

Gryphon

The Beechen Cliff Magazine for
students, by students



Term 6 2022



Our Editorial Team

Olivia Laughton, Maria Ramadan, Adriana Barnes, Helen Turnbull

A Message From Our Editors:

Hi everyone! As this is the final edition of the Gryphon for the year, we'd like to give our thanks to everybody who's written and supported it over the past ten months, and of course we're very excited to work with the new lower sixth from September onwards!

We'll be looking to commission articles, reviews, art/photography and anything else you'd like to see here, so if you want to get involved in the next edition please see page 3, we would really appreciate the support.

This term predominantly falls in the month of June, which is globally celebrated as Pride Month! As such an important event, we decided to make it our main theme for the term. It is, however, something we strongly believe should be considered and discussed all year round.

We hope you enjoy :)



Interested in the Gryphon? Want to Join Us?

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Read this letter below!

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to advertise an incredible student-led super curricular opportunity that we're looking to open up to our Lower Sixth students, in the form of contributing to our Gryphon Magazine, either in the editorial team or by submitting articles.

The Gryphon was started by a pair of Year 13 students in the Autumn of 2020 and has since expanded into an editorial team of six students and including articles from across the Beechen Cliff community. Its motto 'For the Students, By the Students' is reflected in the ethos of the current editors, who are keen to stimulate involvement in the Gryphon from all levels of our student body. With this in mind, along with their upcoming A-Level exams, the team are looking to work with the next group of students keen to take up the editorship of the Gryphon in a transition period in the New Year.

Whilst this activity is not compulsory for students to participate in, we would strongly encourage you, your son or daughter to do so. Participation in super-curricular activities where you can develop and share your own academic interests is an excellent way for students to demonstrate a broader commitment to their studies.

For those thinking of applying to university in particular, we would definitely recommend attending this event as universities place great value on super-curricular activities that your child has undertaken during their school career. In addition, writing or editing for the Gryphon is also something which can be put on CVs, Personal Statements and discussed at interviews.

Very few other schools are able to offer an opportunity such as this, which therefore presents a unique chance to make your or your child's university application stand out from others.

If you have any further questions about the Gryphon please get in contact with headofsixth@beechencliff.org.uk. If you, your son or daughter is already keen to get involved, then please contact one of the current editors at:

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Best wishes,

Miss K Mather
Head of Sixth Form



BEECHEN CLIFF



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A History of Gay Rights in Britain

P5

Olivia Laughton



Throughout the month of June, the streets of Britain's towns, cities and villages become awash with colour as Pride Month marches take place. The events celebrate our diversity and tolerance as well as raising awareness of the continued prejudices against the LGBTQ+ community in Britain today. It is an incredible spectacle, and one that has taken centuries of protestations, struggles, and determination to achieve. The very nature of the vibrancy of Pride marches, with their bright, bold rainbow flags, is indeed a powerful reminder of how far we've come. In the past, being gay wasn't something one could feel "pride" for; so enshrined in our judiciary, legislature, religion, and social conscience was the prejudice that prevented inclusivity or tolerance. Gay rights in Britain has a long and difficult history, which I want to explore in this article: as a celebration of how far we have come, a reminder of how far we have to go, and finally as a commemoration for all those people, present and past, for whom pride was something that they could not celebrate. It is a travesty and a wrong that we will never be able to undo.



The first explicit legislature in Britain against homosexuality came in the reign of Henry VIII. The Buggery Act of 1533 shifted the perception of it from a purely religious sin, to a legal one too. The consequences of this legal precedent would be felt for decades. It was not until 434 years later that homosexuality was decriminalized. Convictions under the act were punishable by death. Walter Hungerford, the owner of Farleigh Hungerford Castle in Somerset, was the first man to be executed under the Act in 1540.

In 1828, new legislation revoked the death penalty for homosexual acts between men, replacing it with decades of imprisonment and manual labour. However, up until 1861 homosexual activity still remained a capital offence in some circumstances.. The last execution took place on 27 November 1835 when James Pratt and John Smith were hanged outside Newgate Prison in London.



(Walter Hungerford)



A History of Gay Rights in Britain

P6

Olivia Laughton



The 1855 Criminal Law Amendment Act strengthened the law against sexual activity between men under the legal term “gross indecency”. Between 1895 and 1897, Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde was sentenced to penal labour under this law.



(Oscar Wilde)

It is interesting to note that throughout this period, no specific legislation criminalised female sexual relationships. In 1921 there was an attempt to criminalise “gross indecency” between women. However, the MPs feared it would publicise and encourage lesbianism. One MP argued that ‘to leave them entirely alone, not notice them, not advertise them ... is the method that has been adopted in England for many hundred years.’ Concisely summing up the silenced and oppressed nature of women’s sexuality historically.

For men, however legislation continued to lead to arrests and prosecutions. After World War II, there had been a noticeable increase in cases: 670 prosecutions for “sodomy” and 1,868 for “gross indecency” including the high-profile case of Alan

Turing, the cryptographer who cracked the German Enigma Code during the war. This saw a rise in media attention and public awareness, and was in many ways the beginning of societal change too.



