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ISSUE #02



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

- **DIVERSITY WEEK AT BHS**

We are celebrating Diversity Week
from Mon 20th - Fri 24th June!

- **MONTHLY FEATURE:**

Balla PRIDE: Friday 1st July

- This month's LGBTQ+ Role Model

- LGBTQ+ Book of the Month



DIVERSITY Week



School Diversity Week is a UK-wide celebration across primary and secondary schools that celebrates LGBTQ+ diversity. It is run by the charity *Just Like Us*, an organisation that supports young LGBTQ+ people.

Just Like Us have volunteer ambassadors who talk to young people about their experiences growing up LGBTQ+. They also provide a number of tools and resources to aid schools in establishing student-led LGBTQ+ groups.

LGBTQ+ inclusivity and diversity is associated with better wellbeing for young people. This means that even if you do not identify as LGBTQ+ yourself, you are still likely to benefit from celebrating these differences as part of School Diversity Week.

How is School Diversity Week celebrated

at Ballakermeen?

School Diversity Week takes place:
Mon 20th - Fri 24th June 2022.

There will be several assemblies being delivered to celebrate diversity, and then we will be finishing off with our annual BallaPRIDE event on Friday 1st July in the Fiction Library!

(see overleaf)



Keith Haring was openly gay, and he has used his art to benefit gay causes.

Haring grew up in Pennsylvania, and studied to become a commercial artist in Pittsburgh, before dropping out after 2 semesters. In 1978, he came to New York City to study painting at the School of Visual Arts. There, he discovered the under-ground art community, and became friends with artists such as Kenny Scharf, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Madonna, and later Andy Warhol.



In Art at Ballakermeen, students have been studying his artwork, and created our own interpretations. Come and check out our creations at BallaPRIDE.

Ballakermeen PRIDE

Save the date in your diary: Friday 1st July (both lunches) in the Fiction Library.

Expect to see music, drag performances, and more! Come and help us celebrate!



Role model of the month



Every year in the month of June, the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) community and its allies, celebrate Pride Month.

Occurring every year in June to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall riots in the US, Pride is a month-long celebration of LGBTQ+ lives, history and culture, working to achieve equal justice and opportunity for LGBTQ+ people.

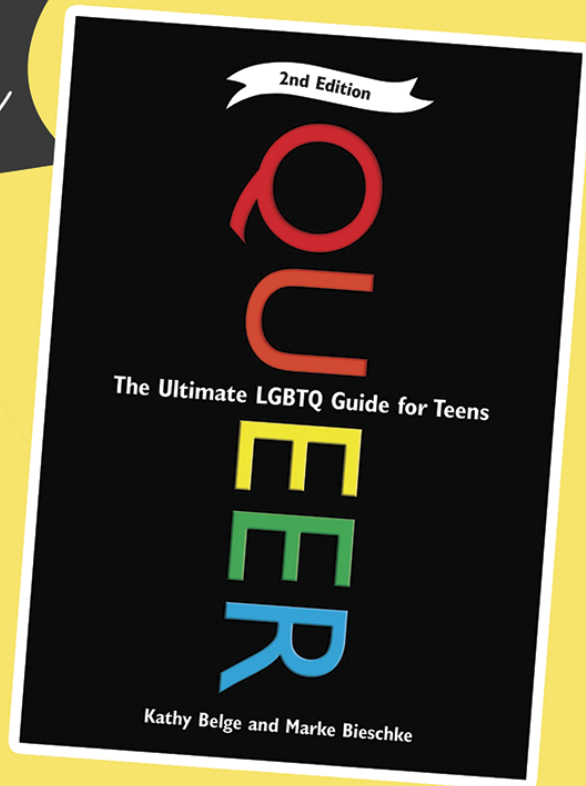
The purpose of the month is to recognise the impact that LGBTQ+ individuals have had on society and to show how far LGBTQ+ rights have come.

Book of the Month

"QUEER - The Ultimate LGBTQ Guide for Teens"

- Kathy Belge & Marke Bierschke

This LGBTQ guide for teenagers is easy to read and gives you solid information on topics like coming out, how to deal with bullying, how to start dating, relationships, and many other things. It's well laid out, with real life stories, cartoons, and includes a booklist and recommended websites at the end of the book. You can find this book in the main library in our 'Reading Well' section, along with other similar books you might find helpful.



Years ago, when we were growing up, the world was a different place. We didn't know too many other queer kids or adults. Many people felt forced to lead their lives in the closet. With a little luck and a lot of pride, we both made it through.

Being a queer or questioning teen still has its ups and downs. You've got to deal with coming out, trying to find your community, dating within a sometimes limited dating pool, and coping with discrimination from people who just don't get it. But if you're growing up queer today, you also have a lot to be excited about. Queer teens are coming out younger. You're part of a whole new generation of queer and queer-friendly youth, and we wrote this book for you.

Inside, we'll talk about what it means to be queer and guide you through the stages of coming out, finding your people, dealing with haters, and scoring dates. We'll also tell you some funny (and not-so-funny!) stories about our own experiences of coming into the world as queer people. And you'll also get a taste of the rich legacy of queer art, humor, and history. Queer life can be really juicy — and you're about to find out how.



Kathy & Marke

