



LGBT+ History Month



12th February 2021

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Highlands School proudly supports LGBT+ History Month and stands against homophobic and transphobic discrimination. Our DARE values celebrate the rights of all our community to live with freedom and respect.

LGBT+ History Month focuses on celebrating and recognising lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and culture; past and present. The theme for this year is 'Body, Mind, Spirit'. The month also aims to educate students about issues members of the LGBT+ community face, in order to tackle discrimination and make schools feel more inclusive for everyone.

Everyone has the right to be educated in a safe environment, and as a school, we promote equality, safety and visibility in education for LGBT+ people. People can have multiple and diverse identities. Identities shape the world and make history. We want to teach our students about diversity amongst people.

While LGBT+ History Month originated in the US in 1994, in the UK, it began 11 years later following on from an initiative that was created by two teachers, Sue Sanders and Paul Patrick. LGBT+ History Month is celebrated every February in the UK.

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Be careful not to impose any of these terms onto others. Let others identify themselves in ways that make them feel safe and authentic to their true selves.

Below you will find LGBT+ terms explained.



**proudly supports LGBTQ+ History
month**



L

Lesbian (women who are attracted to women)



G

Gay (people who are attracted to the same gender)



B

Bisexual (people who are attracted to more than one gender)



T

Transgender (people whose gender identity is not the same as the sex they were assigned at birth)

Heterosexual (men who are attracted to women, and women who are attracted to men)



Non-binary
(people whose gender identity isn't either male or female)



Gender fluid (people whose gender identity is not fixed but changes depending on the context and how they are feeling)



Definitions of terms, like language itself, are constantly evolving. Moreover, they mean different things to different people. After all, we are talking about identity, sexuality and relationships, so there are as many definitions as there are people.

Working to protect the rights and opportunities of every member of our community so that we all have a fair chance to participate, succeed and enjoy life.

Story | stood event or a s

This section includes the profiles of LGBT+ people who have made a mark on LGBT+ human rights. LGBT+ history is often hidden from view. By uncovering the LGBT+ stories that have survived through time, we can discover the true diversity of sexuality and gender identities.



Karl Heinrich Ulrichs: The first gay person to publicly speak out for homosexual rights (August 1825 – July 1895) Germany

Karl Heinrich Ulrichs was a civil servant in Germany until he was forced to resign in 1854 on account of his homosexuality. He became an activist and published 12 volumes of work about sexuality, including what's believed to be the first theory about homosexuality. He argued that it is an 'inborn condition' not a learned corruption - as was the prevailing wisdom at the time. Ulrichs is thought to have been the first gay person to publicly speak out for homosexual rights. In 1867, he urged the German government to repeal anti-homosexuality laws, which firmly established himself as the pioneer of the gay rights movement.



Barbara Gittings: The mother of the LGBT+ civil rights movement (July 1932 - February 2007) USA

Barbara Gittings was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1932, and moved to Philadelphia, the USA at 18. On weekends dressed in male drag. Gittings headed up the New York branch of the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) in the 1950s - the USA's first lesbian civil rights organisation. In the 1970s, she was a prominent member of the American Psychiatric Association's fight to get homosexuality removed from the list of psychiatric disorders. In 2006, The APA recognised her work by awarding her its first annual civil rights award.



Marsha P. Johnson: American activist (August 1945 - July 1992) USA

Marsha P. Johnson, born and also known as Malcolm Michaels Jr, was an American gay liberation activist and self-identified drag queen. Known as an outspoken advocate for gay rights, Johnson was one of the prominent figures in the Stonewall uprising of 1969.



Phyll Opoku-Gyimah: co-founder, trustee and executive director of UK Black Pride (Born November 1974) UK

Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, also known as Lady Phyll, is a co-founder and executive director of UK Black Pride. She also works for the Public and Commercial Services Trade Union as their Head of Equality & Learning. Constantly vocal on issues of race, gender, and sexuality, Phyll has proven herself to be a formidable voice in the fight for equality for queer people of colour.

Read on for the heart-warming story of two English soldiers in love, during a time it was considered illegal for same-sex relationships, by 1967 being gay was decriminalised.

