

# EDI Newsletter

## Summer 2025

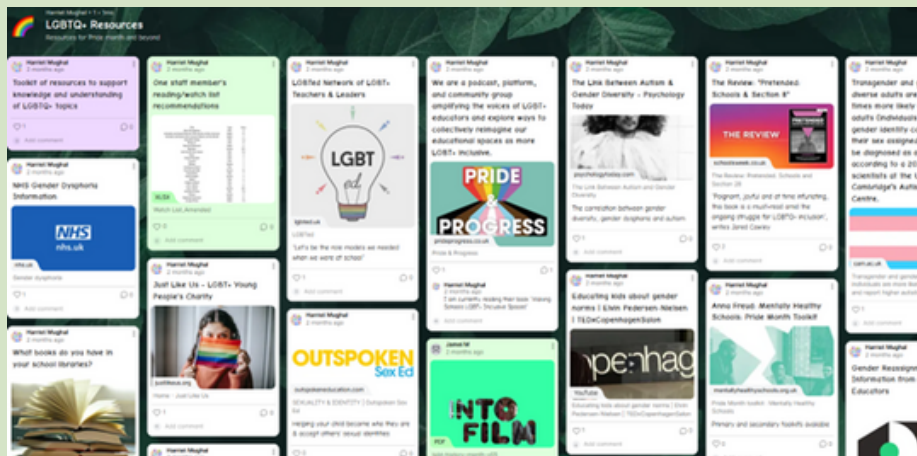
Welcome to the equality, diversity and inclusion Summer newsletter. Please read on and enjoy this term's news from the EDI Board.



As June was Pride month, this term's newsletter has a Pride theme. Please read on to see what colleagues in all Liberty schools have been up to to celebrate, discuss and acknowledge this important topic.



The EDI pages of the intranet contain tons of information and resources available to you on this topic. Check out this Padlet of resources collated by the EDI Board - [Padlet: LGBTQ Resources](#)





### EDI Training

The topic for the Summer term was LGBTQ+ inclusivity (to coincide with Pride Month) and was delivered by EDI Board member and teacher at Vanguard, Dan Bunker. It was a very engaging and informative session and 73% of people fed back that they found the training very useful.

Jamei Moayei, one of the EDI champions at Thames Valley commented as follows:-

*"The session was extremely well received by staff, with many commenting on how informative, engaging, and thought-provoking they found the experience. It offered a valuable opportunity for reflection and discussion around inclusion, language, and the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals."*

*Staff appreciated the practical strategies shared during the training, particularly in relation to creating safe and supportive spaces for students and promoting inclusive classroom environments. Staff also noted how the session deepened their confidence in addressing sensitive issues appropriately and fostering respect across year groups. It was encouraging to see such an engagement throughout the session".*



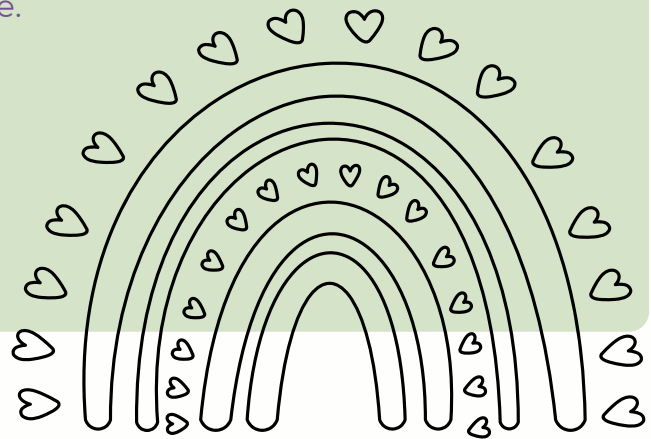
### Vanguard



This year for Pride Month Vanguard School got involved in some fundraising. The students selected AKT (Albert Kennedy Trust) as their charity. AKT was founded in 1989. This was at a time when LGBTQ+ people faced persistent and high levels of oppression, physical and verbal abuse, and were denied the basic human rights and equity afforded to others. AKT was created to help LGBTQ+ young people who were at risk of homelessness.

To this day, 24% of young homeless people aged 16-25 identify as being LGBTQ+, emphasising the crucial need for services. With LGBTQ+ hate crimes currently on the rise in the UK, LGBTQ+ young people are at risk of experiencing homophobic and transphobic abuse in their homes. This leaves them with an increased chance of facing homelessness. 50% of the young people AKT supported between 2023-24 had attempted to contact their local authority for support before reaching out to the charity. Many had negative experiences when doing so, often facing long waiting lists and expressing feelings of being devalued and dismissed.

