



# FHS

# RAINBOW!

Forest Hill School's LGBTQ+ magazine!

Issue 18 – 27 June 2022



## SNEAK PEEK AT WHAT'S INSIDE...

A fabulous history of drag

- Role model of the month- Lauren Esposito
- LGBTQ+ book- *Rainbow Revolutions*
- ...and much more!

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be proud of  
who you are.

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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**



**50 YEARS OF  
UK PRIDE!  
JUNE 2022**

**STONEWALL**

**RIOTS**

**ANNIVERSARY**

**TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

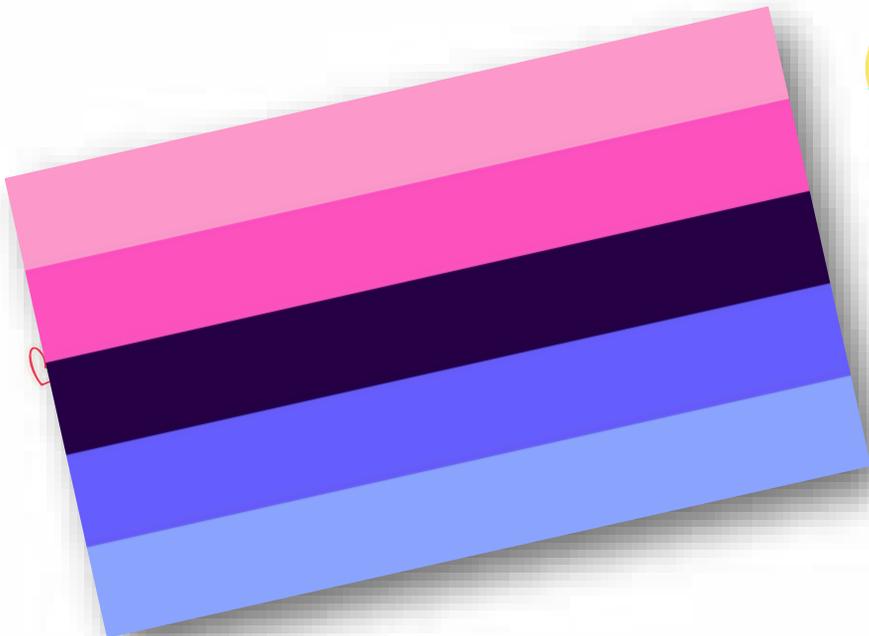




