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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. We hope you enjoyed the whole school assembly on this last half-term!

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



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

**BISEXUAL
HEALTH
AWARENESS
MONTH
ALL OF MARCH!**





**ZERO
DISCRIMINATION
DAY**

WB. TUESDAY 1ST MARCH



**ZERO
DISCRIMINATION
DAY**



 QUOTESLOVE





**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S
DAY**

TUESDAY 8TH MARCH



**International
Women's Day**

LGBTQ+ NEWS

Read all about it!



Worrying number of queer women and trans people missing lifesaving cervical cancer screenings.

Lesbian and bisexual cis women are more likely than their peers to have never had a cervical screening test, government figures have revealed, with worrying numbers of eligible trans men and non-binary people also missing out.

MPs have slammed the spread of “discrimination and hatred” towards the trans community in media reports during a debate on the UK’s Gender Recognition Act (GRA).

Several MPs gathered on Monday (21 February) to debate a petition relating to the reform of the GRA. The petition, which has more than 137,000 signatures, called for reform to the GRA to allow trans people to “self-identify without the need for a medical diagnosis, to streamline the administrative process and to allow non-binary identities to be legally recognised”.



The UK’s first ever national LGBTQ+ museum is set to open its doors in Kings Cross, London, later this year.

The museum – called Queer Britain – will explore the stories, people and places that are central to the LGBTQ+ community in the UK and beyond. It will be located at 2 Granary Square in Kings Cross, which is owned by Art Fund, the UK’s national charity for art.

FHS NEWS

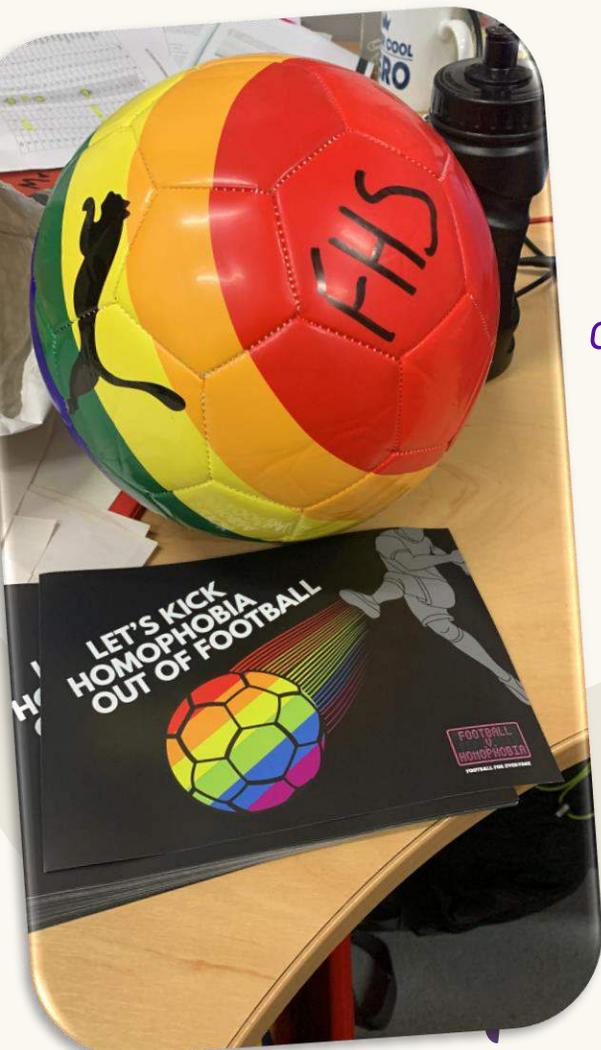
Read all about it!



FHS football team raises awareness against Homophobia!

Ms Suart spoke with Mr Hollidge about his work during February. He said:

"February signals the Football vs Homophobia awareness month where Schools and Football clubs are asked to sign up and **pledge to ensure players of all sexualities, gender identities and gender expressions feel welcomed in their teams.** As a school, we have signed up to this campaign to **promote awareness of LGBTQ+ discrimination** and as part of the pledge have been using a rainbow football in matches during this month, as well as tweeting our support to the #FVH2022."

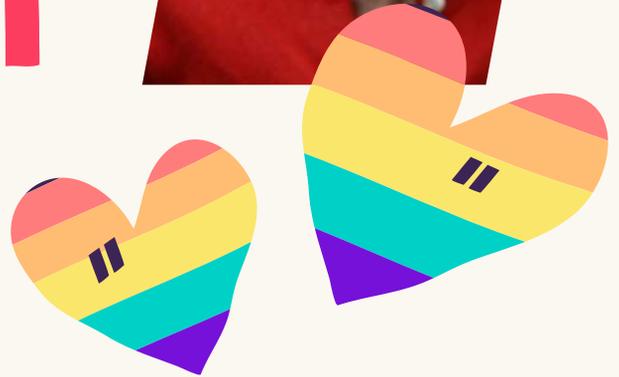


**LGBTQ+ ROLE
MODEL OF THE
MONTH**

Liz Carr



**(Actress/ Comedian/
Disability Rights
Activist/ Lesbian)**



"The lure of normality is so enticing but it's tiring and dangerous and not half as fun as just being yourself!"