(Alan Turing)

This shift was reflected politically in the establishment by the government of The Wolfenden Committee in 1954. The publishing of the Wolfenden Report in September 1957 was a clear attestation of changing views. In the report, decriminalisation of gay sex between consenting adults over 21 was recommended, stating “homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private should no longer be a criminal offence.” Progressive as this was, it is important to remember that the report did still condemn homosexuality as immoral, but acknowledged that its illegality was an infringement of civil liberties as “it is not, in our view, the function of the law to intervene in the private life of citizens.”

A History of Gay Rights in Britain

Olivia Laughton



Frustratingly, however, the government rejected the report and it would take another decade for the 1967 Sexual Offences Act to finally decriminalise homosexuality. When this did happen however, the legislation relied heavily on the findings of the Wolfenden Report.

Change was not all progressive, however. In 1988, Thatcher's Conservative government introduced the Local Government Act; Section 28 banned local authorities from "promoting homosexuality" or "pretended family relationships", prohibiting councils from funding and resources to "promote homosexuality". It wasn't until 2003 that Section 28 was repealed.

In the 2000s more important legislature was enacted, including the Civil Partnership Act in 2004, which was furthered by the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act in 2013, legalising the marriage of same-sex couples in England and Wales.. Similar legislation followed in 2014 in Scotland and in 2020 in Northern Ireland. In 2010, the Equality Act protected the LGBTQ+ community from discrimination at work. Thus culminating, to the current day, our legal, social and political fight for justice and tolerance.

The history of gay rights in Britain has been a long and difficult one. The bigotry and prejudice has inflicted immense and unfathomable pain and suffering through cruel and intolerant legislature. There is still much more to be done for equality, and pride month is rightly a chance to give recognition to that. But when considering the seismic changes in our society, judiciary and legislature over time, we must see we have a lot to celebrate, and be proud of, too.



The 1960s saw a relaxation to previous attitudes not just in Britain, but internationally too. The Stonewall Riots in New York in June 1969 by the gay community in response to horrific police treatment had a profound global impact on the awareness of pride. This was the origins of what today we celebrate as Pride Month. In Britain, this led to the founding of the GLF or Gay Liberation Front, fighting for LGBTQ+ rights and rebelling against the oppression and prejudice in mainstream society.



Sexism in school: What is the cause, and what can be done to stop it?

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Luca Williamson, interviewing Mrs Sullivan



I think everyone has experienced or witnessed misogynistic behaviour at some point in their life. It is worryingly common. And as someone who has been a student at Beechen Cliff from Year 7, all the way through lower school and into lower sixth, I'm sorry to say I've seen it in school too. It is often seemingly "harmless" such as comments on the physical appearance of a sixth former, or answering back to a female member of staff and treating them disrespectfully. However, to put a finger on the root of the issue is near impossible. "It's a difficult topic to approach because it's an issue in society as a whole" says Mrs Sullivan; "when there are sexist attitudes in society, and of course we see that everyday in the media, in politics and leadership of our country, of course there is going to be an issue in school as well." There have been cases in school where it is apparent to me that staff and sixth formers are certainly treated disrespectfully, whether its with female-specific derogatory terms or references to appearance, and yet when discussing these instances with my peers when I was in Year 10 and 11 many were adamant that this was irrelevant of gender, and rather down to that specific person. However, the absence of such behaviour around male members of staff or male sixth formers, whose presence to many younger boys, as a Year 11 student states, "feels to some people as if it commands more respect", is very clear. But as Mrs Sullivan suggests, "it's all

about respect. You should treat everybody the same, every member of staff, regardless of hierarchy or gender." The same-sex environment at Beechen Cliff may make matters worse to an extent. I for one have certainly felt the pressure boys in lower school can be put under to act 'laddish' or 'macho' and Mrs Sullivan calls this a 'mob mentality' and is a key factor. "It can be harder in an all boys environment to be the bigger person" she says, and this is emphasised by a Year 11 student; "it's so easy to be dragged into it as part of a crowd, to want to join in with everyone else to the point where you don't realise it's not okay. At the time it's just a joke, and only after stepping back can you realise what was wrong." The mixed nature of sixth form feels as if it provides a much less overwhelming amount of cases of misogyny in school, as students are more mature, especially due to more opportunities to form connections with students of the opposite gender, which definitely helps educate male pupils on the issue. Through having female friends, you become much more aware of not only the frequency, but also the impact of sexist behaviour in and outside of school. This has definitely helped me to become more conscious of my own behaviour and that of others as well. Unfortunately though, for many this is not the case, as Mrs Sullivan recounts "going into the common room or silent study area, and groups of lads playing



Sexism in school: What is the cause, and what can be done to stop it?

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Luca Williamson, interviewing Mrs Sullivan



football or passing rugby balls can definitely be disrespectful when you ask them to stop”.