**OMNISEXUAL**

**VISIBILITY DAY**

**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY**



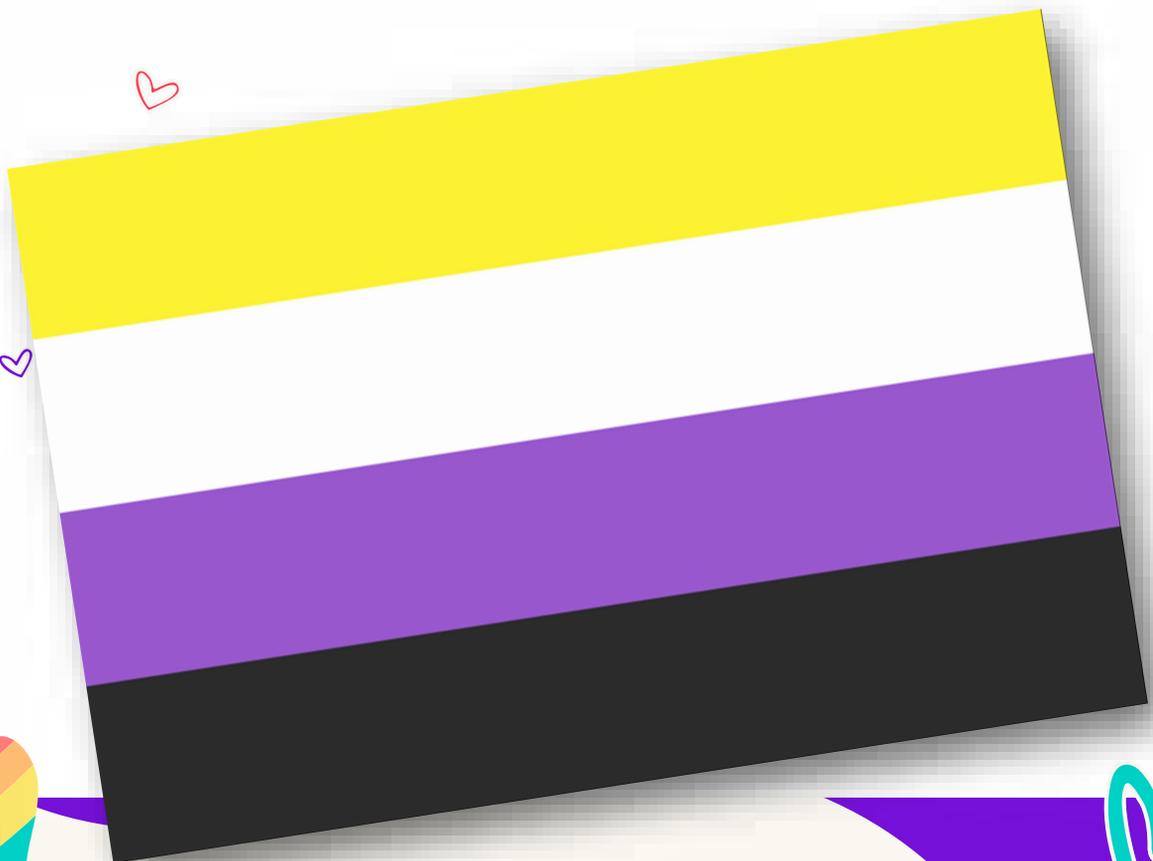
*Omnisexuality is the sexual attraction to people of all sexes and gender identities, wherein gender plays a role in one's attraction. This could be a preference or a recognition and that attraction feels differently depending on the gender or sex. Some omnisexual people may be more attracted to certain genders, but that is not always the case.*