"You know, our lives are quite fascinating and there's a lot that people can learn from that."





LGBTQ+ WORD OF THE MONTH

Outed

When a lesbian, gay, bi or trans person's sexual orientation or gender identity is **disclosed to someone else without their consent.**

Why have we chosen this word?

*Coming out as LGBTQ+ is a highly personal experience and it is always down to the person themselves to decide when and if they are going to come out. As allies, we must understand that it is **never** acceptable to out anyone without their explicit consent.*



FEATURE OF THE MONTH

This month's feature explores an important question which relates to us all...

What is gender?



Text taken from:
<https://genderspectrum.org/>



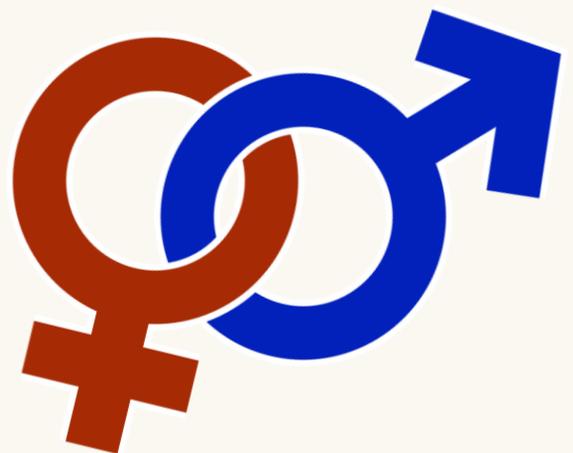


What is gender?

Often expressed in terms of masculinity and femininity, gender is largely culturally determined and is assumed from the sex assigned at birth. (Stonewall)

People tend to use the terms “sex” and “gender” interchangeably. But, while connected, **the two terms are not equivalent**. Generally, we assign a newborn’s sex as either male or female based on the baby’s genitals. Once a sex is assigned, we presume the child’s gender. For some people, this is cause for little, if any, concern or further thought because their **gender aligns with gender-related ideas and assumptions associated with their sex**.

Nevertheless, **while gender may begin with the assignment of our sex, it doesn’t end there**. A person’s gender is the complex interrelationship between three dimensions: **body, identity, and social gender**.





Gender is very complex!

Body: our body, our **experience of our own body**, how **society genders bodies**, and how others interact with us based on our body.

Identity: the name we use to convey our gender based on our deeply held, internal sense of self. **Identities typically fall into binary (e.g. man, woman) nonbinary (e.g., genderqueer, genderfluid, etc) or ungendered (e.g., agender, genderless) categories.** The meaning associated with a particular identity can vary among individuals using the same term. A person's gender identity can correspond to or differ from the sex they were assigned at birth.

Social gender: how we present our gender in the world and **how individuals, society, culture, and community perceive, interact with, and try to shape our gender.** Social gender includes gender roles and expectations and how society uses those to try to enforce conformity to current gender norms.

Each of these dimensions can vary greatly across a range of possibilities and is distinct from, but interrelated with, the others. A person's comfort in their gender is related to the degree to which these three dimensions feel in harmony.





How is gender part of us?

While the dimensions of gender and the desire for congruence are common to us all, ultimately **gender is personal**. Each dimension of gender is informed by our unique intersection of identities, experiences, and personal characteristics. We are more than our body, gender identity and gender expression: **we are also our race, ethnicity, class, faith, sense of geographic place, family history, and more**. Our gender is personal because, while we share some of these aspects of self with others, the way that all of these identities, influences and characteristics come together is unique to each of us.





Gender is different from sexual orientation!

One final distinction to make is the difference between gender and Sexual orientation, which are often incorrectly conflated. In actuality, **gender and sexual orientation are two distinct, but related, aspects of self.** Gender is personal (how we see ourselves), while sexual orientation is interpersonal (who we are physically, emotionally and/or romantically attracted to).

Why is it so critical to distinguish between these two concepts? **When we confuse gender with sexual orientation, we are likely to make assumptions about a young person that have nothing to do with who they are.** For example, when someone's gender expression is inconsistent with others' expectations, assumptions are frequently made about that person's sexual orientation. The boy who loves to play princess is assumed to be gay, and the girl who buys clothes in the "boys" section and favours a short haircut may be assumed to be a lesbian. These could be faulty conclusions. **What someone wears and how they act is about gender expression.** You cannot tell what a person's sexual orientation is by what they wear (for that matter, you can't know what their gender identity is either, unless they tell you).

