

LGBT+ History Month

February 11th 2021

In today's Tutor Period we're going to develop awareness and understanding of several landmark events of the LGBT+ community.



Why do we need to be aware of LGBT+ history?

- History is vital to human development.
- We all live in the present and we plan for the future – but how do we understand where we're going and what progress looks like? To know exactly where you're going, you first need to understand where you have come from. **For that you need an appreciation of history.**
- History also encourages a deeper understanding of difference. There are lessons, both good and bad, to be learned from the way our ancestors have interacted with other people who have different ways of living. **In a modern world where inclusivity is embraced no matter your background, an understanding of how past societies have integrated is key to humanity improving in the future- and there is more we can always do.**
- Knowing about LGBT history will give you a better awareness of **why LGBTQ+ people need their voices** heard and the support of everyone around them. It'll help you understand why and how we should all help to make the world a more inclusive, accepting place.

MHS is an ally to the LGBT+ Community



Mr Barker: "Mr Purdie asked me last week how I would feel about us flying two rainbow flags outside school. My Answer' 'I'd feel even prouder of our school then I do now'.

The following slides show several monumental times throughout LGBT+ history . As your form teacher presents each slide think of how you would feel if you weren't allowed to be your true, authentic self...There will also be some opportunities to discuss/share your views/opinions so get involved.

1: 1533

- During the reign of Henry VIII in the 1500s, he created an act known as the 'Buggery Act'.
- The Act outlawed homosexuality in Britain, **making it punishable by death.**
- After 200 years, the death penalty was abolished, though it was replaced by a minimum 10 years of imprisonment.
- Fortunately, the last legal executions were in 1835, but homosexuality wasn't **decriminalised until as recently as 1967** – and this was only partially.



1: 27th July 1967

- On this day homosexuality was decriminalized- this means it was **no longer illegal**. It's the happy moment when **love is no longer a crime**. In a world where a man who loves a man, a woman who loves a woman, **can live a happy life**.
- However, we need to remind ourselves that there are communities of gay men and women in countries around the world **who are still facing persecution, imprisonment and in some cases death due to their sexuality being deemed illegal**. Those communities deserve the same rights and we all share the responsibility to fight for them. - Simon Yadoo



2: 28th June 1969

- The Stonewall riots occurred. This was one of the most significant events in LGBT history. **Riots by LGBTQ+ people were sparked after police raided the Stonewall Inn** a famous gay bar in NYC. Lesbians and trans woman of colour like **Marsha P. Johnson (below), Sylvia Rivera and Storme DeLarverie** where the trailblazers of this movement.
- Activists groups, including the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) formed as a result and the Stonewall riots are now remembered as **one of the most important modern LGBT movements worldwide.**

Discussion: Why do you think the police raided the Stonewall Inn. What would their reason be?



3: 25th June 1978

- Gilbert Baker, artist and gay rights activist, **designs the Pride flag**. It originally had eight colours, but two were dropped to make mass-production easier. It is now a **widely-recognised symbol of LGBTQ+**.
- In 2018, the progress pride was designed by Daniel Quasar. This was to represent the **Trans and POC within the LGBT Community** to ensure it has bigger emphasis on inclusion and progression. This is the flag we have flying proudly at our school, see slide 4.

Discussion: How do you think we could display the pride flag around school even more?



4: 1980's

- In 1981 the first cases of HIV/AIDS was diagnosed in America.
- 1985: every region in the world had reported at least one case of AIDS, with 20,303 cases in total. Also in 1985, men who have sex with men were **banned for life** from donating blood, this was due to fears amid the HIV/AIDS crisis. The ban was not lifted **until 2011**.
- Men who had AIDS or who had even had an AIDS test were **not allowed to get a mortgage**.
- The HIV/AIDS crisis was terribly **sad time for the LGBT community and allies as many of their friends died**.





The men in white are the surviving members of the Original San Francisco Gay Men's Choir. Those in black represent the members lost to AIDS. Remember this when people say the gay community survived the epidemic. We had to start over because we lost a whole generation.

5: 29th March 1982

- The first openly LGBT person to win an Oscar was John Gielgud for the film 'Arthur'.
- Whilst Gielgud never publicly spoke about his sexuality, it opened the doors for many **LGBT+ people to be recognised for their talent** such as: Sam Smith, Dustin Lance Black, Lady Gaga, Howard Ashman and Stephen Sondheim.



