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Editions+

Celebrating our school and community

FOCUSON...



Issue No.127 – Special LGBT+ Issue (26 February 2021)

...It's LGBT+ History Month at FHS!

February is LGBT+ History Month, and this year's theme is Mind, Body, Spirit. LGBT+ History Month started at Formby High School with a virtual assembly delivered over Class Charts. Since then, students have engaged in a RESPECT lesson focused on the development of LGBT+ rights in the UK. Alongside this, during registration sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, form tutors have made reference to activities taking place and reminding students of how they can get involved.



... LGBT+ Contribution to the Curriculum



Although we are working remotely, some subjects have sought to draw attention to LGBT+ figures and issues throughout February. PE made the most of the wealth of audio visual material available on the BBC website, sharing stories about LGBT+ athletes with students. In MFL, students had lessons focused on gender and sexuality. Where relevant, in both History and English particular attention has been made to highlighting LGBT+ figures being studied such as Bayard Rustin and Wilfred Owen.

... Our LGBT+ Icons

Staff nominated their personal LGBT+ Icons which were shared with students via posters on Class Charts each morning. In total, we raised awareness of over 60 important figures in the LGBT+ community. Some of our school parliament representatives wanted to share their own:

"Kristen Stewart is my LGBT+ icon. She is well known for her role in the popular film franchise, Twilight; after finishing it her audience and the press expected her to be like the role she was playing. Yet even now as a director, she refuses to fit society standards and is happily engaged to a woman. I just really like how she is not afraid to be truly herself, and wants to help other women in the industry do the same."

Daisy

"I chose Audre Lorde because of her powerful message, and her confidence to come out not just for herself but for others who might be afraid. She said: "I write for those women who do not speak, for those who do not have a voice because they were so terrified, because we are taught to respect fear more than ourselves. We've been taught that silence would save us, but it won't." and I think that is really inspirational."

Olivia

"My LGBT+ Icon is Fredrico García Lorca. He was a Spanish poet, playwright, and theatre director. Despite the threat of a growing fascist movement in his country, Lorca refused to hide his socialist views and his homosexuality, while continuing his ascent in his career. Because of this, he was assassinated by the Spanish national fascist regime aged 38 in 1936."

Imogen

... LGBT+ on a global scale

Leah in Year 13 completed a research project on the development of LGBT+ rights in Spain since the 1970s. Her work, originally in Spanish, has been translated and can be found in full [here](#) for those who would like to read it. Leah's powerful project demonstrates that, although there has been change, homophobia is still present: *"under Franco, the LGBTQ+ community could not work because they were classed as criminals or mentally ill and were sent to camps in order to 'cure' their sexual orientation or gender identity. Whilst it's true that Spain has come a long way in terms of its perspective of the LGBT+ community, there is still a long way to go. Incidents of hate crime in Madrid have been reported almost every day. In 2015, 169 hate crimes were said to be motivated by the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity."*

... Library Corner

For fans of Young Adult fiction, 'The Miseducation of Cameron Post' by Emily M Danforth is definitely worth reading. Cameron is sent to a religious conversion camp that is supposed to 'cure' her homosexuality where she comes face to face with the cost of denying her sexuality. Alternatively, you could try New York Times bestseller 'Will Grayson, Will Grayson' by John Green and David Leithan. Told in alternating voices from two YA superstars, this collaborative novel features a double helping of the heart and humour that have won them both legions of fans.

Older readers may find 2012 Orange Prize winning novel 'The Song of Achilles' by Madeline Miller a brilliant read. The novel is a reimagining of Homer's 'The Iliad'. It is an action-packed adventure, an epic love story and a marvellously conceived and executed page turner.

Non-fiction fans who are also older readers might prefer 'All the Young Men' by Ruth Coker Burns or 'When We Rise' by Cleve Jones. These both cover LGBT+ history, focusing particularly on the AIDS epidemic. They are both, in their own ways, heart breaking but essential highlighting both how far we have come and how far we still have to go.



...Get Involved!

Students have had the opportunity to be involved in LGBT+ History Month celebrations through a series of competitions:

LGBT+ History: A Visual Timeline

Research LGBT+ history in the UK.

Create a visual timeline to show the key events.

Poets' Corner

Write a poem for LGBT+ History Month.

"From criminality to equality" how far has the LGBT+ community really come?

Write an essay in response to the above question.

You must research this in order to provide good scope of the progress made since the 1960s.

Those that have submitted entries will be contacted via Class Charts to recognise their personal contributions as well as distinctions, merits and more being awarded!