

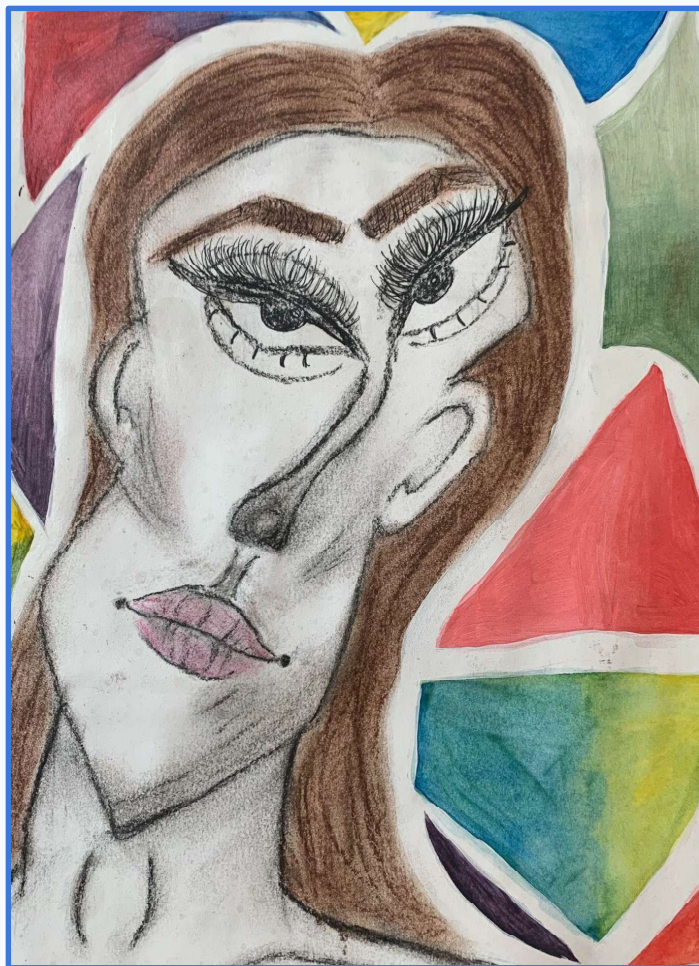
News, opinion, short stories, pets, photos and more!

MEOPHAM MONTHLY

**Meopham School's
Student Magazine**



ISSUE FOUR- JUNE 2022



Cover Art by Paige Gibbs

WELCOME

Hello! Welcome to our June issue of Meopham Monthly. This month we wanted to focus on the celebration of pride, and we got the opportunity to bake with Mrs Vince. You will find short stories and creative tutorials, as well as plenty of photos and artwork in our gallery and on the pets page.

If you would like to submit a short story, article, drawing, poem, photos or anything else for our future issues, please get in touch with the team at MSS-magazine@swale.at or come along on a Thursday lunchtime to English 5.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Editor: Robyn Fitzpatrick (Yr 11)

NEWS JUST IN!

Mrs Vince and some of our year 7s spent the morning baking a rainbow cake this month! You can find out how they did it on pages 6-7.



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**With thanks to everyone who
contributed this month:**

Daniel Appleby (Yr13)	Ella Maisey (Yr7)
Priya Arshi (Yr7)	Florence Maclean (Yr8)
Miss Bishop	Joe O'Farrell (Yr7)
Savannah Boyles (Yr11)	Lily Ricketts (Yr12)
Sophie Chable (Yr8)	Ashe Reeves (Yr12)
Laura Cooke (Yr7)	Stella Santamaria (Yr7)
Maisie Davidson (Yr7)	Abi Seex (Yr7)
Holly Deane (Yr9)	Jess Tibbs (Yr12)
Paige Gibbs (Yr12)	Mr Vilday
Harry Gower (Yr7)	Mrs Vince
Charlotte Hooker (Yr11)	Chloe Watkins (Yr7)
Penny Ingles (Yr8)	

SO, WHAT IS LGBTQIA+ ?

Article by Robyn Fitzpatrick (Yr 11)

The acronym LGBT+ was coined by Karl Heinrich Ulrichs who was a 19th century German lawyer, writer, and may have also identified as gay. He wanted a term to label his community: a community that has managed to bring together people from many backgrounds. The community is celebrated in June as a way for people to be proud of their identities, sexualities, and genders.

