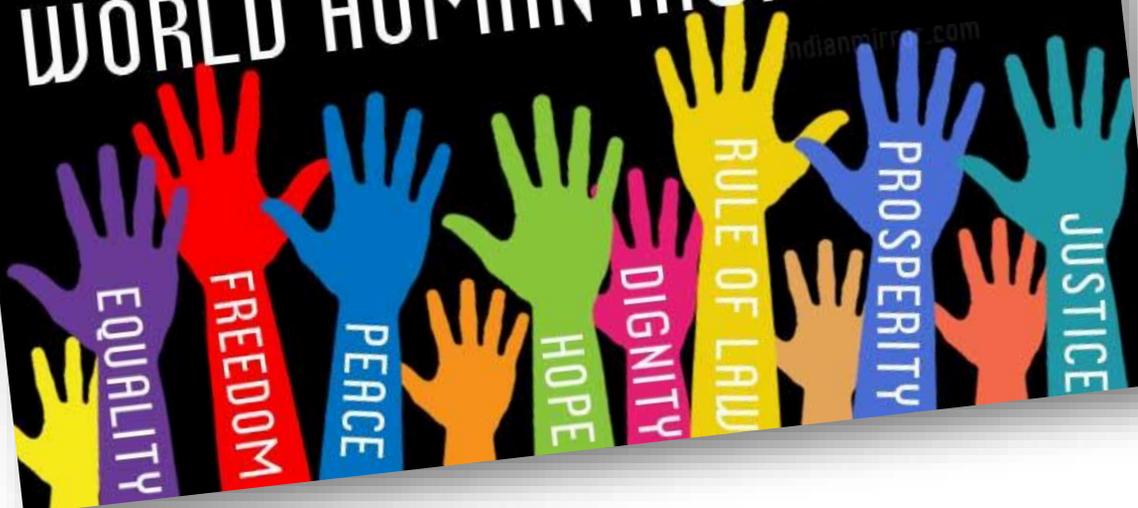
**PANSEXUAL  
PRIDE  
DAY**

**MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

# HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



# LGBTQ+ NEWS

**Brit Awards scraps male and female categories as it goes gender-neutral!**

**Read all about it!**

The Brit Awards have announced it will scrap its female and male categories from next year as it goes gender-neutral for UK and international artists.

Performers will now be in the running for artist of the year or international artist of the year at the annual ceremony.

The ceremony's chair Tom March said: "It is important that The BRITs continue to evolve and **aim to be as inclusive as possible**".



**Formula One champ Lewis Hamilton wears the Progress Pride flag on his helmet for the Qatar Grand Prix.**

The racer made a show of LGBTQ+ solidarity at the race, with his crash helmet – which was beamed from the in-car camera – also emblazoned with the message **"We Stand Together"**.

It is illegal to be gay in Qatar, with a punishment of up to seven years in prison or flogging.



**Josh Cavallo comes out as gay, becoming the only openly LGBTQ+ top tier men's footballer!**

Cavallo said that the response has been overwhelming, as messages of support have poured in from around the world and from fellow players such as Gerard Piqué, Marcus Rashford and Antoine Griezmann.



# FHS NEWS

Read all about it!

**FOREST HILL SCHOOL'S  
STONEWALL AWARD HITS  
THE HEADLINES!**

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

Forest Hill School is the only school in London to win the award

**Forest Hill boys' school wins top award for LGBTQ+ inclusion work**

A BOYS' secondary in Forest Hill has become the only school in London to be recognised with the highest award for tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. Forest Hill School, has been granted Stonewall Gold status by the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights charity operating, having previously held a Bronze award for three years.

The school has introduced a written Trans-inclusion policy, adapted the School Journey policy to be LGBTQ+ inclusive, and collated LGBTQ+ inclusive lessons from across the curriculum.

Mayor of Lewisham Damien Egan and Cllr Chris Barnham, cabinet member for children's services and school performance visited the school to celebrate with staff and

students, and to see their of the work in practice.

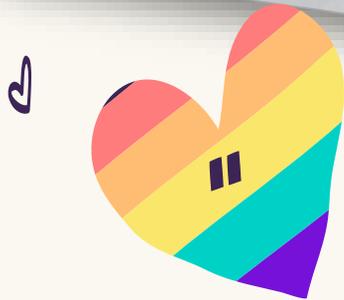
Michael Sullivan, headteacher at Forest Hill School, said: "Huge congratulations to all staff and students who have helped us achieve this fantastic award! At Forest Hill School, we are wholly committed to continuing to improve our inclusion and celebration of LGBTQ+ people and identities."