**NON-BINARY  
AWARENESS  
WEEK**

**WB. MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

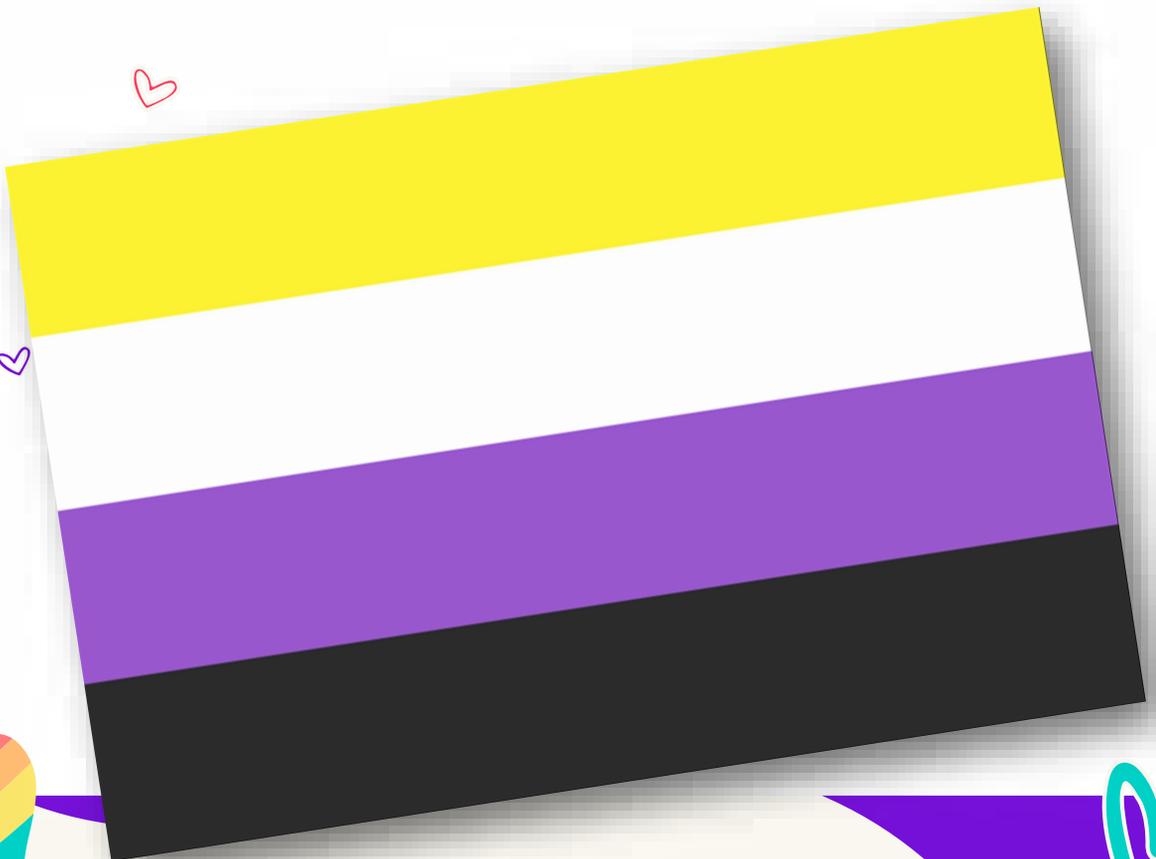




# INTERNATIONAL NON-BINARY DAY



TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY

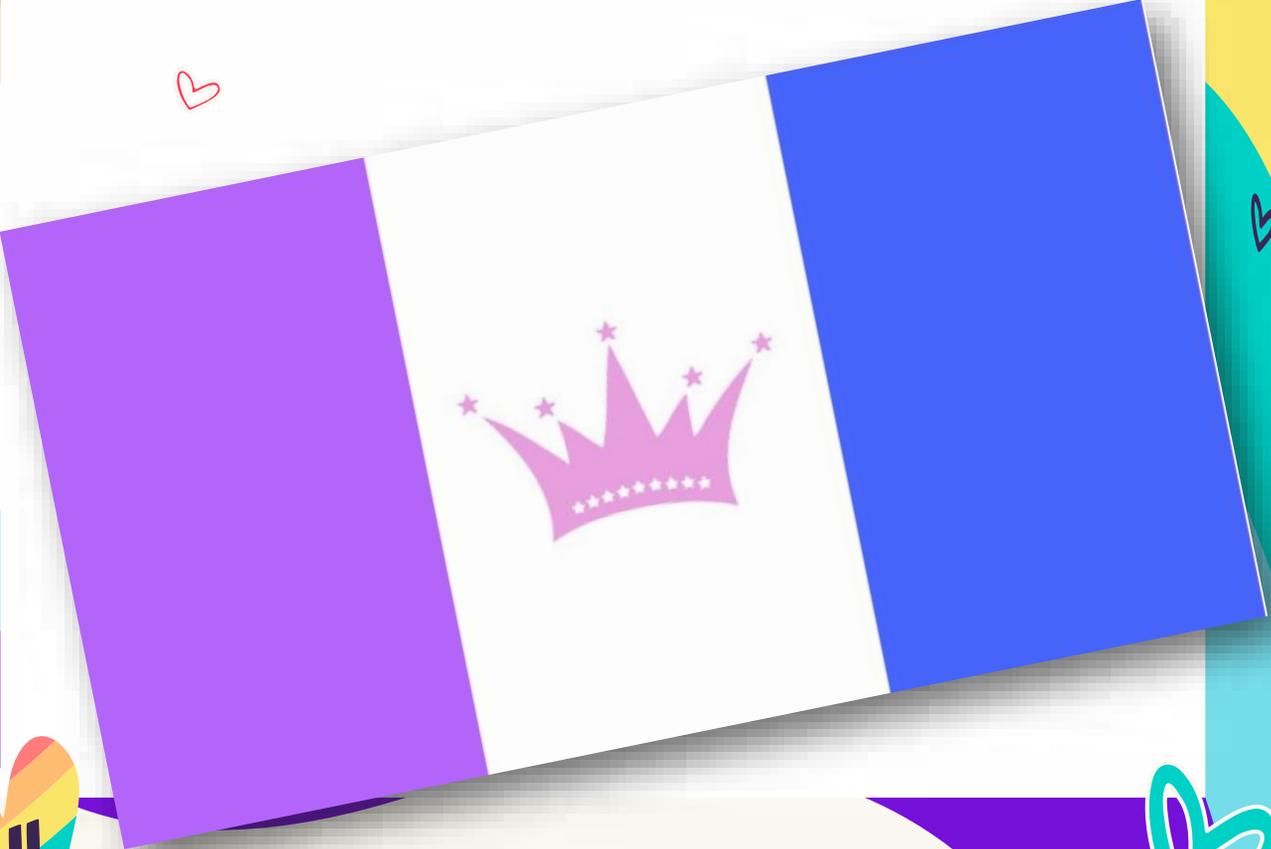




# INTERNATIONAL DRAG DAY



THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY



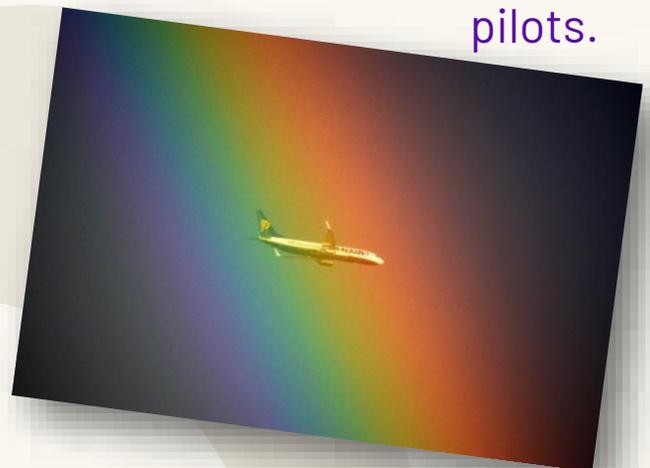
# LGBTQ+ NEWS

**Read all about it!**

**British pilots living with HIV will no longer face outdated and discriminatory cognitive testing in order to work.**

Previously, pilots living with HIV have been required to undergo a complex and time-consuming cognitive test to assess their mental capabilities.

But on Monday (20 June), the UK's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) scrapped these demands in updated guidelines for HIV-positive pilots.



**British Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes has said she can “finally breathe” after she comes out publicly as gay.**

The Olympic gold medallist told the Sunday Mirror that she first realised she was gay at the age of 17 after a fellow female soldier kissed her. But she said a fear of being prosecuted at a time when LGBTQ+ soldiers were banned from the pre-2000 military ban forced her to stay silent.

# LGBTQ+ NEWS

**Harry Styles helps fan come out as gay during massive Wembley gig: 'You're a free man'**

***Read all about it!***

Styles finally brought his Love on Tour show to London for two nights, on 18 and 19 July, after years of COVID-19 delays.

When he first took the show across the US, back in 2021, Styles earned a reputation for pausing his set to help fans come out as queer, birthing the immortal phrase: "Lisa, she's gay!"

👉 Harry Styles did it again at Wembley, stopping the show after he noticed a sign among the 90,000 fans in the stadium.