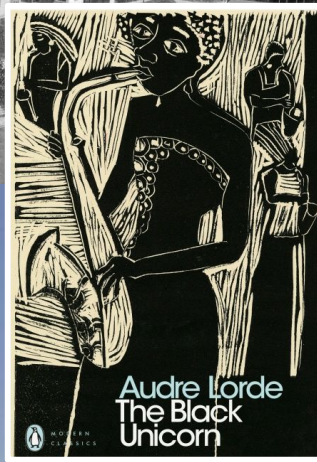
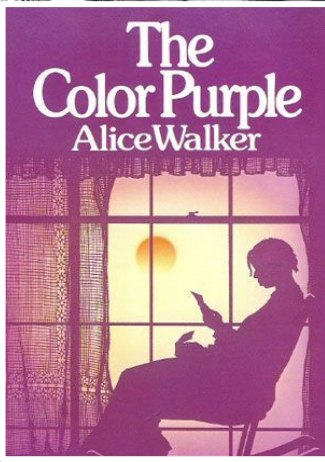
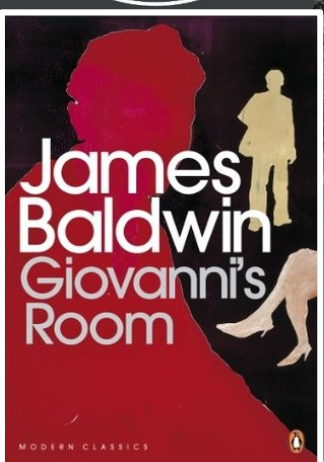
The nature of the misogyny problem and its causes within school begs the questions; what does the school do to handle it, is it enough, and what else needs to be done? One of the main reasons Mrs Sullivan cites for coming to work at an all boys school was “to try and make a difference with this kind of thing” and now being on the inside she can “recognise that the school does so much against inequalities.” The amount of systems in school for not only sanctioning students for transgressions but also proactively tackling the issue via education of the subject are certainly commendable: equalities teams, themes of the week, assemblies, the pledge of respect - to name a few. The school does much to proactively combat inequality issues, but other than persist and try to change ‘mob culture’ around them Mrs Sullivan isn’t “sure what else can be done: and yet I still think we need to do more.” The school has certainly progressed in the handling and tackling of inequalities in recent times, as much more is being done since I joined in year seven. This is reflected in the fact that many boys now know not to use derogatory language, “or at least not in front of teachers”. However, Mrs

Sullivan does believe there is some way to go in terms of defensive attitudes boys display in tutor sessions or assemblies on topics such as international women’s day or the recent shocking Sarah Everard murder; phrases such as ‘not all men’ are often used by uninformed students who feel as if blame is being directed at them directly and treat the issue as confrontational. To these pupils Mrs Sullivan says “if you are someone that takes offence to us talking about gender issues, it’s not about you. It’s about women’s and young girl’s lived experiences and what they have to put up with on a daily basis. And if you’re not someone that’s a part of that behaviour, then be part of the change.” I personally couldn’t agree more.

Ultimately, this is the only way the current situation can change as teachers can only do so much. To tackle this issue affecting all of us in different ways, what is needed is more individuals bravely acting against the ‘mob mentality’, common attitudes and peers who exhibit sexist behaviour to protect others and prevent the continuation of these negative attitudes into life beyond or outside of school. For people to put themselves out there and address the problem as a school as well as in society as a whole. Be a part of the change, not the problem.

PRIDE MONTH RECOMMENDATIONS: BOOKS

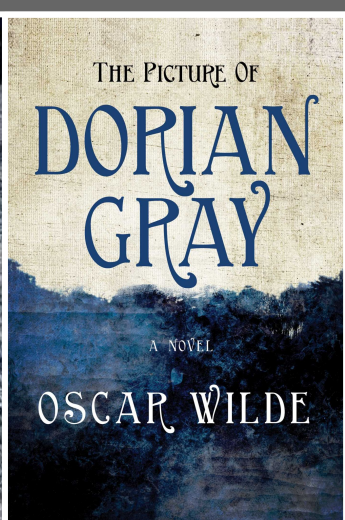
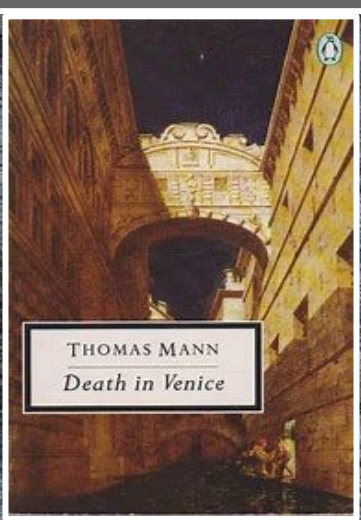
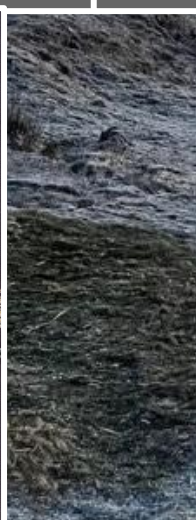
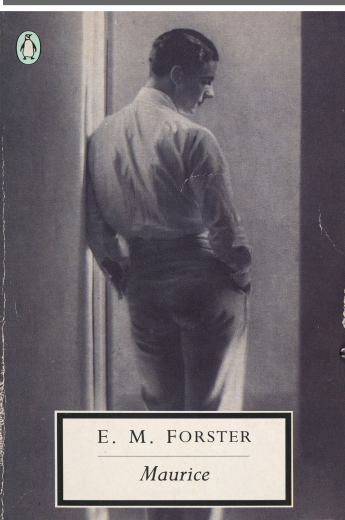
By Olivia Laughton



Published in 1956 but banned for its frank exploration of homosexuality, this is a haunting novel of a young man's torturous affair and his subsequent inability to defy the societal expectations and realise or commit to his love for another man.

The protagonist Celie is a young African American woman, raped by her father and abused by her husband, who at last finds a sense of identity and comfort in her relationship with a beautiful and powerful woman, Shug Avery. Again, the book has been banned several times for its depiction of violence, rape and homosexuality.