At Vanguard the students have spent Pride Month fundraising. The Year 10 classes have done exceptionally well, with one having a collection jar and the other offering a delicious bake sale for the whole school community. We are extremely proud of our students' efforts to raise much needed funds supporting vulnerable young people. It helps foster an inclusive environment for everyone. So far the students have raised £336 for this amazing cause.





## Vanguard



Vanguard held an Arts & Literacy Festival in July which was open to parents and the wider community. This was a vibrant showcase of student creativity, cultural identity an expression across all subjects. Staff were invited to come to school dressed in traditional attire. EDI Board member Diana Edgar hosted an EDI corner and spoke with parents, visitors and students about all the great work being done.

The corner also showcased the incredible presentations that our EDI champions in school have produced across different celebrations.



There was a wealth of interest and cultural representation showcased through art and food, featuring Afro-Caribbean dishes and individuals dressed in their traditional attire. Various hairstyles were explored and history through art.



### Church Lawton



#### Pride Flag

During June, and the beginning of July, Church Lawton School flew the Pride Flag on the flagpole outside.



#### EDI Noticeboard

An EDI display board is now in place at Church Lawton. The content will change depending on what is being celebrated, and staff or students can take ownership of what's on the board and take it over for a week. The first display was about Pride and a student took ownership and added all the flags of pride with their meanings.



Some focussed Pride work was also added. For example, in Maths they had a particular focus on Alan Turing and in Cooking they created some colourful biscuits and meringues to sell at our Pride event.



#### New Class Names

Students voted on new class names in Lower School. The winning names reflect our diverse society and 3 of the 4 were or are also autistic. Secondary will be voting for their new class names once they have researched inspirational people and then voted.



Wiltshire Class - Stephen Wiltshire MBE, is a British architectural artist. He is known for his ability to draw a landscape from memory after seeing it just once.



Stoltman Class - Tom Stoltman is a British professional strongman. 3 times winner of the World's Strongest Man in 2021, 2022, and 2024.

Windsor Class - Queen Elizabeth II was Queen of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth from February 1952 until her death in September 2022



Turing Class - Alan Turing was a British mathematician who has since been acknowledged as one of the most innovative thinkers of the 20th century. Responsible for cracking the Enigma code in WW2 and devising the Turing test for AI- he was at the forefront of early computer science.

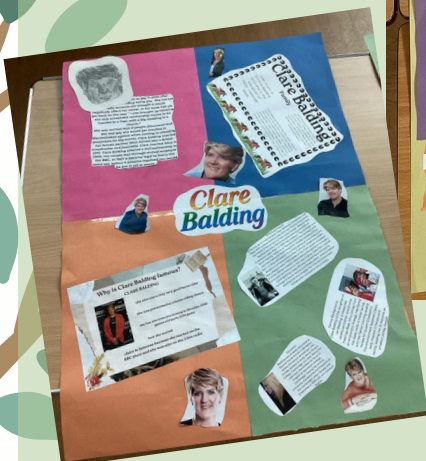
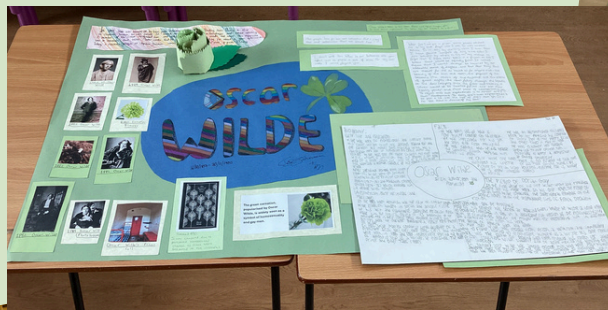
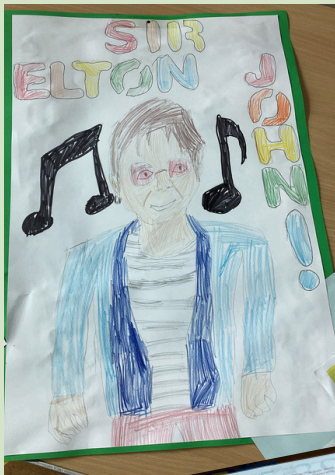


### Church Lawton



#### Pride Event

Church Lawton had a Pride PSHE day which ended with a festival. All forms had a 'Pride Icon' and created a collage. These were all displayed in the main hall and students went in groups to look at all of the finished pieces.