**An effective ban on trans women competing in elite women's swimming events has been roundly criticised.**

Swimming's world governing body, the International Swimming Federation's (FINA), voted on Sunday (19 June) to adopt a new policy ruling out most, if not all trans women from competing in women's competitions. 🐦

FINA's new policy dictates that trans women who wish to compete must "have not experienced any part of male puberty beyond tanner stage 2, or before age 12, whichever is later". Trans women will be free to compete in a new, unspecified "open" category.

# LGBTQ+ NEWS

*Read all about it!*



**Sunday 3rd July, 12pm-1am, Catford Mews**

Catford Mews and the local community are hosting Catford's first ever LGBTQ+ Pride! Family fun and market stalls in the day time, performance and DJs into the evening.

*For a full list of local LGBTQ+ pride events, visit:*

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/events/pride-month-2022>

# FHS NEWS

*Read all about it!*

## **FHS is shortlisted for an Education Business Award for Community!**

Mr Sullivan and Ms Suart attended the awards ceremony on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Royal Garden Hotel in London. The event was led by celebrity host Jeff Brazier and provided national recognition for FHS's dedication to LGBTQ+ inclusion. Although we didn't win, it was a privilege to attend and we were proud to represent our school!



# FHS NEWS

*Read all about it!*

## **New LGBTQ+ books in the library!**

Last year, a year 11 pupil donated his £250 Jack Petchey winnings to our Pride Ambassador group. We decided to use this by purchasing a whole stack of new books for the library, all with LGBTQ+ themes!

We are so excited that these are now ready to be borrowed and Mrs Hans has even done a special display of them! Thank you to all involved and we hope you enjoy the new books!

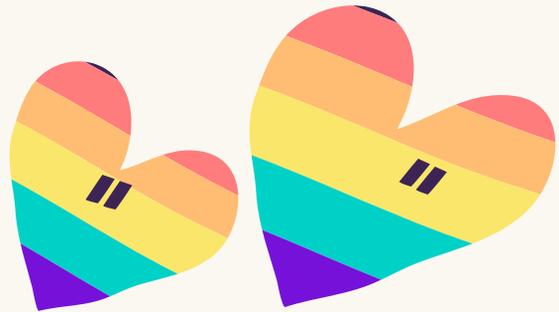


**LGBTQ+ ROLE  
MODEL OF THE  
MONTH**

# Lauren Esposito

**Scientist/ Co-founder  
of 500 Queer  
Scientists/ Queer)**

*"We know it can feel difficult or awkward to start using your voice as an ally [...] we encourage you to just step up and be vocal, take action, actively create space and a culture of respect."*





# LGBTQ+ WORD OF THE MONTH

## Undetectable

HIV medication (antiretroviral treatment, or ART) works by reducing the amount of the virus in the blood to undetectable levels. This means the levels of HIV are so low that the virus cannot be passed on. This is called having an undetectable viral load or being undetectable.

### **Why have we chosen this word?**

*The HIV/ AIDS crisis disproportionately affected the LGBTQ+ community medically but also socially and emotionally. This Pride month, we want to celebrate the incredible medical advancements which have changed the lives of HIV positive people*





# DID YOU KNOW...?

Lesbians are also **historically underrepresented in media** (though trans people probably have it even worse) when compared to gay men. The push to change the order came with the **surge of feminist ideas that sprouted in the 80s and 90s.**

The AIDS crisis also factored into the “gay/lesbian solidarity” that led to lesbians being more recognized in the community. While **a huge portion of gay men were suffering from AIDS**, the lesbian community was largely unaffected. **Lesbians were the ones helping gay men with medical care.** They were also a massive part of the activism surrounding the gay community and AIDS at the time. This was a show of lesbians’ willingness to support gay men in their time of need and sparked a closer, more supportive relationship between both groups.