Audre Lorde was an American writer, feminist, womanist, librarian, civil rights activist, and a lesbian. This poetry collection, published in 1978, powerfully expresses ideas of womanhood, femininity, family, and African mythology and religion.



Written in 1913 but not published for over 60 years, this story of a boy growing up & falling in love with a man, who leaves him heartbroken when he represses his sexuality to marry a woman.

A semi-autobiographical novella, describing a failing writer's trip to Venice, where he becomes infatuated with a young boy, with tragic consequences for all.

One of the most influential writers of the 19th century, Oscar Wilde's homosexuality was persecuted frequently throughout his life. This book was once used in trial in an attempt to convict him.



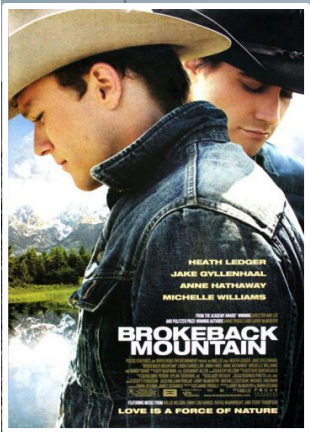
PRIDE MONTH RECOMMENDATIONS SP11

FILMS

By Sam Williams



God's Own Country, Francis Lee, 2017
 A beautiful film about a young yorkshire farmer whose ideals surrounding himself and his identity are transformed by the arrival of a romanian migrant, who not only generates a rich and convincing relationship but shows how one person can change another's outlook on life. This is a simple but engaging romance which is appealing to all audiences and profound in its progressiveness.



Brokeback Mountain, Ang Lee, 2005
 A pride month classic that sees two modern day cowboys find an unexpected love in the 1960's while battling the inequality present at the time. This is a groundbreaking film that shaped the identity of gay cinema to this day, Ledger and Gyllenhaal give very expansive performances and comfotably and expertly convey a different sexuality. This is one of the main reasons why this film continues to be influencial, Brokeback Mountain broke stigmas and modernized the way gay people are portrayed with dignity and reality in cinema.



Imagine Me & You, Ol Parker, 2005
 A deeply grounded film about the true unveiling of a lesbian relationship following a woman's wedding that leads to a dilemma that sparks passion, despair and most significantly love. This film is another groundbreaking film that is a testament to anybody who questions their sexual orientatkon and gives the genral impression throughout that there is support to be found. A feel good film to watch and experience the rollercoaster of emotions sexuality can take you on but ultimately can lead to you being truly happy where you are.



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN LGBTQ+ HISTORY

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By Hannah Kearney-Mitchell



Significant Events in LGBTQ+ History

As we celebrate the LGBTQ+ community during pride month, many of us look towards current affairs and issues that are facing this community today as they fight for equality and rights. Although it is incredibly important for us to move forward in the fight for gay rights, it is also important to look back at the past and see how far this movement has come. The queer community have fought for years to be seen and heard by the public and government alike, therefore it is hugely important for us to recognize this fight and the movements, milestones and even tragic misfortunes that have come with it. Here are 4 significant events from LGBTQ+ history to help you learn about this community and its movement towards equality:

1951 – Roberta Cowell is the first known British trans woman to undergo reassignment surgery.

Roberta Elizabeth Marshall Cowell was a British racing driver and Second World War fighter pilot born in Croydon. From 1936 she studied

Engineering at University College London, also beginning her motor-racing career in the same year. The post-war period was a time of great distress for Cowell, separating from her wife and suffering with depression she sought help from a psychiatrist and slowly revealed, in her own words, that her "unconscious mind was predominantly female" and "feminine side of my nature, which all my life I had known of and severely repressed, was very much more fundamental and deep-rooted than I had supposed.". By 1950, Cowell was taking large doses of oestrogen, however still living as a man. This was until she developed a close friendship with Michael Dillon, a British physician whose work proposed that individuals should have the right to change gender.





SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN LGBTQ+ HISTORY

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By Hannah Kearney-Mitchell



Dillon, in great secrecy, carried out an inguinal orchiectomy on Cowell, allowing her to obtain a document stating she was “intersex”, which subsequently allowed her to be issued with a new birth certificate with her recorded sex as female. Cowell later had a vaginoplasty performed by Sir Harold Gillies (who is widely considered the father of plastic surgery) in 1951 and had the name on her birth certificate changed later in that same year.

1969 – the ‘Stonewall riots’ take place in the USA

The Stonewall Inn was a Mafia owned gay bar (as many were) run by the Genovese crime family.