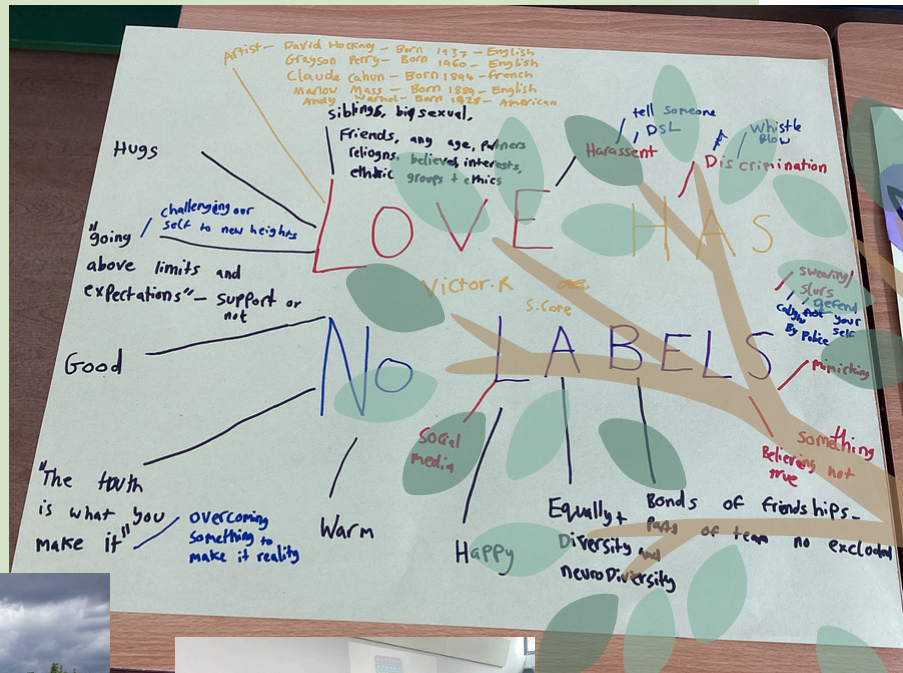


## Church Lawton



### Pride Event

During the morning sessions, students also discussed what LGBT+ means and the importance of belonging.



All of the money made from the Pride event has been donated to 'Just Like Us', a Youth LGBT+ Charity.





### Thames Valley



Thames Valley held an assembly celebrating Pride month.

### What Is Pride Month?

- > LGBTQ+ communities and allies around the world celebrate in a number of different ways.
- > Parades are a prominent feature of Pride Month, as well as street parties, community events, festivals and educational sessions.
- > Pride Month is also an opportunity to peacefully protest and raise political awareness of current issues facing the LGBTQ+ community.



### Being an Ally!

An ally is someone who stands up for people who are being treated unkindly or unfairly. People might get treated this way for reasons such as their skin color, religion, ability, or gender. Being an ally means providing support and doing your part to make sure things are fair and equal for all. Here are steps that you can take to be an ally!

#### Listen and Learn!

To be an ally, you need to listen to people when they share about their experiences. There are situations that they may go through in life that you've probably never had to think about. Instead of believing that their story is the same as yours, take time to listen and learn. You can ask to learn more, if they are willing to share, or you can look things up on your own.

#### Check Your Words and Actions!

Make jokes about certain groups of people or use words that might be unkind? Treat people who are different than you? If you're going to be an ally, make sure you're not part of the problem! Start changing your behaviors and be careful of the words that you use.

#### Speak Up!

You see unfair behavior or hear unkind words! You may see this in your family, with your friends, at school, or in the community. Even if you aren't the one saying mean things, laughing or making jokes means that you are supporting that behavior. If you see someone getting treated unfairly, say or do something about it. Your voice and actions can make a huge difference!

#### Get Involved!

There are plenty of ways to get involved in making sure others get treated equally! There are groups you can join and events that you can participate in to provide your support to people who need it. Talk to a parent/guardian, teacher, or friend about it and let them know that you want to help.

### Who Was At Stonewall?



- > Marsha P. Johnson was a Black American drag artist who also identified as gay. Although she didn't necessarily self-identify as transgender, she largely used female pronouns (she/her).
- > Marsha's legacy lives on today in organisations such as the Marsha P. Johnson Institute (MPJI) which 'protects and defends the human rights of Black transgender people.'<sup>1</sup>



- > Sylvia Rivera was a Latina-American drag artist who used she/her pronouns. She was a gay and transgender rights activist. She created Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) alongside Marsha P. Johnson to help house young, homeless LGBTQ+ people.
- > The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) was founded in 2002, the same year as her death. The organisation 'works to guarantee all people are free to self-determine gender identity and expression, without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence'.<sup>2</sup>





## Thames Valley



During enrichment week, pupils took part in an African mask making workshop, as well as a session about South African culture, delivered by one of Thames Valley's South African primary teachers!