Stonewalls awards programme, developed by their expert education and youth team, allows schools to benchmark their LGBTQ+ inclusion against the latest best practice.

Mo Wiltshire, Director of Education and Youth at Stonewall, said: "We're delighted that Forest Hill School for boys has won the Stonewall School Champion Gold award. Our judging panel was impressed

by their dedication to LGBTQ+ inclusion and the work they do to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for their gay, bi, trans and queer students.

"LGBTQ+ inclusive education is transformative for LGBTQ+ young people and makes the world a safer and more accepting place for all. We look forward to them continuing their great work in this area."



On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October, we were thrilled to be visited by **Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan** and **Councillor Chris Barnham** for a **celebration of our achievement**. This has since been reported in the press, such as the Bromley Newshopper and Damien Egan's regular news letter!

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

**WOW!!**



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

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

**Celebrate**

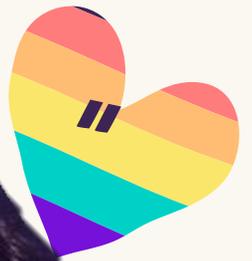
**LGBTQ+ ROLE  
MODEL OF THE  
MONTH**



# Rosie Jones

**(Comedian/  
Lesbian/  
Disabled)**

*"I'm proud to  
be disabled  
and I'm  
proud to be  
gay but most  
of all I'm just  
proud to be  
me!"*





# LGBTQ+ WORD OF THE MONTH

## Cisgender/ Cis

Someone whose **gender identity** is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth.

### Why have we chosen this word?

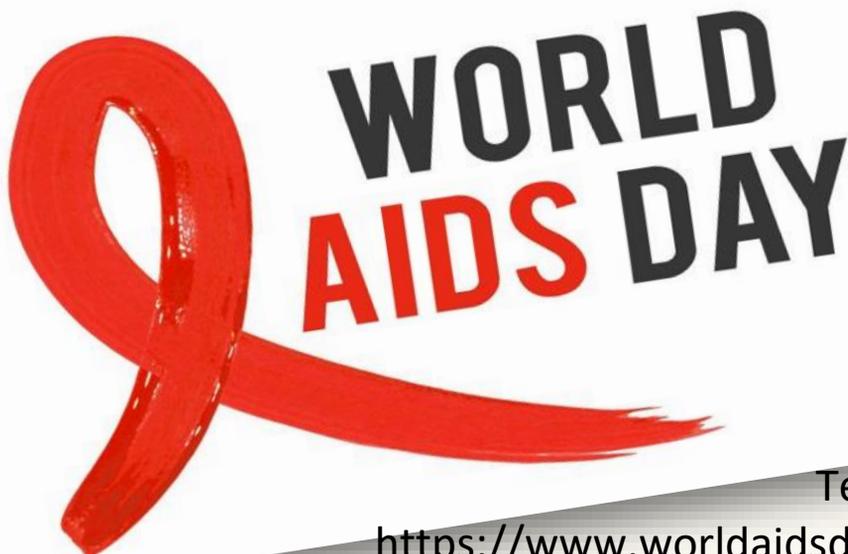
- When discussing trans identities, we might also need to refer to **people who are not trans**. Words to describe people who are not trans can sometimes be **marginalising or offensive**, particularly if phrases such as “normal” are used.
- Cisgender is the word for people who do not identify as trans. We should use this word as it is **more inclusive**.



## FEATURE OF THE MONTH

In time for 1<sup>st</sup> December, this month's feature looks at...

# World AIDS Day and the history of the HIV & AIDS epidemic



Text taken from  
<https://www.worldaidsday.org/about/>



# A brief history of the HIV/ AIDS epidemic

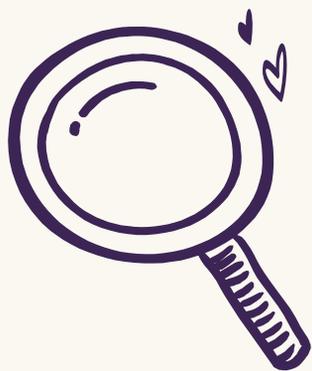
Though HIV arrived in the United States around 1970, it didn't come to the **public's attention until the early 1980s.**

In 1981, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a report **about five previously healthy gay men becoming infected with Pneumocystis pneumonia**, which is caused by the normally harmless fungus *Pneumocystis jirovecii*. This type of pneumonia, the CDC noted, almost never affects people with uncompromised immune systems.