Stonewall Inn was registered as a type of private “bottle bar” where patrons were supposed to bring their own liquor to avoid the bar purchasing a liquor license, however alcohol was still sold on the premises. Police Raids were common for gay bars due to their sketchy ownership as well as the fact that engaging in gay behaviour in public (holding hands, kissing or dancing with someone of the same sex) was still illegal, however, corrupt cops would usually tip off

Mafia-run bars before the raids occurred, allowing owners to stash the alcohol (sold without a liquor license) and hide other illegal activities. The morning raid of 28th of June came as a surprise to the Stonewall Inn as they were not tipped off this time. Armed with a warrant, police officers entered the club, roughed up patrons, and, finding bootlegged alcohol, arrested 13 people, including employees and people violating the state’s gender-appropriate clothing statute. Fed up with their constant harassment and discrimination from police, patrons and neighbourhood residents hung around outside of the bar rather than disperse, becoming increasingly agitated as the events unfolded and people were aggressively manhandled. Within minutes, a full-blown riot involving hundreds of people had begun and the Stonewall Inn was soon set on fire by the mob with a few people still inside. The fire department and a riot squad were eventually able to put out the flames, rescue those inside Stonewall, and disperse the crowd. But the protests, sometimes involving thousands of people, continued in the area for five more days. On the



By Hannah Kearney-Mitchell



one-year anniversary of the riots on June 28, 1970, thousands of people marched in the streets of Manhattan from the Stonewall Inn to Central Park, marking America's first gay pride parade. The Stonewall Riots served as a catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.



1972 – the first Pride march is held in London, attracting around 2000 participants
On 1st July 1972 a “carnival parade” of protest was held from Hyde Park to Trafalgar square in London,

carrying banners and chanting slogans, marking the first pride march to take place in the UK. Organized by members of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) the march was held on the closest Saturday to the anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The march was heavily policed and had a less than welcoming reaction from the public, however it attracted many people fighting their fear of expression as much of the queer community remained closeted in the 70s, fearing arrest and rejection. The march was part of a week-long demonstration for London Pride and marked the beginning of the fight for LGBTQ equality in the UK.

1999 – London Nail Bombings

The 1999 London Nail Bombs were a series of homemade bombs that detonated in three specific areas of London, targeting the Black, Bengali, LGBTQ community. The bombs were made from firework explosives taped inside of a sports bag containing up to 1,500 4-inch nails, these bags were then left in public spaces. The first bomb was detonated on Saturday 17th April in Brixton market, an area in South London with a large black population. On the following Saturday, 24th April, the second bomb was detonated at Brick Lane in the East End of London, which has a large Bangladeshi community. These first two explosions resulted in a



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN LGBTQ+ HISTORY

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By Hannah Kearney-Mitchell



total of 61 casualties but no fatalities. However, it was the third bombing, targeted at the LGBTQ community that would result in the death of 3 people, including a pregnant woman, as well as a further 79 casualties, 4 of which resulted in amputation. On the evening of Friday 30th of April, the third nail bomb was planted outside of the Admiral Duncan pub (well known as a gay pub) on Old Compton Street in Soho, the heart of London's gay community. It was the start of the bank holiday weekend and the pub and street outside of it were crowded with people. The bomb exploded at 6:37 pm just as the bag was being investigated by the pub manager, Mark Taylor. The man responsible for these attacks was former British National Party member, 22-year-old David Copeland. Copeland held Neo-Nazi ideals and admitted his intention was to start a "race war", he was arrested on 2nd May 1999 by the Metropolitan Police and convicted of murder in 2000, sentenced to serve 6 life sentences. Copeland became known as the "London Nail Bomber".





The Problem With a Stigma Around LGBTQ+ Celebrities

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By Maria Ramadan and Adriana Barnes



The Problem With a Stigma Around LGBTQ+ Celebrities

Rebel Meanie Elizabeth Wilson is an Australian actress, comedian, writer and producer. She is widely known for her role as 'Fat Amy' in the *Pitch Perfect* films (2012-2017), but is also recognised as 'Brynn' in *Bridesmaids* (2011), and more recently her leading role as 'Adult Stephanie' in *Senior Year* (2022). She is 42 years old.

On Friday 10th June, she introduced her official girlfriend Ramona Agruma to the public via the Vanity Fair red carpet by engaging in PDA. Most of the responses among her followers were positive and in support of Rebel's coming out, however the Sydney Herald gossip columnist Andrew Hornery published an article in which he accused Wilson of 'gazumping' his scoop by going public with her relationship which he had been planning to publish. The columnist claimed that he had contacted Wilson's representation the previous day to check the legitimacy of his article. We can see an antagonistic nature to Hornery's complaints, in that he believes it was his right to make public a private relationship. We should applaud Wilson for taking agency over her private life,

but question why she would have had to take this action. One critic accused Hornery of attempting to 'out' Wilson and take control over the publication of her sexuality, and slammed him for then complaining about her taking control of the announcement.



Celebrities are no strangers to the everyday harassment and rumouring they are subject to at the hands of the press and the infamous paparazzi, not to mention online trolls. There tends to be a wide lack of respect for celebrities; people seem to forget they are human too, and just as mortal as the rest of us. Perhaps sometimes, the paparazzi become so engrossed in getting the right shot, or journalists become obsessive about getting the latest scoop to cultivate the perfect article, that they forget how to conduct themselves and therefore wind up lording sensitive or private