Soldiers in Love

Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, World War II



While posted to Park Hall Camp, Oswestry in 1939 and 1940, Gunner Gilbert Bradley was in love with Infantryman Gordon Bowsher. That love was mutual and they exchanged numerous love letters.

The letters from Gordon to Gilbert were found in a trunk in Brighton, after Gilbert's death in 2008, and were purchased, on behalf of Oswestry Town

Museum, over a period of time from 2013. Initially it was assumed they were letters to Gilbert from a girlfriend, with the initial 'G'. The letters cover the period from 1939 to 1944.

On transcribing the letters, it became clear that they were between two men. The letters are very eloquent and reveal the way in which their love was constrained by the moral and severe military and legal sanctions of the day.

In one letter Gordon urges Gilbert to destroy all the correspondence. Fortunately he did not, leaving a unique record of their lives. In others they try to imagine if and how they will live together after the war, should they go to California, should they be faithful to one another or not? They look to a future when their love will be accepted.

To avoid persecution, lovers of the same sex have not kept written records of their love (for some this still applies today), so the survival of Gordon's letters is hugely significant in recovering the history of LGBT lives.

Wednesday January 24th 1939

My darling

... I lie awake all night waiting for the postman in the early morning, and then when he does not bring anything from you I just exist a mass of nerves..

All my love forever
G

Friday January 19th 1940
Perpetty, Brixham

My own darling

..Now before I go any further I want to ask you to do one thing for me in deadly seriousness - I want all my letters destroyed.. Please darling do this for me..

Till then & forever I worship you
G

February 12th 1940 Park Grange

My own darling boy

... There is nothing more than I desire in life but to have you with me constantly.. I can see or I imagine I can see what your mother and father's reaction would be.. the rest of the world have no conception of what our love is - they do not know that it is love..

February 1st 1941 K.C Gloucester
Regiment, Priors Road, Cheltenham

My darling boy

... For years I had had it drummed in to me that no love could last for life.. I want you darling seriously to delve into your own mind, and to look for once into the future.. Imagine then the time when the war is over and we are living together.. would it not be better to live on from now on the memory of our life together when it was at its most golden pitch..

... I think your mother is fully aware that we intend living together after the war....
Your own
G



Raven Hotel, Shrewsbury
where the soldiers sometimes
used to stay



Park Hall Camp during the war

SOME PEOPLE ARE GAY. GET OVER IT!



Stonewall was founded in 1989 by a small group of people who had been active in the struggle against Section 28 of the Local Government Act. Section 28 was an offensive piece of legislation designed to prevent the so-called 'promotion' of homosexuality in schools and stigmatising LGBT+ people; it galvanised the LGBT+ community.

The aim from the outset was to create a professional lobbying group that would prevent such attacks LGBT+ people from ever occurring again. Stonewall has subsequently put the case for equality on the mainstream political agenda by winning support within all the main political parties and now has offices in England, Scotland and Wales. Stonewall is renowned for its campaigning and lobbying.