The following year, The New York Times published an alarming article about the new immune system disorder, which, by that time, had affected 335 people, killing 136 of them. **Because the disease appeared to affect mostly homosexual men, officials initially called it gay-related immune deficiency, or GRID.**

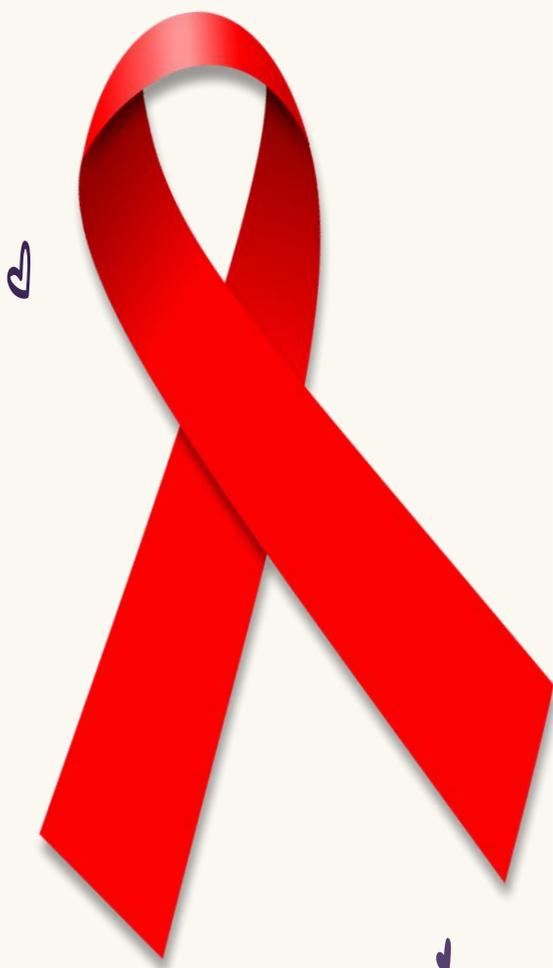
Though the CDC discovered all major routes of the disease's transmission—as well as that female partners of AIDS-positive men could be infected—in 1983, the public considered AIDS a gay disease. It was even called the “gay plague” for many years after.

**In September of 1982, the CDC used the term AIDS to describe the disease for the first time. By the end of the year, AIDS cases were also reported in a number of European countries.**



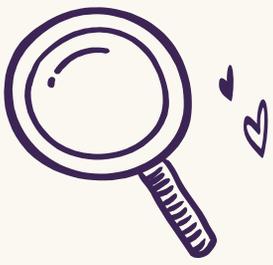
# What is World AIDS Day?

WORLD AIDS DAY  
**ROCK THE RIBBON**



**World AIDS Day takes place on 1 December each year.** It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, **World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.**

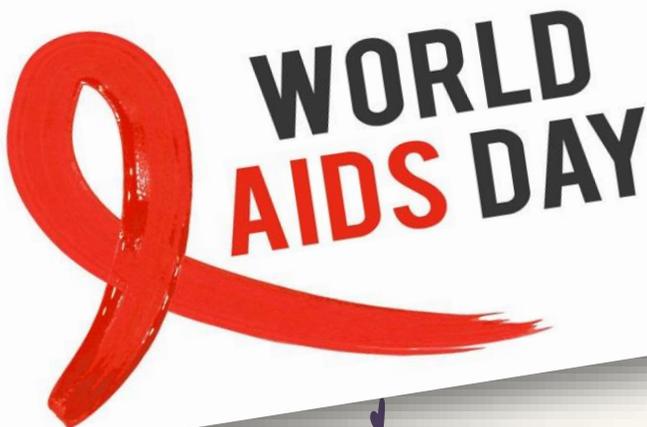
**Over 105,200 people are living with HIV in the UK.** Globally, there are an estimated 38 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS related illnesses, **making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.**

