



MAY 2022

ISSUE #01



BALLAKERMEEN HIGH SCHOOL



LGBTQ+

Newsletter



*For anyone who would like to reach out, for support or advice,
we are in solidarity with you. You matter.*

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WHAT'S INSIDE



• HAPPY IDAHOBIT!

We are celebrating International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia on 17th May!

• WEEKLY FEATURE:

Heartstopper

• This month's LGBTQ+ Role Model

• LGBTQ+ Book of the Month



RAINBOW
CAFE



Every Tuesday - In the Fiction Library after-school! Relax, learn, seek advice, and join workshops in our safe space.

WELCOME

Welcome to the first issue of our exciting new BHS Rainbow Cafe newsletter!

We're very happy to be launching this in May 2022 during IDAHOBIT week. This fabulous newsletter will be published as a monthly magazine. Together, we will be sharing role models, features, advice, LGBT+ words, links to books & films and much more!

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to contribute to the magazine. Please contact Ms Wood or Ros: laura.wood@sch.im or ros.alcock@sch.im



International Day Against

Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

IDAHOBIT is a worldwide celebration of sexual identity & gender diversity and the 2022 theme is:

“OUR BODIES, OUR LIVES, OUR RIGHTS”.

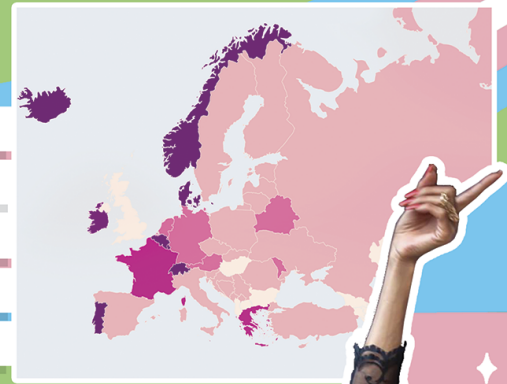
Created in 2004, IDAHOBIT draws attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex people, and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics.

The date of 17th May was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organisation's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.



This map indicates how human rights compliant legal gender recognition procedures are in Europe and Central Asia. The darker the colour, the better!

- LGR not consistently available ○
- Abusive medical requirements ●
- Diagnosis required ●
- No diagnosis required ●
- Self-determination ●



Who is Leading The Way?

This week Switzerland joined Norway, Belgium, Ireland, and more, in allowing people to legally change their gender through self-identification alone.

This means that transgender people can legally switch genders by simply declaring they are male or female. In the UK, activist groups such as Stonewall say legal self-identification would be a major step forward in the fight for transgender rights. They argue that forcing transgender people to prove to doctors that their gender identity is real is invasive and humiliating.



ROLE MODEL OF THE MONTH

Following the Eurovision song contest last weekend, our Role Model for May is Dana International, born in Tel Aviv, Israel. Though assigned male at birth, she identified as female from a very young age.

Dana won the Eurovision song contest in 1998, with her performance giving a lot of people courage and raising important issues in countries where tolerance has been low.

Since winning, Dana has actively supported Pride events in Israel and Europe and challenges many assumptions about her country. She remains an important figure in the wider LGBT community to this day.

Weekly Feature



Last week we were lucky enough to welcome the star of Netflix's new 'Heartstopper' (the loveliest show on TV) Joe Locke.

As you all know, Heartstopper is based on the comics by Alice Oseman, and is set in a British secondary school. We spend most of our time with the openly gay Charlie (Joe Locke), who falls for rugby-obsessed Nick (Kit Connor). There's that kissing couple, Tara (Corinna Brown) and Darcy (Kizzy Edgell), and one of the characters, Elle (Yasmin Finney) is a young trans woman. It's a warm, inclusive, funny and down-to-earth look at life for young LGBTQ+ teens today.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

What is your point of view? Has Heartstopper influenced how you think or feel about anything?



BOOK OF THE MONTH



Heartstopper - Alice Oseman

(For students aged 12+)

'Heartstopper is about love, friendship, loyalty and mental illness. It encompasses all the small stories of Nick and Charlie's lives that together make up something larger, which speaks to all of us.'

- Waterstones

This is the first volume of Heartstopper. Copies are available to buy or borrow in the library!