6: 24th May 1988

- The introduction of **Section 28**. The Section stated that local authorities “**shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality**”. Margaret Thatcher also said the following to justify this **awful** act "Children who need to be taught to respect traditional moral values are being taught that they have an inalienable right to be gay. All of those children are being cheated of a sound start in life."
- It meant teachers couldn't be 'out' and it also allowed many LGBT young people felt isolated as they were made to feel **invisible and didn't exist**.

Discussion: Do you think it's acceptable for a leader to have this view? Explain.



7: 24th May 1988

- The formation of Stonewall UK, which is now the **largest LGBT organisation in Europe**. It was founded by Sir Ian McKellen, Lisa Power MBE, and Lord Cashman CBE in response to **Section 28 and to campaign for LGBT rights**.
- Some major successes include helping achieve the equalisation of the age of consent, lifting the ban on LGB people serving in the military, securing legislation which allowed same-sex couples to adopt and the repeal of Section 28.
- The school are looking to apply for the **Stonewall Champion Award** showing how LGBT+ inclusive MHS is and how we practice this.

Discussion: What else could we do to demonstrate that our school is an ally?



8: 2nd February 2009

- RuPaul's Drag Race was first aired. This was the **first reality competition programme to air a full cast of openly LGBT+ people.**
- It is now in its 13th Season and has franchised the programme in the UK, Canada and Australia...
- RuPaul has also smashed a new Emmy record for most 'Emmy wins for an Outstanding Host for a Reality or Competition Program'. **The first time a openly gay POC has held this record.**



9: 1992

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) **declassifies** homosexuality as a **mental illness**.
- This was a huge step forward, as LGBTQ+ people had previously received controversial and often detrimental treatments to try and **'cure' their sexuality** such as training camps, conversion therapy, electric shock treatment and other methods.



10: 1995

- The formation of the **trans children support group Mermaids**. Their aim was and still is to **offer support and guidance to trans and gender-diverse children, young people, and their families**. They also work to educate and spread awareness in society.
- Mermaids do amazing work but a survey of 7,000 young people showed that 83% experience a form of bullying and don't report it.

Discussion: Why isn't it reported? Would you challenge/report this behaviour if you witnessed it in school? Who would you speak too?



11: 2000-2010's

This decade saw **huge steps forward** for LGBTQ+ rights. In 2001, **the ban on lesbian, gay, and bisexual people serving in the army was lifted** by UK Government.

In 2002, same sex couples in the **UK received equal rights for adoption as straight couples.**

Section 28 was repealed in February 2003 in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland hence why History month is celebrated in February.

In **2004**, the Gender Recognition Act passed, which allows transgender people to fully and **legally identify with their chosen gender, as well as acquire a new birth certificate.**