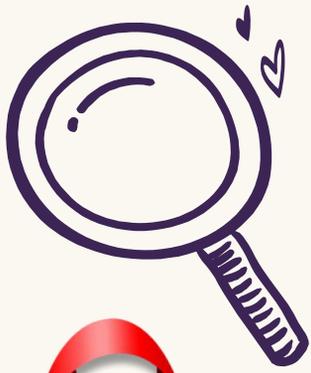


# Why is World AIDS Day Important?

Today, scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment, there are laws to protect people living with HIV and we understand so much more about the condition. Despite this, each year in the UK over 4,139 people are diagnosed with HIV, people do not know the facts about how to protect themselves and others, and **stigma and discrimination remain a reality for many people living with the condition.**

World AIDS Day is important because it reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away – **there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education.**





# What can I do on World AIDS Day?



## Buy a red ribbon

World AIDS Day is **an opportunity to show solidarity** with the millions of people living with HIV worldwide. Most people do this by wearing an HIV awareness red ribbon on the day. You can order a red ribbon from our online shop, or pick one up in any branch of MAC Cosmetics in the UK.

## Get tested

Getting tested is the only way to find out if you have HIV. If you are living with HIV, **starting treatment early means you can live a full, healthy and productive life.** Free and confidential HIV tests are available from NHS sexual health clinics (also called GUM clinics), charity testing services, many GP surgeries, pharmacies or online for self-testing at home. **Free self-sampling HIV test kits are available to people from certain areas in England.**

From 1 November until 3 December 2021, BioSure will donate £1 from every online sale of their HIV Self Test, and you'll receive a free red ribbon.



# Why should you care?

105,200 people are living with HIV in the UK today. However, **advances in medicine mean that people on effective HIV treatment cannot pass the virus on**, but **late diagnoses remain high** and worryingly, only 45% of people can identify all the ways in which HIV is transmitted.

**Stigma and discrimination can be a daily issue for people living with HIV.** A recent stigma survey showed that 13 per cent report avoiding visiting the GP because they feared being treated differently and 21 per cent of gay men living with HIV report they have been discriminated against in work.

**Troublingly 18 per cent of those surveyed report they'd had suicidal thoughts in the past year.**

**We've come a long way – but there's still much work to do!** Support World AIDS Day to raise vital funds so we can continue to fight discrimination, raise awareness and improve the lives of people living with HIV.

**For further information on preventing and living with HIV/ AIDS:**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hiv-and-aids/>

**For further information on the HIV/ AIDS epidemic:**

<https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/history/hiv-and-aids-timeline>

# From Prejudice to Pride- Amy Lamé

## LGBTQ+ BOOK OF THE MONTH

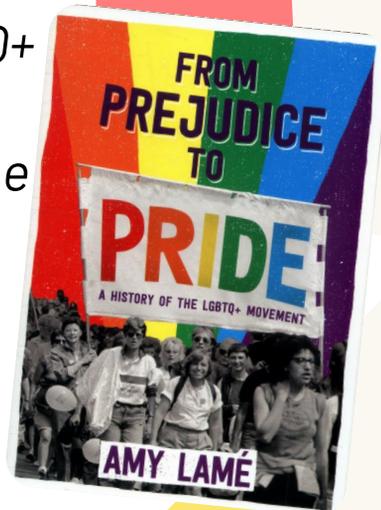
**Waterstones says...**

**"A rare and inspiring retelling** of the LGBTQ+ movement's struggle for civil rights.

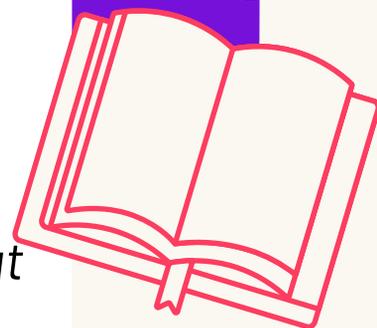
From Prejudice to Pride looks at the rise and achievements of the LGBTQ+ movement and the different communities, pioneers and stories of heartbreak and courage that have marched alongside it.

**Perfect for readers aged 11 and upwards**, this book will inspire courage and pride in young LGBTQ+ people and help answer questions for all readers interested in gender and identity.

Follow **LGBTQ+ history from ancient civilisations to the present-day**, and learn about key events including the trial of Oscar Wilde, the Stonewall riots, the AIDS crisis, same-sex marriage and changing laws that have impacted on LGBTQ+ life. Gain insight into the shifting attitudes that have challenged lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and the experiences that **help us understand what it means to be LGBTQ+ today.**"



Available in  
the library!