The Problem With a Stigma Around LGBTQ+ Celebrities

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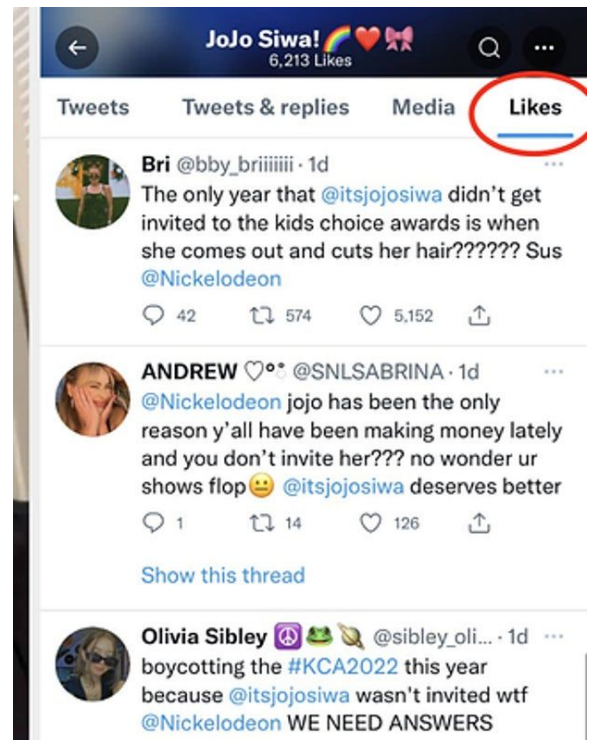
By Maria Ramadan and Adriana Barnes



information over these celebrities' heads to do so.

Furthermore, Jojo Siwa came out as pansexual earlier this year and was widely celebrated and renowned for being open and honest with her young audience about her identity and sexuality. However, she didn't receive an invite to this year's Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards, which is assumed to be because of her recent coming out as pansexual. A source related to Nickelodeon alleged that it was "because of a much reduced audience size due to COVID protocols", but many fans and supporters have speculated and come to the conclusion of homophobia within the industry. Siwa was nominated for favourite social music star, and despite the commonplace courtesy of inviting nominees to awards shows that we see at any prestigious ceremony, the same did not happen at the 2022 Kids Choice Awards. Siwa expressed her confusion in a short video via her Instagram platform with an outreach of 11.6 million followers, that "a lot of you have been asking me why I'm not at the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards tonight, and the answer is very simple: I wasn't invited", she says, continuing by

stating "I'm not sure why, but I just didn't get an invite." The video received 5.2 million views with no direct response from Nickelodeon, but many commenters calling out the company for its actions.



It is not just relative to the sexuality itself, but also to do with the brand of the celebrity as they cater to a certain audience. Homophobic trolls have used this to explain away why openly LGBTQ+ celebrities have found themselves nearly ostracized from the industry, or



The Problem With a Stigma Around LGBTQ+ Celebrities P18

By Maria Ramadan and Adriana Barnes



disinvited from awards shows that they helped make prestigious. These trolls claim that celebrities with younger and “more impressionable” audiences might be more susceptible to taking on the characteristics of the idol, namely sexuality. These online haters seem to misunderstand how someone “becomes” LGBTQ+; in that they do not “become” it through one of their celebrity idols identifying as LGBTQ+, but rather it is innate. In fact, celebrities provide important outlets for people who are closeted and do not feel encouraged enough to live freely as themselves. The importance of celebrities coming out is unmeasured; providing an LGBTQ+ figure for queer youth to look up to especially in a society which doesn’t always celebrate them.

Celebrities and their right to privacy over their sexuality is often overlooked and ignored as media and critics forget then they are normal people with regular insecurities and thoughts. By bringing them off this pedestal of romanticized living, we can unite and give them the confidence in expressing every part of their person, and to have the confidence that they’ll be accepted, and can provide a positive outlet for people.





'Bath Hub Against Misogyny' workshop: P19

The Event and its Outcomes

By Adriana Barnes



'Bath Hub Against Misogyny workshop: The Event and its Outcomes

Students at Beechen and Hayesfield were invited to participate in a workshop named the 'Bath Hub Against Misogyny workshop' centred around misogyny and more specifically toxic masculinity. As students from Beechen arrived at the Hayesfield Upper School campus, we were guided to a room in which we were split into groups containing a mixture of boys and girls to get a wide breadth of response and discussion. Although the number of girls to boys was outnumbered by around an estimated two to one, it was a successful attendance level with around 25 people joining the discussion.

The senior prefects from the respective schools began by defining toxic masculinity. That is that it 'refers to the notion that some people's idea of "manliness" perpetuates domination, homophobia, and aggression.', though it was noted that the concept is 'difficult to attribute just one meaning to'. Students were then given examples of how toxic masculinity can manifest itself. This was seen as through not being able to cry or express emotions, being afraid to dress in a traditionally feminine way, and gym

culture, among other things. This sparked discussion of how toxic masculinity is pushed on boys from a very young age, perpetuating the harmful ideals it entails so that impressionable male youth have an idea of masculinity set in their mind and fear to rebel or act differently in case they are seen as not traditionally masculine. Furthermore, the topic was opened up further to how this manifest into gendered violence, and how as men are pushed into 'masculine' and dominant roles, women are pushed into 'feminine' and submissive roles.

One specific point that sparked a lot of discussion among the boys in the room was gym culture. The point was presented as an issue in the sense that when boys go to the gym solely to fit into the ideal male body standard, it can be extremely harmful and often motivated by innate toxic masculinity. This is not to say that every boy who is a regular gym-goer has 'toxic' intentions, but rather that they shouldn't feel pressured to fit into a specific idea of what a man should be. Moreover, toxic masculinity especially surrounding gym culture is most of the time at no fault of the boys that take part but rather systemic toxic



‘Bath Hub Against Misogyny’ workshop: P20

The Event and its Outcomes

By Adriana Barnes



masculinity that we see through body standards for men every day. Boys begin to feel like they have to appear muscular, ‘strong’, and ‘tough’ which further reinforces the dominant male archetype. In this sense, these would be motivations to work out that are due to toxic masculinity. Therefore, we can identify the deep-rooted issues in society which begin with near-impossible and ridiculous standards for the male body which result in a strict gym routine and can often turn into eating disorders.