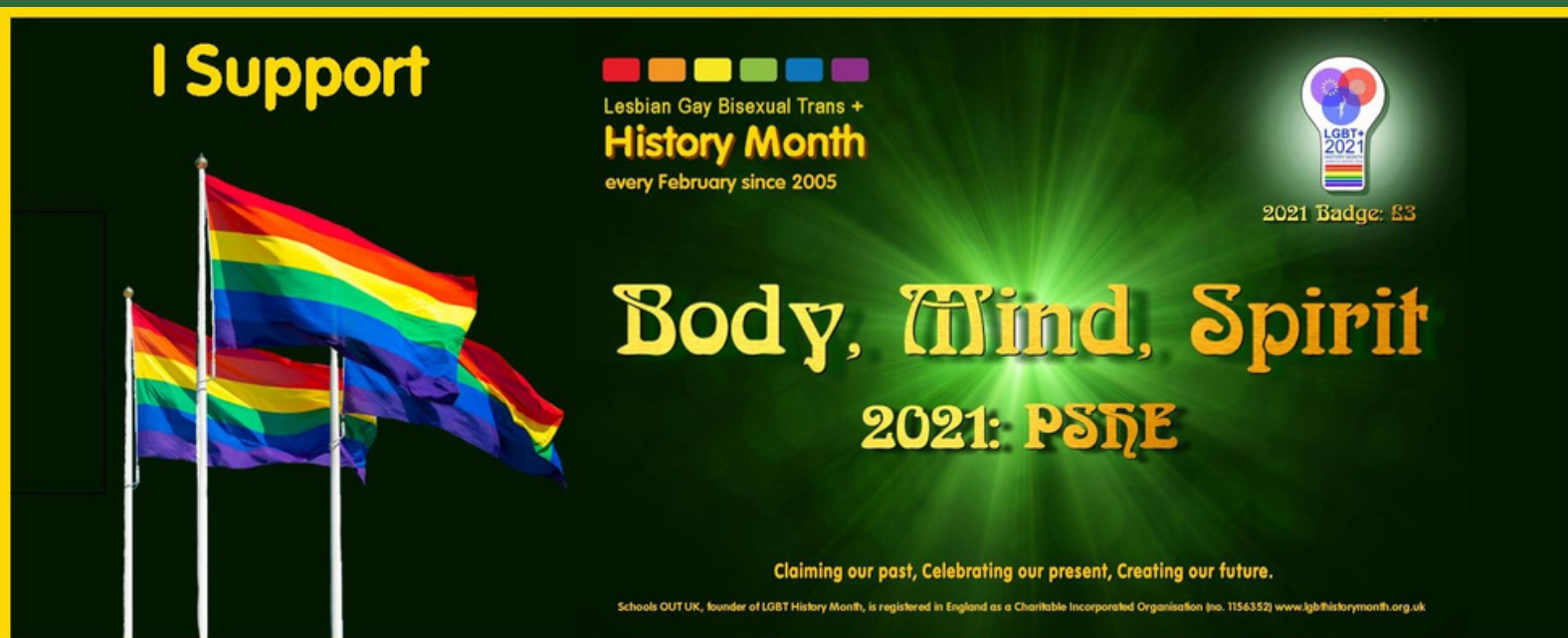
Stonewall empower LGBT+ people to be their authentic selves, enabling them to realise and achieve their full potential and empower LGBT+ people and allies to create positive change. Stonewall supports individuals in understanding how they can make a difference for LGBT+ people at work, home, and their communities.

LGBT-INCLUSIVE EDUCATION BENEFITS EVERYONE.



#HopeForLGBTequality





How can you support?

- Never use any form of discriminatory language.
- Understand that discrimination is not only illegal, but it also goes against our school policy.
- Be an ally. You don't have to be LGBT+ to support those who are.
- Challenge misconceptions and discrimination.
- Never out someone.
- Just because you think someone is LGBT+, remember, this does not give you the right to ask personal questions.
- Respect people's chosen names/pronouns.
- Be kind and offer support.
- Wear an LGBT+ badge in support (if you want to).

If you are worried about a Highlands School student, please contact staysafe@highlearn.uk

How does Highlands School promote LGBT+ equality and inclusivity?

- Our school ethos: DARE values.
- Behaviour policy and expectations (Zero tolerance to any forms of discrimination).
- Staff wear rainbow lanyards/badges.
- LGBT+ month display.
- PSHE and RSE curriculum that is fully LGBT+ inclusive.

[Click here](#) for our DARE values.

To visit the official LGBT+ History Month website, go to www.lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk





Switchboard LGBT+ helpline provides information, support and referral service for lesbians, gay men and bisexual and trans people – and anyone considering issues around their sexuality and/or gender identity.

Stonewall have information, resources and campaigns for the LGBT+ community and beyond.

Mind Out is run by Mind, it is an online one on one support for LGBT+ people who are experiencing mental health difficulties.

The Proud Trust provide support to young people aged 14-25 who are LGBT+ across the North West through youth groups and 1-2-1 support and have a number of free online guides, as well as research.