There is a lot of conversation around sex, gender, and pronouns, which although can go hand-in-hand, are not necessarily directly impacted by one another. Sex is your DNA and genetic make-up, and someone who identifies with their sex is called **cisgender**. Gender is how you choose to identify, and because gender is a spectrum it could change at any point during your lifetime. Pronouns do sometimes correlate with your gender, however this is not a given. Some examples of common pronouns are she/her/hers, he/him/his, and they/them/theirs, which can all be used for one person. Some people choose to use multiple pronouns, and the people around them use them interchangeably. There are also **neo-pronouns** which are people who use certain pronouns outside of the commonly used ones, for example: Xir/ Xem or it/its.

Now, there are multiple different variations of the community title, the most inclusive being LGBTQIA+, where the letters of the acronym represent different identities in the community.

- ★ **'L' stands for lesbian.** A lesbian is a non-man loving a non-man. Non-man in this context refers to people who identify as non-binary, genderfluid or a woman.
- ★ **'G' stands for gay.** Someone who is gay will be a non-woman loving a non-woman. Non-woman in this context refers to people who identify as non-binary, genderfluid, or a man. Gay is also an umbrella term for the community, so people from any part of the community could refer to themselves as gay.
- ★ **'B' stands for bisexual.** In the simplest terms, someone who is bisexual is attracted to men, women, and anyone under the trans/non-binary umbrella. Bisexual can also refer to the attraction to two or more genders, this may be non-binary and female but completely exclude men from the attraction.
- ★ **'T' stands for transgender.** Someone transgender does not identify to the gender associated with the sex they were assigned as birth, and some transgender people go through multiple surgeries to physically make them appear as their gender. Trans people could have deadnames, and if someone requests that you no longer use their deadnames, then you have to follow that.
- ★ **'Q' stands for queer.** Queer is an umbrella term for people who do not identify as cisgender or heterosexual, however some people may just use queer as their only label.
- ★ **'A' stands for both aromantic and asexual.** Someone aromantic is a person who desires no romantic relationships, however they could still enjoy sex. Someone asexual does enjoy romantic relationships but do not experience sex.
- ★ **'+' stands for all other identities within the community.**

There are thousands of other identities in the communities and Pride month is an amazing time of year to learn about them. It is incredibly important to remember to respect people regardless of their sexual identity.

PRIDE FLAGS AND THEIR MEANINGS



PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG

A flag for the whole community (including people of colour).



LESBIAN

A non-man attracted to another non-man.



GAY

A non-woman attracted to another non-woman.



BISEXUAL

Attraction to more than one gender.



PANSEXUAL

Attraction to everyone regardless of gender.



OMNISEXUAL

Attraction to everyone with a preference.



AROMANTIC

A person who may or may not be interested in sex but never/ rarely experiences romantic attraction.



ASEXUAL

Lack of sexual attraction to others, or low or absent interest in or desire for sexual activity.



TRANSGENDER

A person whose sense of personal identity and gender is not the same as their birth sex.



GENDERFLUID

Is unconfined by one single gender identity, and whose gender identity manifests differently over time.



NON-BINARY

Someone who feels in between the term man or woman.



POLYAMOROUS

Multiple loving, intentional, intimate and open relationships at the same time with each other.

How to Bake an Amazing Pride Rainbow Cake

Recipe by Mrs Vince

Made by Ashe, Chloe, Ella, Laura, Priya, Abi & Stella

Ingredients and Equipment

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ★ 600g self raising flour | ★ 500g icing sugar |
| ★ 600g caster sugar | ★ 2 tbsp milk |
| ★ 600g margarine | ★ Rainbow colour food colouring |
| ★ 12 medium eggs | ★ Large mixing bowl |
| ★ 4 tsp vanilla | ★ 6 small mixing bowls |
| ★ 2 tsp baking powder | ★ 6-7 inch cake tins |
| ★ 500g unsalted butter | ★ Decorations as required |