Another topic raised was the ever-popular British reality TV show Love Island, in which couples, usually heterosexual, are coupled up and filmed as their relationships hinder or develop. Two clips were shown, the first entailing one of the female contestants and one of the male contestants having a discussion about whether the man or woman should pay on the first date. The man stated he would feel ‘emasculated’ and ‘uncomfortable’ if the bill was split between them or if his date paid. The woman said, however, that she would ‘feel uncomfortable if [she] didn’t offer to pay’, to which he responded by asking her if she was a feminist, in an almost accusatory and disappointed way. The

idea that a man has to conform to the ‘chivalrous’ or the ‘knight in shining armour’ stereotype is something that widens out to be an issue in even our legal systems, wherein women are given more lenient sentences and treatment because male prosecutors feel uncomfortable punishing women as they feel they should be ‘chivalrous’ towards them. Not only is this stereotype harmful to the man, as he feels he must be strong and capable, but it is harmful to the woman also, because she feels cast aside and it reinforces the breadwinner husband-housewife dynamic, where the man has the money so he pays for everything and the woman must be paid for.

Another example given on Love Island was an instance in which the men were told to pack the women’s suitcases for a trip on which they may meet a new romantic partner. In the clip, it is shown that men only pack jogging bottoms and loose clothing, as well as spraying down the women’s clothes with their cologne, and throughout, remarks such as “nobody will want to sleep with her if she’s wearing this” were thrown around. These present issues such as an ‘if I can’t have her, no one can’ mindset, wherein



‘Bath Hub Against Misogyny’ workshop: P21 The Event and its Outcomes

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the men feel like they own the woman and can't let her choose a different romantic partner. Spraying down their clothes with their cologne, and almost 'marking their territory' as pack animals do, reinforces male ownership of women and imbalanced relationship dynamics as well as unhealthy possessiveness.

Furthermore, the men refraining from packing short dresses and bikinis reinforces the misogynistic idea that if a woman is wearing a short dress or an outfit that is revealing on any level, it automatically translates to a want for a romantic or sexual partner or advances. On one level, this could be explained as insecurity and individual relationship problems, but it clearly goes deeper as it is a wide norm in society for the man in a relationship to attempt, and often succeed, to control their female partners.

One topic that invited wide discussion was a given scenario. A woman is about to walk home alone at night, and her male friend offers to walk her, to which she declines. He keeps asking although she has already said no. This did not get one particular response, as many thought the scenario is situational. "It depends on the context", one student

said. "How dark it was, what area you're in. You can't really answer it one way." On one hand, men feel a responsibility for getting their female friends home safe, and, as one male student said, they "would feel guilty if something happened" to them. But on the other hand, some men may not realise that they themselves make their female friends uncomfortable. More than 90% of rape and sexual assault victims know their attacker, a study by Glasgow University of around 1,000 victims says. This is not to diminish efforts that some male friends go to to ensure their female friends feel safe, but it becomes an issue when they become persistent, as this can be seen as forceful and intimidating from a female perspective.

The workshop was extremely helpful in opening up a discussion about toxic masculinity systemically, but also in our everyday language and actions. We must recognise the harmful effects on ourselves and others around us not only of ideals pushed on us from an extremely young age, but also ideals that continue to be pushed on us by each other, sometimes in such small ways that they go unnoticed, but which are still prevalent.



What Do We Know About Deep Sea Living?

P22

Sarah Clark



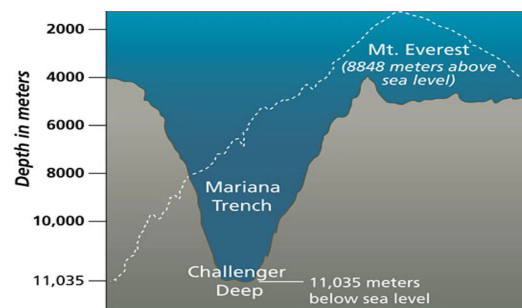
The ocean is an incredibly complex ecosystem, consisting of many individualistic environments, unique to those areas of the sea. One example is hadal zones, the very deepest parts of our ocean (6000m-11000m), comprising 37 deep ocean trenches, creating an ecologically rich environment, despite the hostile environment.

The formation of ocean trenches is mainly due to breaks in the earth's lithosphere and the convergence rate, with the deepest ones occurring in the Pacific Ocean. Due to their depth, there is little light and high pressure. Most extreme environments, on a surface level appear barren and ecologically sparse, however, on a deeper look this is far from the truth. In the last 50 years of research, we have discovered many new species, as well as whole new paths of science, such as high pressure micro biology.

