

# The Yellow Brick Blog

September 2023

## Welcome Back!

Each September, we welcome our new Year 7 cohort, alongside new members of the school's Sixth Form in Year 12. The Team at Dorothy's Friends have put together some hints, tips and advice for making the most of this fresh start, which can feel daunting!

Moving school means meeting a lot of new people and learning a lot of new things – not just in your lessons. From school layouts to a change in daily routine, it's absolutely normal to feel unsure or even a bit overwhelmed.

At DHSG, we are proud to be an inclusive school. Everyone is welcome! Alongside all the new knowledge and skills that you will gain through the curriculum, it is also a place of personal growth. Indeed, the seven years spent here quite literally bridges the gap between childhood and adulthood!

Growing up is about discovering who you are, so take it slow and don't feel under pressure to know everything about yourself immediately. During your time here, you may change your values and ideas and even how you feel about yourself. This isn't unusual, and you should know that there are people who can support you throughout your journey.

Finally, make the most of your time at secondary school. It's an experience that we only get once, so seek out the bits that are right for you and make the most of any opportunities that come your way.

## Reading Recommendations

### **"This Is How You Lose the Time War" by Amal El-Mohtar - 13+**

As agents Red and Blue travel back and forth through time, altering the history of multiple universes on behalf of their warring empires, they leave each other secret messages—at first taunting, but gradually developing into flirtation and then love.

### **"Red, White & Royal Blue" by Casey McQuinston - 15+**

The story starts in the press. Photos of a confrontation between rivals Alex Claremont-Diaz and Prince Henry at a royal wedding leak to the tabloids and threaten American/British relations. The plan? Damage control: staging a fake friendship between the First Son and the Prince. Alex finds himself unexpectedly entering into a secret relationship with Henry, with the potential to upend two nations.

### **"The Song of Achilles" by Madeline Miller - 16+**

When Patroclus is disgraced and exiled from his home to live in Phthia he never could have predicted how far the unexpected bond between himself and the Prince Achilles would take him. However, when Helen is kidnapped, and the message of war sweeps across Greece, how long can their secret relationship last before the Fates catch up with them? Achilles' destiny is to be a hero - Aristos Achaion, Best of the Greeks. And everyone should know that you can't fight a prophecy.

# TOP TIPS

## FOR A GREAT START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

### **Get chatting!**

Remember that it can feel difficult to talk to new people, so don't shy away from new conversations if they find you. An openness to talking and listening is a great way to make new friends.

### **Be Yourself!**

Friendships take time – they develop gradually, so don't be worried if you don't find that perfect group of friends immediately. Everyone is different and that's part of what makes our community such a brilliant place to be.

### **Keep Positive!**

No one's first day (or even their second day...or sometimes even an average Tuesday) is going to go perfectly! Entering an unfamiliar environment can be difficult so focus on the good bits, skim through the not-so-good parts and just take things one step at a time.

### **It's OK to Ask!**

Lost or stuck? Want to find out more about something? Don't be scared to ask for advice or help. Everyone understands that change is new and scary.

### **Reach Out!**

If you're finding things easier, but others aren't, talk to people and see how they're going. Crack a few jokes whilst you're at it and you may even make a new friend!

### **Ease Into It!**

Moving to a new stage of learning is hard, it may take a while to adapt. If you're starting to feel overwhelmed, talk to someone who can support you sooner rather than later. It can take a while to ease into a new routine so take pride in doing the best you can and try not to worry about the bits you can't do (yet!).

# AMNESTY @ DHSG



In this edition, we are proud to feature an article from our students at DHSG's Amnesty International Club

## What is Amnesty International at DHSG?

Amnesty International is a worldwide organisation, focusing on human rights and respect for these globally. At DHSG, the Amnesty group spread awareness about global human rights issues, with weekly (healthy) debates! We also generate funds through activities such as raffles, and bakes sales.

## Investigating LGBT+ issues at DHSG's Amnesty Group

We've explored a range of LGBT+ activists, their motivations and achievements. Some of these include:

**Cecilia Chung** - In 2013, Cecilia became the first transgender woman to be appointed leader of the board of directors at San Francisco's LGBT+ Pride celebrations.

**Marielle Franco** - battling for the rights of women, bisexual human rights activity works in Brazil to fight against police violence within and beyond the LGBT+ community. Marielle was sadly killed whilst returning home from a speaking even on March 14, 2018.

**Harvey Milk** - a pioneering gay politician and activist, he became one of the first openly gay elected officials in California when he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. His work focused on LGBT+ rights and equality until his tragic assassination later that year.

**Audre Lorde** - Black lesbian feminist poet, essayist, and activist, whose writings explored the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality. She played a vital role in advancing LGBT+ and feminist discussions during the 20th century.

To this day, LGBT+ people are still fighting for equality, and a chance to show the next generation that progress is possible despite the prejudice that still remains. It is important to remember and commemorate the progress made by inspiring people such as those mentioned above. We can be reminded that, while there is still more to do before we can achieve equality for members of the LGBT+ community, it is achievable if we stand up to homophobia, both in legal systems and in people's everyday behaviour.