Method

1. Preheat oven to 190°C/ gas mark 5
2. Grease and line 6 cake tins with margarine and baking paper
3. Weigh the sugar, flour and margarine into separate bowls
4. Break 12 eggs into a measuring jug
5. Weigh your big mixing bowl and write down what it weighs - you'll need this later!
6. Whisk the sugar and the butter in a big bowl until it is light and fluffy
7. Add 3 capfuls of vanilla essence
8. Add 2 teaspoons of baking powder into your flour and sift it into the sugar and butter mix
9. Add about half of the egg and whisk it into the mixture
10. Keep adding the egg in small amounts until all combined
11. Weigh your mix and subtract the weight of the big mixing bowl. Divide this number by six
12. Divide the mixture into the six small mixing bowls and colour each one a different colour
13. Put the cake batter into the middle of each tin and tap the tin to level the mix
14. Put the cakes into the oven for 20-25 minutes until a knife inserted comes out clean
15. TIDY UP!!
16. Remove from the tins and leave to cool on a cooling rack

Method continued...

Butter Icing Method

1. Soften the butter
2. Put it in a bowl with the icing sugar
3. Put in 2 tablespoons of milk and 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
4. Whisk it with an electric whisk (start slow) until it is light and fluffy

When the cakes have cooled, pile them up with butter icing between each layer. **ENJOY!**



MR VILDAY'S VIEW

Views from a latter-day Viking

It is Pride Month, and we are rightly celebrating the LGBTQ community but at the same time I'm drawn to talking about something that should be at the heart of all we do: tolerance.

Whenever anybody tells me how proud they are to be English, I wonder if they've truly considered what they are saying. English is derived from the Angles, a Germanic tribe who invaded these islands after the Romans. I often hear mention of our proud Anglo-Saxon past, but that's a combination of two lots of Germans. We were conquered by my people, the Normans, bringing a lot of French words to our language. The Romans ruled this country for many hundred years and before them, the Celts had driven out the original dwellers of these islands. Our royal family are German by origin and only changed the name to Windsor from Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in 1917 because we were fighting the Germans at that point.

For a nation of people whose history blends together such a variety of nationalities, you would hope we would have had learned how to get along with the differences of others, whether it's their nationality, skin-tone, or sexual orientation. I've put together 3 brief biographies of people who sadly weren't afforded tolerance in their all too brief lives, yet who might have contributed so much more had they not been persecuted for being different.



Thanks for reading. Article and photos courtesy of ✨ productions 2022

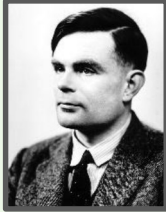
“OUT, OUT BRIEF CANDLE”

Three brilliant lives cut short

Alan Turing

23/6/1912

to 7/6/1954



Regarded as the father of modern computing, Alan Turing was a mathematician, computer scientist, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, and theoretical biologist.

Turing was involved in producing the first computers and he developed a number of theories on which computing is based. Perhaps more importantly, he led the team who broke the coding used by the Enigma machine in WW2, helping to shorten that war greatly.

Alan Turing was prosecuted in 1950 for being gay. He had to agree to take drugs to supposedly counter his sexuality. He was stopped from continuing his work for the government and died 4 years later, aged 42.

Walter Tull

28/4/1888

to 23/3/1918



Only the third person of mixed heritage to play professional football in England. Walter Tull was a very talented player and quickly snapped up by Spurs. Despite a promising start to his career, he was racially abused at a match. Spurs took the coward's way out and decided to let Walter go. He carried on his career at Northampton Town and Glasgow Rangers.

He volunteered when WW1 started and was promoted to be an officer despite this being illegal at the time because of his racial heritage. He was killed in action in 1918. Such was the regard for him, from his troops, that several risked their lives to try to get him to safety when he was wounded.

Tull was recommended for the Military Cross after his death, but it was never awarded, again because of his heritage.

Oscar Wilde

16/10/1854 to 30/11/1900

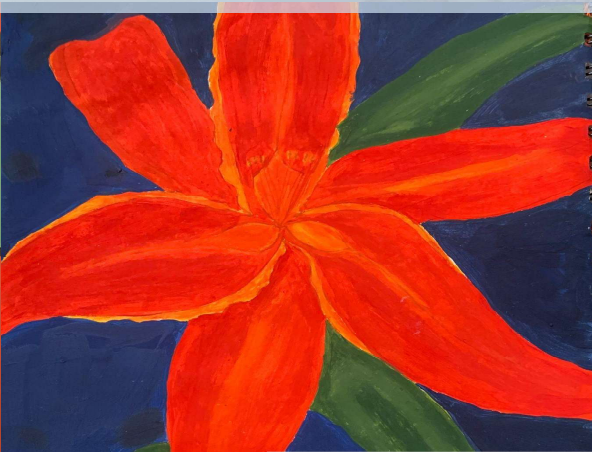


To my mind, Oscar Wilde was one of our greatest writers and wits. He developed the aesthetic movement in this country, believing in beauty as being the guiding force. He wrote plays, including 'The Importance of Being Earnest', which I think is one of the funniest plays ever written. He was extremely famous and very much in demand as a guest at society gatherings.

