

THE YELLOW

BRICK BLOG

Autumn 2022

Welcome to the first edition of the Yellow Brick Blog! This is an important place for inclusion and diversity in our school community. We wanted to raise awareness for both Dorothy's Friends being a safe space for the LGBTQ+ students at the school, but also of the LGBTQ+ news happening around the world and some history to show how far we have progressed. We hope to showcase our students' own pieces of writing or even art work, and give them a voice to tell us about issues close to them.

News Roundup – Autumn '22

It's important to [celebrate the LGBTQ+ community](#) throughout the year, and just as important to celebrate the global successes of the community.

With a lot of LGBTQ+ news being [overshadowed by the FIFA World Cup](#) kicking off in Qatar, we forget about the other victories happening around the world, and despite the England and Wales football teams being warned against wearing One Love armbands at the Qatar world cup, former professional footballer Alex Scott MBE wore the armband whilst covering England's opening match.

In the world of politics, on the 1st of November, Tokyo finally began issuing same-sex partnership certificates which legally recognises the relationships and [gives couples access to the same benefits that marriage offers](#). Whilst this status doesn't carry all the same benefits that marriage does, it allows same sex couples to be treated as if they were married in some public service areas like housing and healthcare. 57% of the Japanese public are in favour of same-sex marriage, with only 37% being opposed.

Similarly, the USA is also making progress with protecting LGBTQ+ rights. The US Senate has furthered their attempts to [protect same-sex marriage and interracial marriage under federal law](#), with all 48 democrats and 12 republicans voting to move forwards with the legislation. The bill is called the "Respect for Marriage Act" and protects marriages across the USA regardless of "sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin".

In other areas, Disney's new animated film "Strange World", released on the 23rd of November, features its [first openly LGBTQ+ lead](#). The biracial protagonist, a teen boy named Ethan, is typically awkward around his crush Diazo, and cast member Dennis Quaid remarked that "[Ethan's sexuality] wasn't explained or this or that, or have to go through the coming out thing — and that's okay".

Labels and definitions

Transgender:

The term transgender refers to anyone whose gender identity, expression, or behaviour does not align with that which they are assigned at birth.

Transgender is an umbrella term and includes many gender identities such as non-binary, transgender men and woman, agender, and many other identities.

Intersex:

The term intersex refers to anyone who is born with certain combinations of sex characteristics which don't fit typical male or female characteristics.

Someone can be identified as intersex from birth however someone might not know until later, for example during puberty.

Pansexual:

The term pansexual refers to a sexuality in which there is attraction towards people regardless of their sex or gender.

Often, this can be referred to as 'gender-blind' as someone that is pansexual can be attracted to someone else no matter what their gender.

LGBTQ+ History: 5 events, 50 years ago

Following the decriminalization of consensual same-sex activity in England and Wales in 1967, the legalization of most same-sex activity in Canada in 1969, and the Stonewall Riots in New York during June 1969, the early 1970s marked a **period of transformation, activism and liberation** in the LGBTQ+ community.

This year many key events have reached their 50-year anniversary, so here's a **run-down on 5 key events in LGBTQ+ history from 1972:**

7th March

East Lansing, Michigan became the first city in US history to ban discrimination against homosexual people in housing, accommodation, and employment through landmark legislation, leading a nationwide movement. The council voted to "employ the best applicant for each vacancy on the basis of his qualifications for the job and without regard to race, colour, creed, national origin, sex or homosexuality."

1st April

The US state of Delaware decriminalized consensual homosexual acts between adults.

27th June

The first edition of 'Gay News', the UK's first independent gay magazine was published, founded by former members of the Gay Liberation Front and members of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality

12th July

Jim Foster and Madeline Davis became the first openly LGBT people to address a major political convention at the 1972 Democratic National Convention

24th July

Peter Maloney becomes the first openly gay political candidate in Canada by announcing his candidacy for the Toronto Board of Education.

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Reviews & Recommendations

Book: Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe; *Benjamin Alire Sáenz*

Age: 12+

Rating: 5/5

A captivating tale set in 1980s Texas, *Aristotle and Dante* explores the many facets of identity through the eyes of Mexican-American teen Aristotle Mendoza. This story is beautifully written, weaving heart-breakingly realistic characters and relationships, from the touching queer romance between Ari and Dante, to the complex yet moving love both boys have for their parents. No book is comparable when describing exactly how it feels to be 15, and unsure of who you are, were, or might someday be.

TV: Modern Family

Age: 12+

Cam and Mitch raise their children, surrounded by their big, loving family from California.

TV: Heartstopper

Age: 12+

Teenagers Nick and Charlie explore their new friendship as Nick explores his sexuality and feelings for Charlie.

TV: Young Royals

Age: 15+

Swedish prince Wilhelm moves to a prestigious boarding school and falls in love with Simon.

Thanks for reading!

If you would like to be involved with the next issue, email dorothy@dhsg.co.uk or speak to Mrs Stacey