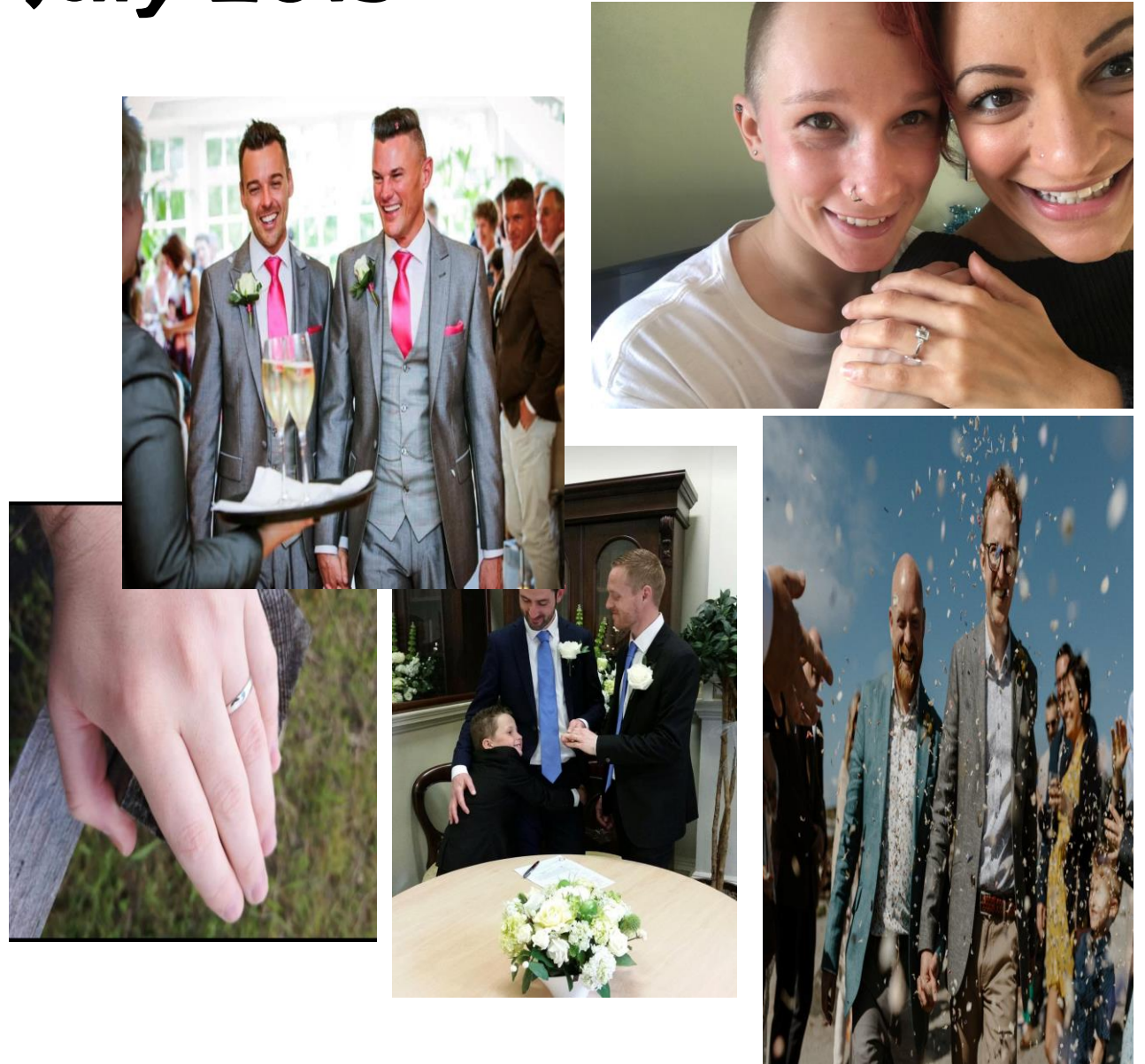
Discussion: Why would your sexuality stop you fighting for your country? How does it affect the ability to be a soldier or work with the military.



12: 17th July 2013

- The Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act comes into effect in England and Wales, **finally making same-sex marriage legal**. Scotland followed suit later in the same year.
- Below are a few pictures of proud LGBT teachers/politicians on their wedding/engagement day including our very own Mr Purdie.

Discussion: Why was this a crime before 2013, do these pictures show any type of hatred or offence? Does it make sense...



13: 2019

- The World Health Organisation **declassifies transgender health issues as a mental illness**. Graeme Reid (LGBT rights director at Human Rights Watch) said the changes would have a **“liberating effect on transgender people worldwide”**.



Discussion: Moving forward.. How can you be an ally?

- Read LGBT+ books.
- Challenge homo/transphobic language and behaviour.
- Watch LGBT+ documentaries and films.
- Attend a Pride event with friends and family.

If you need support, access our LGBT page on the website or on the Pastoral hub. If you need any support please speak to an adult you trust or a member of the LGBT team (Mr Purdie, Miss Gowrie, Ms Murray, Miss Hoyle and Miss Blackburn).

If you want to get involved on supporting MHS being an inclusive space please email: lgbt@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

Get involved...

- In June its **Pride month**.
- To celebrate this we will be making a video.
- **How can you get involved and be an ally?** Send a picture of you or with family/friends and include the rainbow flag. Be as creative as you want!
- Send your pictures into Mr Purdie at: alex.purdie@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk
- This will be added to SMHW and also a reminder will sent out in May.

GET INVOLVED!