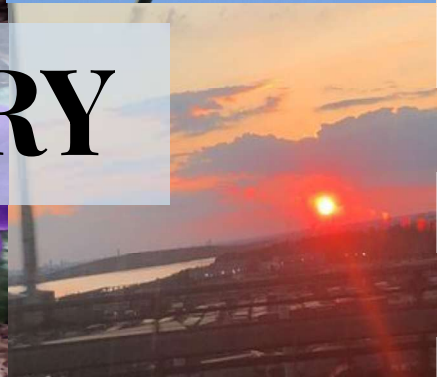
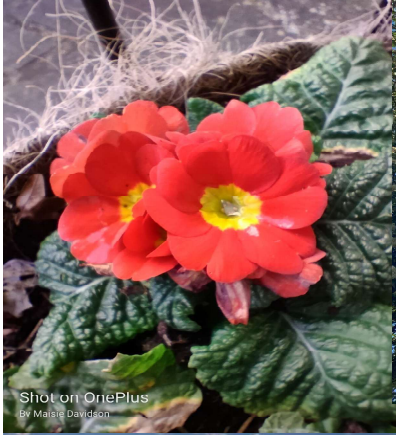
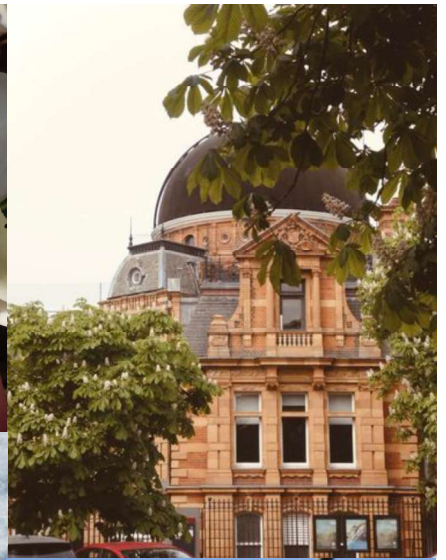
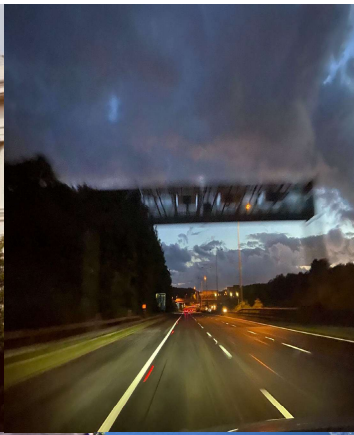
In 1895, Wilde was prosecuted for being gay and found guilty. This ruined him financially and socially and after 2 years in jail he left the UK for France. He died in 1900, aged only 46.



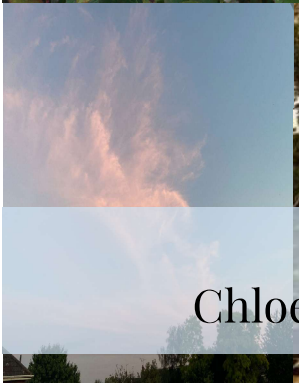
THE GALLERY



ART BY : Robyn F, Paige G, Florence M, Lily R



THE GALLERY



PHOTOS BY: Lily R, Maisie D, Penny I,
Chloe W, Jess T, Savannah B, Robyn F and Mr Vilday

Shot on OnePlus
By Maisie Davidson

HER LAST LOVER

Short story by Ashe Reeves, Year 12

She stumbles forward, her legs numb and sticking deep into the swamp-like mud below her feet. The blizzardous rain cocoons around her, assaulting her paper-like skin. Dull eyes stare unblinking at the scenery of destruction before her; trees blow from their roots and are strewn about the horizon.