**As a result, the L for lesbian comes first in the acronym LGBTQ+ as a sign of solidarity.**





# What does drag mean?

A drag queen is a person who uses drag clothing and make-up to imitate and often **exaggerate female gender signifiers and gender roles for entertainment purposes**. Historically, most drag queens have been men dressing as women. **Famous examples of drag queens include Ru Paul, Lily Savage and Danny La Rue.**

Thanks largely to the success of RuPaul's Drag Race, the art form is **now seen regularly on mainstream TV channels, magazine covers and is the subject of multiple vlogs and podcasts.**

But the story of **drag goes back far further than the time the competition has been on the air** and made RuPaul Charles a global superstar at the same time. As his fellow Drag Race judge Michelle Visage may even be persuaded to say: **'Honey, it goes back centuries'**.





# Beginning with the Bard

**Drag began out of necessity**, although that's not to say its participants didn't enjoy it. When Shakespearean theatre was shiny and new in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, the stage wasn't just a place of entertainment. It had strong links to the church and with that came rules that only men could tread the boards. **If that play you were in featured a few female roles, then it was up to a couple of the men in the cast to dress as members of the opposite sex so the story didn't suffer.**



*Shakespeare's As You Like It features a cross-dressing character when Rosalind (centre) disguises herself as a boy called Ganymede.*



# Theatrical origins

**The word 'drag' is believed to have theatrical origins too. The dresses men wore to play female characters would drag along the floor.**

Actors playing female parts because there were no actresses around isn't exactly in the spirit of what we call drag today - but it was a start. It soon became a way for men (often gay men, although plenty of heterosexual men wear drag as well) to express a different side of themselves, over-exaggerating feminine looks, style and body language to create a persona. As RuPaul himself says, there is more to drag than impersonating a woman: **"I don't dress like a woman; I dress like a drag queen!"**

**Drag kings, where female performers adopt an exaggerated male persona, are also popular.**

Christian Adore is an act that challenges gender norms and stereotypes through comedy, and appears regularly on the London circuit.





# Princess Seraphina



While the fight for LGBTQ+ equality continues (**it is still illegal to be LGBTQ+ in more than 70 countries**), someone who seemed to enlighten all around him in 18th-century England was Princess Seraphina.

Otherwise known as **gentleman's servant John Cooper**, Seraphina was seen as the country's first **drag queen**, in that she was part of John's daily life rather than an acting role.

She was a regular sight in molly houses, the equivalent of a gay bar. Even though men could be hanged at the time if found participating in homosexual acts (three were in 1726, following a raid on a molly house), **there are no reports of Seraphina ever being arrested or treated with mistrust. The only scandal she was embroiled in involved the theft of her clothes in 1732 - and even then Seraphina appeared in court as the victim.**

# Vaudeville

As time went on, drag became more about the individual and the queens built up their own fanbases. One of the biggest stars of the earliest 20th century was Julian Eltinge. Whereas many drag queens played on the fact they were men in women's clothing, Eltinge (as she was often known) had many fans convinced she was not a character, but a genuine actress.



Eltinge emerged from the world of vaudeville, known as variety theatre in the UK, where cross-dressing was very popular. At the end of performances, he would remove his wig and reveal his gender to the crowd, often to cries of disbelief. **Hugely popular, for more than 20 years, Eltinge's career was very much on an upward trajectory, until variety acts fell out of favour in the 1930s.** While there was a tolerance, even celebration of drag and LGBTQ+ people in the USA during the 1920s and early '30s (known as the 'pansy craze'), American society became more reactionary in the mid-1930s, amid fears surrounding sex crime, which had a negative impact on the way drag was perceived.

After the Second World War, although homosexuality was still frowned upon by society as a whole - even illegal in some cases - there were still drag acts who broke through the negativity and had successful careers. **These including Danny La Rue in the UK, who made his name in the 1950s, and Dame Edna Everage, the flamboyant creation of comedian Barry Humphries, who first appeared in the 1960s.**



# New York drag ballroom scene



Anyone who watched the US series *Pose* will be aware of the **drag balls which originated in parts of New York in the 1970s.**

These events involved owning the runway in the finest drag around in order to wow the judges and go home with a clutch of trophies.