The communities living on the seafloor are heterotrophic, meaning there is a full food web, with creatures eating other animals. For this to occur, there is a range of creatures living in these communities, however, the basis of this is the high amount of biomass that accumulates within these trenches. The depth of them means they act as a bowl, accumulating higher than normal levels of biomass and microbial matter, which provides a basis for the food web to base itself on. The matter mainly consists of dead carcasses and decaying matter from

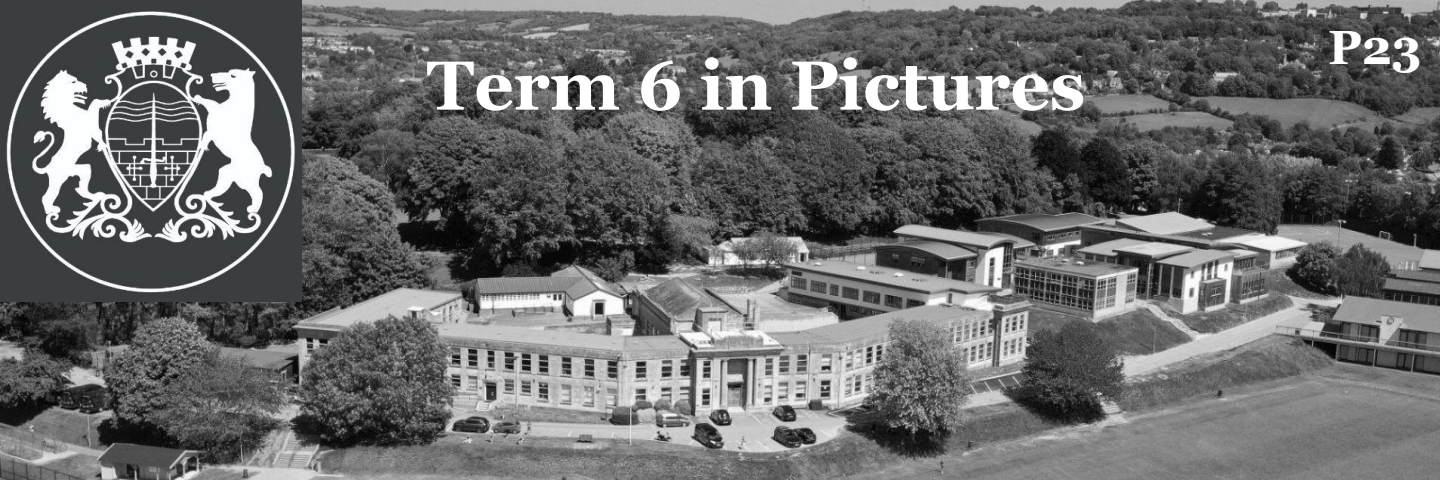
the upper ocean - meaning it varies from trench to trench. The Izu Bonin trench is situated near Japan, meaning some of its matter is terrestrial (from land), however, the Mariana trench (reaching 11,036 metres) is situated in the open ocean, so its biomass is almost completely derived from marine life.

The biomass and nutrients that accumulate in these trenches means that contrary to what most people expect, food isn't scarce due to the food web having a constant, accumulative supply. However, this nature of accumulation is a double edged sword in our polluted world. As micro plastics are slowly overtaking our oceans, the accumulation of toxins and plastics in deep ocean trenches is becoming more and more common, with studies comparing it to China's industrially polluted rivers. The nature of these environments means that once the litter is down there, it's there to stay. The deepest piece of plastic litter ever discovered was 10,997 metres down in the Mariana trench, being a single use, supermarket plastic bag.





Term 6 in Pictures





Our PTA



PTA Team 2021/2022

We are a friendly group of parents/ staff aiming to raise funds to benefit the whole school. New faces are always welcome and we generally hold 6 meetings a year at the school. Get in touch, it's a great way to 'give a little back' and get involved with your son's school.

How/where have past raised funds been spent?

Thanks to your help, we've been able to fund the following;

- New multipurpose clubhouse next to tennis courts
- Mental health wellbeing services
- Design and technology 3D printer
- Library renovation
- Atlases for geography dept.
- Printmaking equipment for the art dept.
- Camcorder for the DT/Science club
- Foreign film club
- New dictionaries
- Remote control car for car club
- Equipment for the sport department

Whilst there are the current restrictions in place, we've been unable to do our regular fundraising events. In the meantime, please support your school charity virtually and share these five charitable fundraising ideas with your family and friends. Thank you so much.

Our Crowdfunding campaign

Please donate what you can afford.

<https://app.investmycommunity.com/ptabeechen2465>

Focusing on:

- Mental health services within school
- IT equipment
- Completion of the Clubhouse amenities

In total during the last academic year, we managed to raise an incredible £34,000 for Beechen Cliff!! Thank you to everyone who contributed and we would love to see even more of you involved in the Beechen Cliff PTA!



Our Quick Links

Sixth Form Prospectus

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/bcs-sixth-form-2021-website.pdf>

BCS Sixth Form Website

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/sixth-form/>

BCS GCSE/A-Level Information

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/curriculum-assessment/exams-assessment/exam-board-info-2/>

Beechen Cliff Mental Health

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/about/mental-health/>

Extra Curricular Information

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/extra-curricular/>

Boys in Mind

<https://boysinmind.co.uk/>

The MSNP Trust

<https://www.midsomernortonschoolpartnership.com/>



Gryphon

The Beechen Cliff Magazine for
students, by students



**We would like to give huge thanks to everybody
who contributed to this issue of GRYPHON.**

**If you would like to be a part of our next issue
then please get in touch with one of our editors:**

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We cannot wait to hear from you!