As the sun rises slowly, giving light to the horrific scene in front of her, the light shines down upon her lover. Tears prick at the corner of her stormy eyes and her hands move to cover the scream which slips past her lips. Her legs give way; the sickening squelch of her being consumed by the mud beneath her is the only thing to interrupt her hysterical crying. She crawls towards the corpse and, grasping onto the cold dead hand, she mourns.

She fumbles for the pill with shaking hands and lifts it to her now open mouth. She tilts her head to the gods above her and succumbs to the numbing poison spreading through her body. Leaning down, she presses one last chaste kiss to her lover's cheek and falls asleep on her chest.



Later, throughout the kingdom, words are whispered and exchanged about the princess and her affair with a knight, but when they find her lifeless in the arms of her deceased female lover, there is uproar. They would never understand that you cannot stop or prevent love: it is impossible and by doing so you only hurt and damage those involved.

Now the king looks to the sky, his queen on his arm. A fleeting breeze rolls past and a tear leaves his eyes as two shooting stars move across the horizon. Both of them know that their daughter is at peace, with her forbidden lover curled into her arms.

Even in death, they could not part.

ANIMAL FARM

Theatre Review by Penny Ingles, Year 8

On 25th May, students in Year 7 and 8 visited the Churchill Theatre in Bromley to see a production of George Orwell's 'Animal Farm'. We had already read the book in our English lessons, and I quite enjoyed it as it was based on historical facts about the Russian Revolution. When we arrived at the theatre, it was really dark and there were moving parts on the stage before the show started. There was also a man on the stage with a gun, covered in blood, pacing up and down. It was really strange and we were quite near the front!

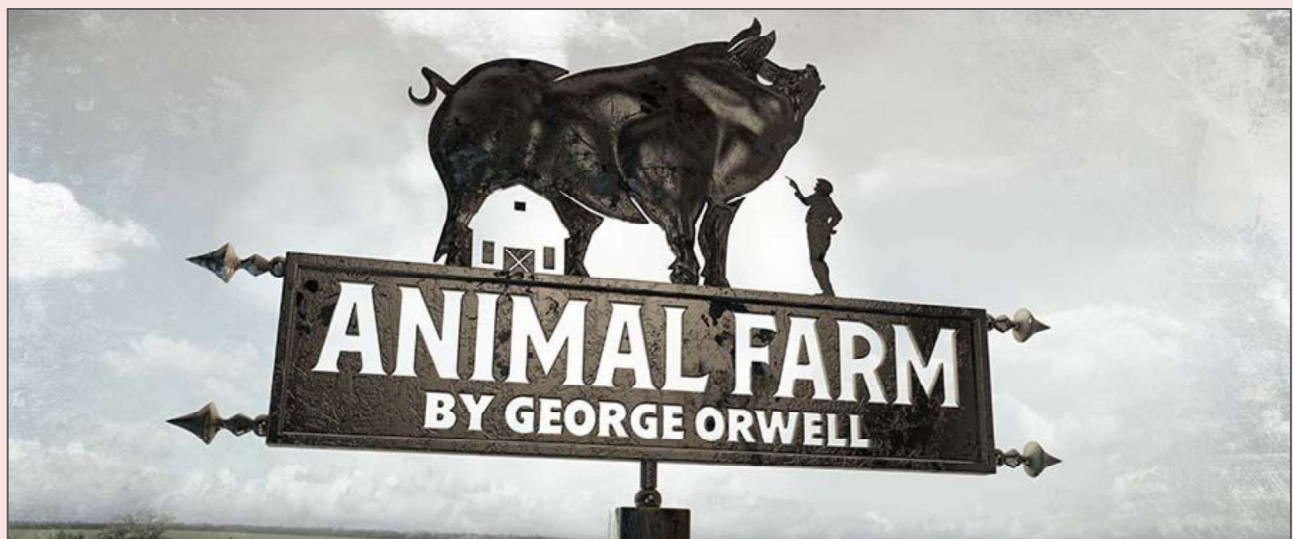
The play started in a barn. The animals very realistic, lifesize puppets, controlled by people dressed all in black. You could see their faces but it was still very cool!

Every now and then it would go dark and at the top there would be a bright light saying something like "Day 10: duck died of natural causes." It was blindingly bright. There were lots of special effects like smoke, flashing lights and slow motion scenes, where the actor would have to move really slowly while they moved the animal.