**This was where the concept of the drag mother took hold.**

Seasoned queens would take up-and-coming drag artists under their wing, to show them how to work a stage as well as their look. **They often provided a home to youngsters who may be going through a difficult time in their lives, and not just those intending to enter the drag world.**

This led to drag mothers becoming known as the head of their House, making them responsible for an entire drag family. Whatever the mother's surname, their drag protégés were allowed to adopt it, or even have their stage name chosen for them by their mother.

**Drag families feature heavily in the 1990 drag ball documentary *Paris is Burning* (which inspired Madonna's *Vogue*), with the House of Xtravaganza and the House of LaBeija among those featured.**



# Drag goes mainstream

**The Stonewall Riot of 1969 saw drag queens, most notably Marsha P Johnson, protest against police raids on gay bars in New York City and led to the creation of the Gay Liberation Front.**

The fight for acceptance and equality grew in profile over the 1970s and 1980s, with Harvey Milk becoming the first openly gay man to be voted in to public office in San Francisco in 1977.

**That positive representation gradually bled through into the mainstream.** The famed Divine, who died in 1988, appeared in many movies by the director John Waters, which had crossover success (Divine played Edna Turnblad in the original version of Hairspray).

And by the early 1990s, RuPaul was on the cusp of global fame, combining a drag persona with a recording career that included a duet with Elton John.

**In 2009, the first series of Drag Race aired. Its mix of challenges, costume creation, skits and impersonations has made it appointment television for a surprisingly diverse audience (Dame Judi Dench is a big fan) and has even influenced the language itself.**





# Further information

Drag is a fascinating, complex world packed with surprises and social history. In 2017, Time magazine named RuPaul as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. If that's not serving up sickening realness, we really don't know what is.

## Drag dictionary!:

**Shade:** An insult, either spoken or expressed through body language. To 'throw' shade is to openly disparage someone, whether or not they are in your presence.

**Read:** Drag queens will often meet in a metaphorical arena known as the library to openly exchange insults with each other. This is the act of reading, a playful sport where the aim is to throw the cleverest, most ingenious piece of verbal takedown at your opponent. It's important to note that reads usually finish with all involved on good terms.

**Realness:** When a drag queen is given a theme to meet, outfit-wise, the intention is to blend into the genre as though born into it. Manage that successfully and they are 'serving realness'. For example, if a runway theme on RuPaul's Drag Race is The Western and a contestant executes a perfect combo of boots, gingham, Stetson and pigtails, they are 'serving up cowgirl realness'.

**Sickening:** Get your catwalk look just right and you'll be one sickening queen. Basically, you're just so fabulous, your fellow queens are sick with envy after just one look at you. Remember, it's good to be sickening.

**T:** Is it tea? Is it tee? There's no official agreement but there's no argument over the definition; 'T' is the truth, it's the talk. Basically, it's the gossip. So if you're serving up some quality T over lunch (or even tea), rest assured it will be lapped up by those present.

**For further information on LGBTQ+ icons:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmchkmn>



# LGBTQ+ BOOK OF THE MONTH

## Rainbow Revolutions by Jamie Lawson

Available in  
the library!



### Waterstones says...

On June 28 1969, around one o'clock in the morning, New York City Police raided the Stonewall Inn, a bar in Greenwich Village, New York...

What happened that night would come to be a defining moment in the LGBTQ+ rights movement and for queer people everywhere.

From the impassioned speeches of bold activists Karl Ulrichs and Audre Lorde to the birth of Pride and queer pop culture, *Rainbow Revolutions* charts the dramatic rise of the LGBTQ+ rights movement, and celebrates the courageous individuals who stood up and demanded recognition. With bold and beautiful illustrations by pop artist Eve Lloyd Knight.