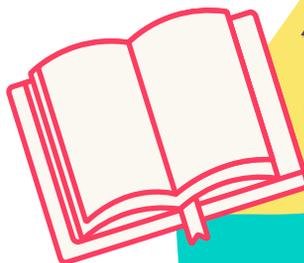
# LGBTQ+ BOOK OF THE MONTH

*From Prejudice to Pride-*

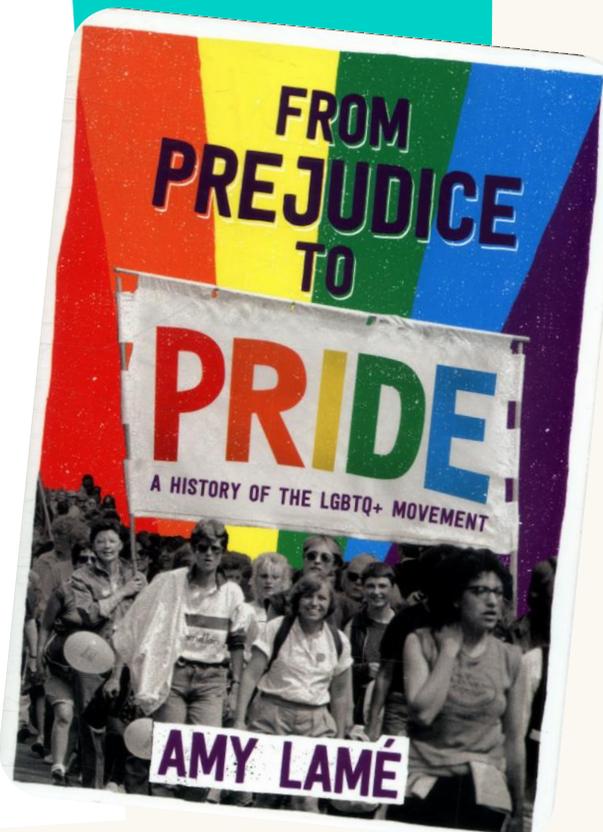
*Amy Lamé*

**A year 7 pupil says...**

*"From Prejudice to Pride*  
**peeks into the history of LGBTQ+ and Section 28,**  
which was a law that  
banned the promotion of  
homosexuality outright!  
**The book also has**  
**timelines, facts and tells**  
**the story of famous**  
**celebrities and people**  
**who were affected by**  
**Section 28,** such as Alan  
Turing, Vito Russo and  
Harvey Milk, to name a few.  
It also tells the reader  
about the Stonewall Riots  
that happened in 1969. This  
book was written in 2019  
and is a nice read if you  
ever want to have **a trip**  
**through time!**"