There was a really funny part where one of the animal's legs fell off and they said a line like "I wish I had two legs" but they still had three!

I didn't enjoy the end of the play, because it was really shocking and not the same as the book. I preferred the book as it was more detailed and calm. They missed out a lot in the show, but I suppose that is because the show had less time to perform than I had to read the book.

I would give it 3/5 stars, because it was funny but very violent.

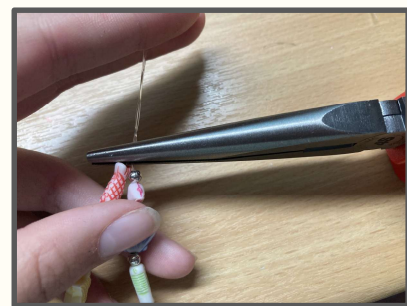


HOW TO MAKE A BRACELET

By Ella Maissey, Year 7

You will need :

- Scissors
 - String
 - Beads (of your choice)
 - Pliers
 - Crimps
1. Thread the beads onto the string in the order of your choice.
 2. Then, make sure the ends of the string are the same length.
 3. Thread a crimp onto the end of your string and put it close to the beads.
 4. Use the pliers to flatten the crimp - make sure that it is very tight so that the beads won't come off.
 5. Cut off the ends of the string close to the crimp and then you're done.



POETRY WITHOUT PENS

Year 8 and Miss Bishop

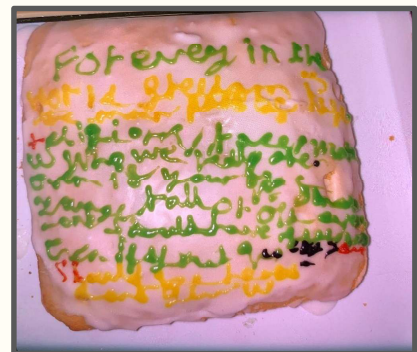
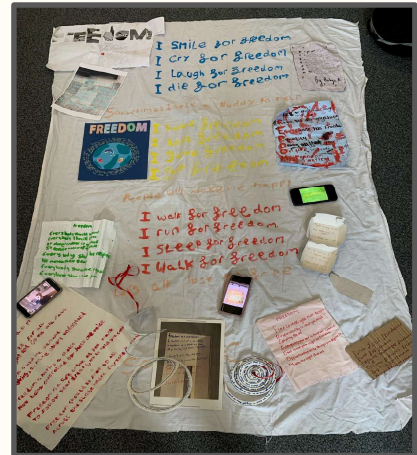
In English last term, Year 8 were learning about Protest Poetry. As part of this 8Y3 were set weekly homework tasks and it became a little competition between them to create the best work. Each week they were awarded with a number of points for the task by their peers and then at the end of the term, prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd position were handed out.

8Y3 worked extremely hard on each homework task set but in particular on the task that required them to write their own Protest Poems with the title of 'Freedom'. All students came up with thought-provoking ideas for their poems and used it as a way to express their own ideas on the topic. The final task set for them was to use the poem they had created and display it in a way that did not just use a normal pen and paper: 'Poetry without Pens'. Students fully immersed themselves into the task and came up with wonderfully imaginative ways to display their poems.

The winners were announced and they were:

- ★ 1st place: Lilli Coker
- ★ 2nd: Sophie Chable
- ★ 3rd: Keira Martin

Miss Bishop is incredibly proud of this class for the amazing work they produced last term but also for their hard work all year, which has resulted in them making great progress in English. Well done 8Y3!



RED WHITE & ROYAL BLUE

Book Review by Charlotte Hooker, Year 11

Fun, relatable, heartwarming. There are so many words that could be used to describe this must-read romance. From the moment I opened the pages of this novel I was hooked, and once I finished, I just could not stop thinking about it. McQuiston has created loveable characters through her witty, mixed dialogue, wholesome friendship and detailed descriptions of not only their appearances, but their interests. Sometimes with books, you may find that certain characters do not have very discernable personalities. However that is not the case with this stunning novel, as McQuiston has diverse characters in appearances and personalities that the readers can relate to. Whether it be the extremely charismatic, carefree collegiate Alex, who hides who he really is from those around him and struggles to come to terms with his sexuality, or Henry who is reserved and controlled, a restrained boy that has hid behind his role as Prince.

