



What is Pride Month all about?

- June is Pride month, it is a month dedicated to celebrating the LGBTQ+ communities all around the world.
- Pride is usually celebrated with lots of parades and marches but with coronavirus and social distancing still in place, things will be a little different this year.
- A lot of events have been postponed or cancelled, but the celebrations will continue on zoom, tiktok and other social media, keeping people connected and celebrating.
- June is the month chosen to celebrate pride as it was the month of the Stonewall riots, the protests that changed gay rights for a lot of people in America and beyond.
- It's about people coming together in love and friendship, to show how far gay rights have come, even if in some places there's still some work to be done.
- Pride month is about teaching tolerance, education in pride history and continuing to move forward in equality.
- It calls for people to remember how damaging homophobia was and still can be.
- It's all about being proud of who you are no matter who you love.



A real life personal story...

Dana Buzzelli

I came out at 16, shortly after I discovered I was gay. To me, coming out was all about being true to myself. I totally rejected the idea that I should hide how I felt, as if it was wrong or horrible. I also wasn't comfortable with lying about who I was or who I loved.

I came out to three distinct groups: my friends, my school and lastly, my family. I told my friends individually, and their responses varied from confused to unsurprised. Regardless of their initial reaction, all my friends eventually accepted me. They all became completely comfortable with it; in their eyes it was just part of who I was. My honesty really strengthened our friendships, and their support became an invaluable resource for me for years to come. Coming out to my friends was one thing; coming out to the rest of my high school was another.

Unfortunately, my high school is rather conservative, and being the first openly gay couple wasn't very easy. My girlfriend and I faced discrimination and harassment from both students and faculty. Fortunately, after a few months, things started getting better, and slowly, people became more tolerant. While coming out at such a young age was difficult, I have no regrets.

I can be myself, knowing that the people I love support and accept me. I also became closer with my family, especially with my mom. The most gratifying aspect, however, was seeing the positive impact on others. During high school, many students, some of whom I had never met before, thanked me for giving them the courage to come out and showing them that it was possible to persevere.

Now that I'm out of high school and looking back, I'm glad I came out when I did. It helped me see the world a little differently and made my skin a little thicker. I can only hope that it has helped my friends, family, school and community become a little more tolerant and aware.



How does pride month effect the LGBTQ+ community?

For the most part LGBTQ+ people are now equal under the law and our rights are protected by the UK Equality Act (2010). However, LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately more likely to experience mental ill health and have issues with alcohol and drugs, experience homelessness and other broader inequalities. This disproportionality is worse for trans people, or where people are LGBTQ+ and from black, Asian, or minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

LGBTQ+ people are also significantly affected by crime, violence and discrimination, including domestic abuse and hate crime. Incidents reported to the police are only the tip of the iceberg, with many more experiences of violence and discrimination going unrecorded and unreported for a variety of reasons, including mistrust in police.

How the results of pride month help: The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful for police officers to discriminate against, harass or victimize any person on the grounds of the protected characteristics, including "gender reassignment, sex and sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership". This is made explicit in the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE), Code C.

This code also advises that police officers show sensitivity when dealing with transgender people. This is particularly relevant in terms of how searches are conducted, and what healthcare, hygiene and welfare needs a person might have. Overall, the guidance advises asking people what their gender identity is and treating them accordingly. There is no other specific national guidance around LGBTQ+ people, though some forces do have their own policies.



Support at Malvern

Malvern is fully in support of pride month and the LGBTQ+ community. Malvern does not tolerate anyone discrimination towards others about their sexual orientation.

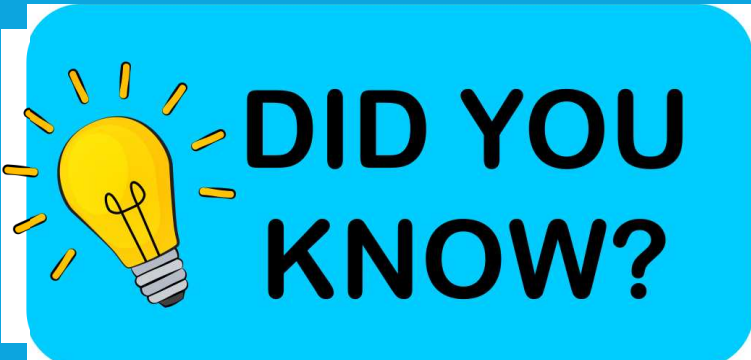
If you would like to talk someone and discuss the various genders and how you would like to identify then please get in contact with your friends, tutor, housem or members of staff (designated safeguarding lead Mrs Bijl alongside Mrs Young and Mr Faulkner).

For those of you who are new to the school there was a LGBTQ+ society where people could come and have a discussion and learn more. We are keen to re-establish the society. There will be a meeting at some point this week so please keep an eye open for further details on house notices.



FACTS!

- One in eight LGBT people (13 per cent) have experienced some form of unequal treatment from healthcare staff because they're LGBT.
- Three in ten bi men (30 per cent) and almost one in ten bi women (8 per cent), say they cannot be open about their sexual orientation with any of their friends
- More than a third of LGBT staff (35 per cent) have hidden that they are LGBT at work for fear of discrimination. Similar percentages of men and women identify as gay/lesbian or bisexual.
- Survey from office of national statistics states that over 1 million people identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.



Contact

wellnessgroup@malverncollege.org.uk

For any support

HAVE SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT TOPIC WE SHOULD DO NEXT WEEK? SEND US AN EMAIL!