Our society's conflation of gender and sexual orientation can also interfere with a young person's ability to understand and articulate aspects of their own gender. For example, it's not uncommon for a transgender or non-binary youth to wonder if they are gay or lesbian (or any sexual orientation other than heterosexual) before coming to a fuller realization of their gender identity. How we come to understand our gender and our sexual orientation – and the choices we make to disclose and express these parts of ourselves – are distinct paths. Thinking of these two aspects of self as interchangeable may, instead of helping us know ourselves and one another better, actually get in the way of understanding and communication.



Further information

Gender diversity has existed throughout history and all over the world. As one of the most fundamental aspects of a person's identity, gender deeply influences every part of one's life. Where this crucial aspect of self is narrowly defined and rigidly enforced, individuals who exist outside of its norms face innumerable challenges. Even those who vary only slightly from norms can become **targets of disapproval, discrimination, and even violence.**

This does not have to be the case. Through a thoughtful consideration of the uniqueness and validity of every person's experience of self, we can develop greater acceptance for all. **Not only will this create greater inclusion for individuals who challenge the norms of gender, it will create space for all individuals to more fully explore and express who they are.**

For further information on gender and gender identity:

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/>



LGBTQ+ BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Outrage-
William Hussey

*Available in
the library!*



THE OUTRAGE

WILLIAM HUSSEY

**The School
Librarian website
says...**

"[A] page-turning read. It's no surprise that Usborne claims that this is The Handmaid's Tale for LGBTQ+ Young Adult. * Books for Keeps * This is a powerful, important book for older readers."



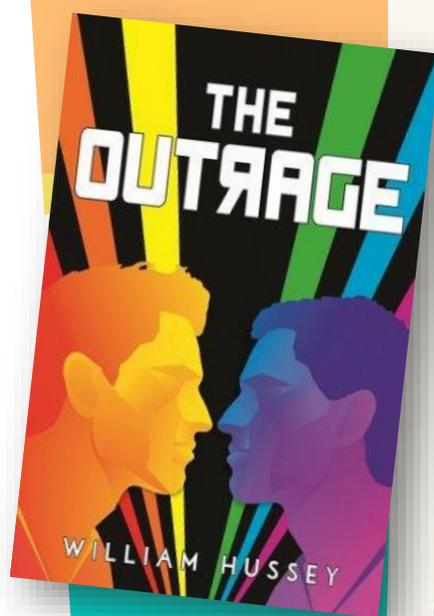
LGBTQ+ BOOK OF THE MONTH



The Outrage- William Hussey

Mrs Hans says...

"The dystopian theme of this book looks fascinating and will really resonate with pupils who have an interest in this genre. The book is based on a possible future where fascism could take hold and create restrictions of LGBTQ+ people's lives. This book is a warning about how our actions and sometimes lack of actions have damaging consequences. It's a warning about the implications of being a bystander! This is also one of the Lewisham Book Award 2022 titles for older pupils (year 9 and above!)"



Available in
the library!



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/>

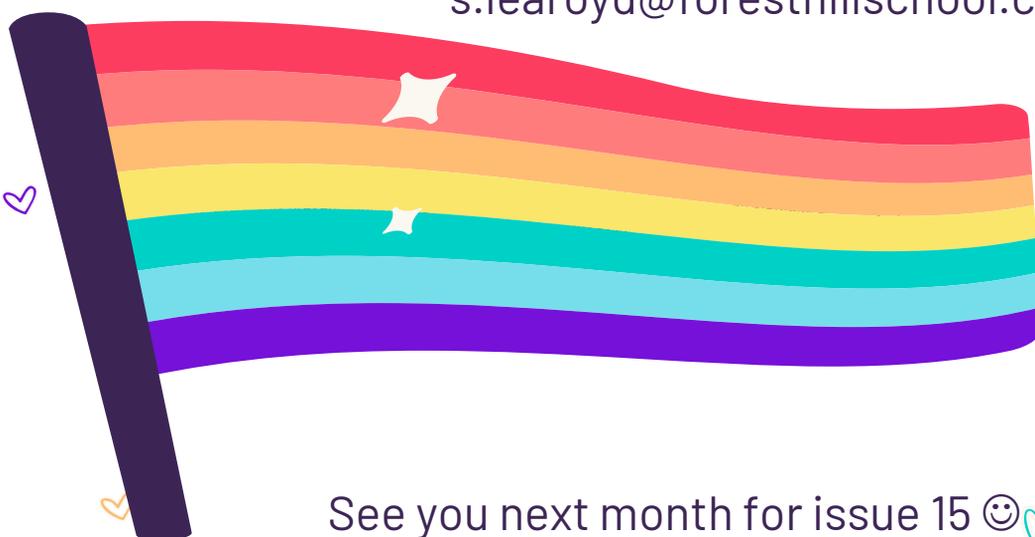


THANKS FOR READING!

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 15 😊