*Available in  
the library!*





# 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!**

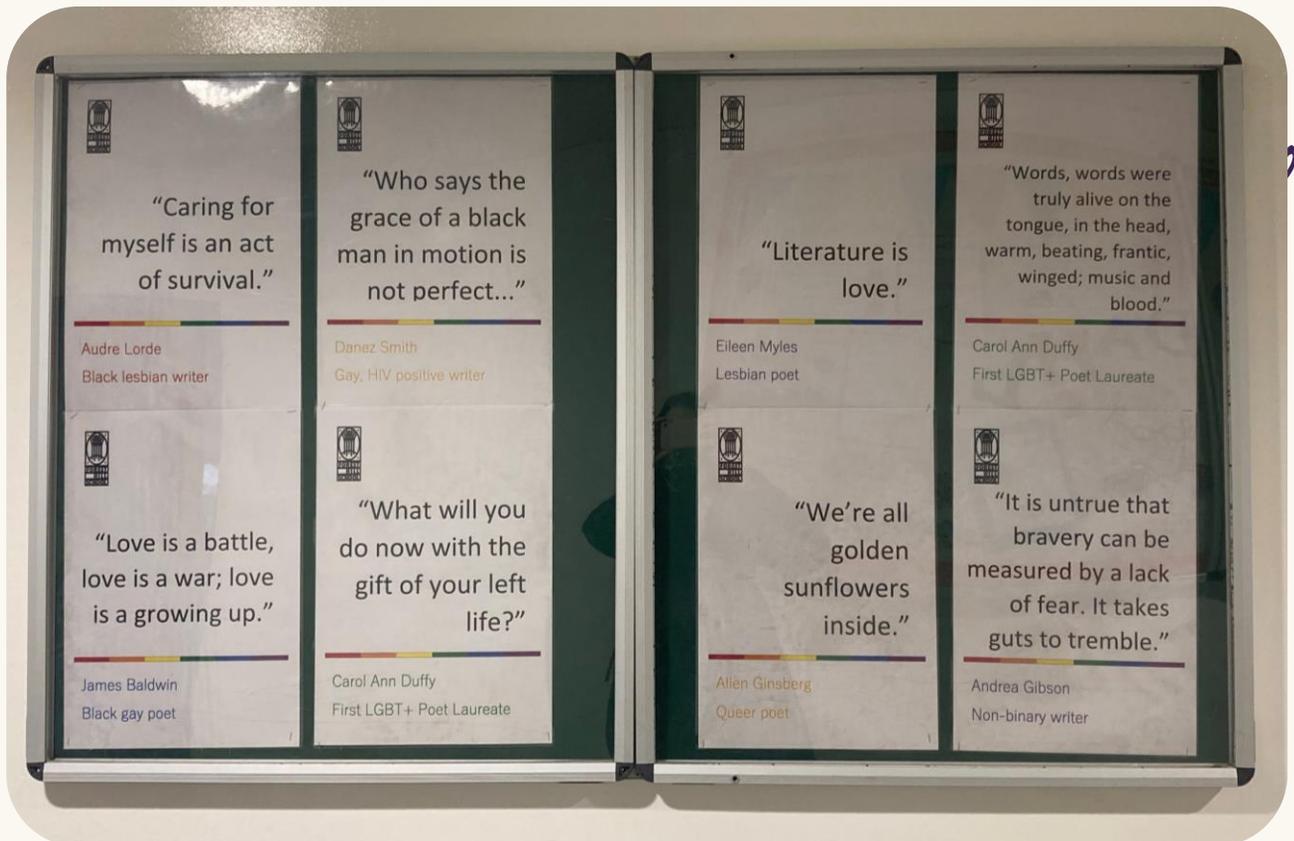
- LGBTQ+ books to read on the eplatform
- LGBTQ+ books to listen to on the eplatform
- LGBTQ+ books to click & collect from the library

# LGBTQ+ SCHOOL DISPLAY OF THE MONTH!



Our school has lots of wonderful LGBTQ+ displays. Each month, we will choose one and share it with you.

This month it's our **LGBTQ+ writers quotes posters** which are displayed in different places around the school. We hope you find these as **inspirational** as we do!



# 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/>

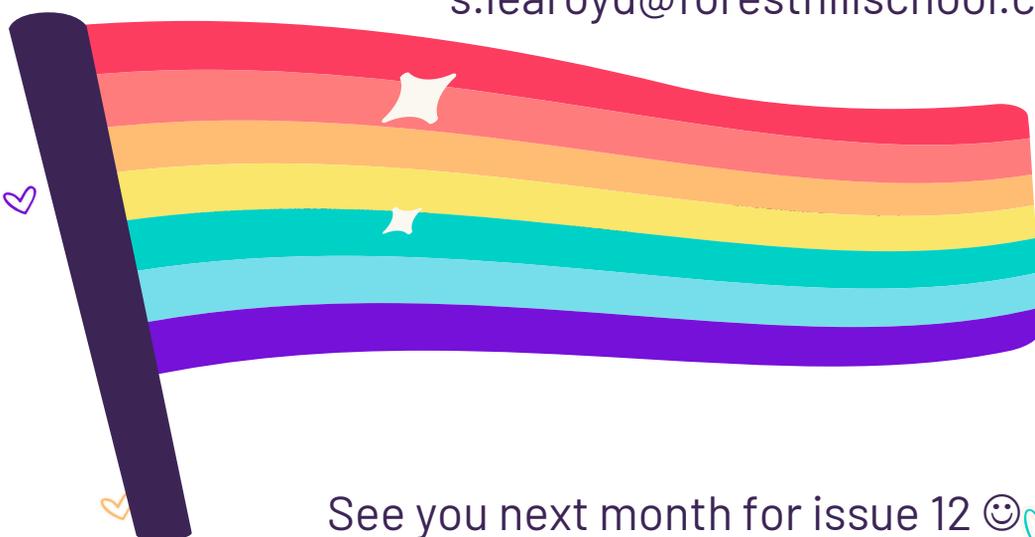


# THANKS FOR READING!

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 12 😊