# LGBTQ+ BOOK OF THE MONTH



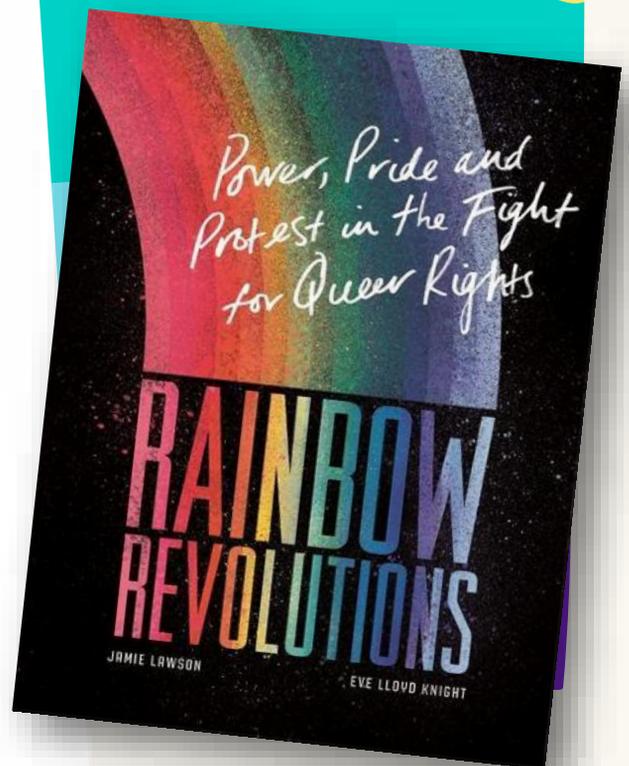
## Rainbow Revolutions by Jamie Lawson

### Ms Stuart says...

"This is one of our brand new LGBTQ+ themed books which we have recently bought for the library and I am so pleased that we have. It's a perfect book for anyone wanting to brush up on LGBTQ+ history and is perfect for Pride month. I hope you all enjoy this book and learn about these inspirational figures and often unheard histories!"



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/>

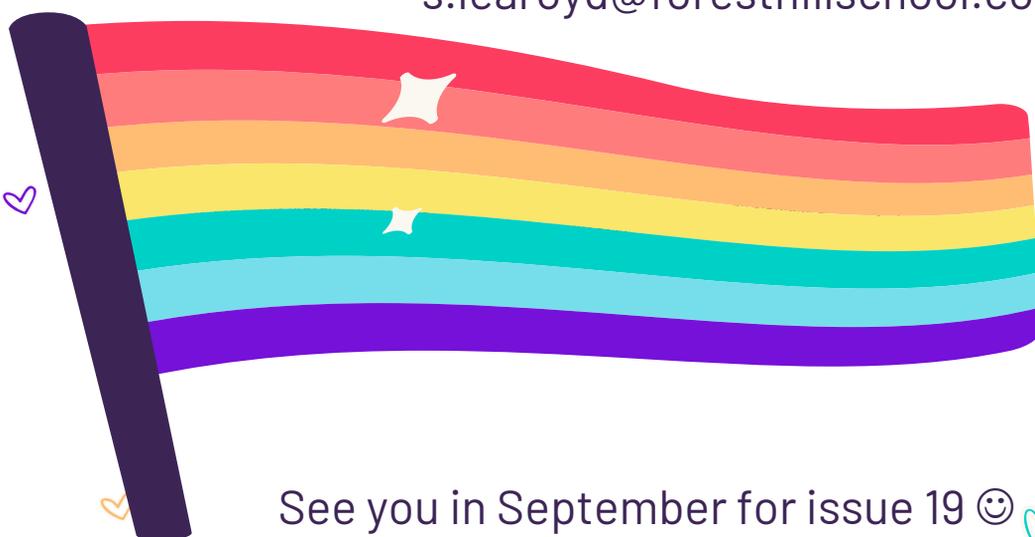


# THANKS FOR READING!

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 in September for issue 19 ☺