A small thing I really loved about Alex and Henry's relationship is that it started to develop over text. Let me tell you, the words that the new lovebirds write to each other destroyed me in the best way possible. This, along with the quotes between lovers in history they so willingly quote to each other, is enough for anyone to fall in love with their rollercoaster of a relationship.

The way political aspects are weaved into this story is flawless. Not only does it give us a small insight to American politics, but it also adds to the storyline. Alex's mother is in the middle of a fierce re-election campaign for president. This, along with the fact Henry is expected to keep up the red-blooded, heterosexual Prince act means it becomes even more important that the young men keep their relationship a secret. As in this novel: scandals have an impact.

If politics are not your cup or tea, do not worry! The political theme in this novel is not overwhelming. As someone who has little interest in politics, I actually found that this novel made them enjoyable and engaging.

This book is a heartwarming, gut wrenching and hilarious package. I cannot recommend it enough to people who are searching for a break from reality and a little more optimism about life.

POSSIBLE TRIGGERS: References to homophobia and racism; substance abuse and addiction; talk of sexual abuse; forced outing.

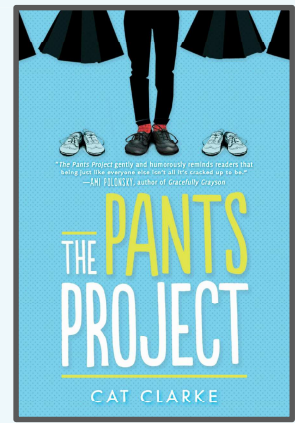


THE PANTS PROJECT

Book Review by Laura Cooke, Year 7

The Pants Project is a great young LGBTQIA+ book about Liv, who was born a girl, but feels like a boy. This book explores gender identity. In the story, which is told through the eyes of Liv, she goes through what it's like to be trans in the modern day world, fighting for equal rights for girls and boys in school.

The book is American (which is why it's called *The Pants Project* and not *The Trousers Project*!) and it gives us an insight to what American high school is like. I highly recommend it to anyone who wants a nice heartwarming read.

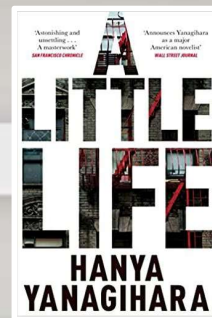
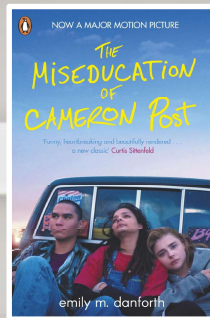
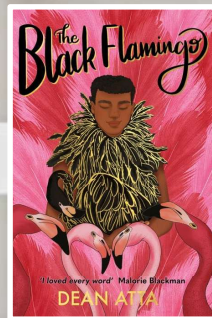


“I didn’t just wake up one morning and think, “I’m a boy!” It sort of crept up on me and tapped me on the shoulder a few times before I started to pay attention I began to think that the word “girl” didn’t quite fit me.”

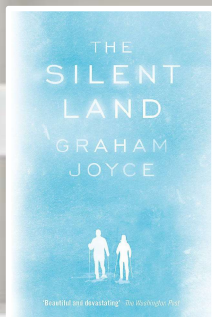
Quotation from *The Pants Project* by Cat Clarke

If you would like to review a book, TV series, film, music or theatre show for a future issue, email MSS-magazine@swale.at or come along to English 5 on a Thursday lunchtime.

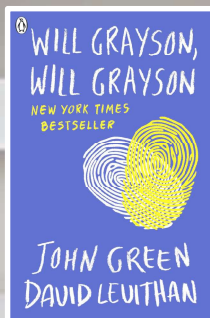
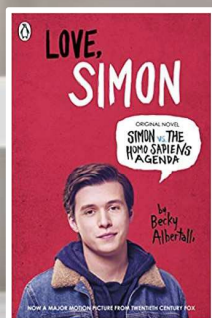
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



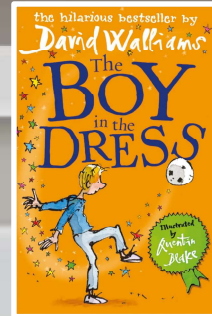
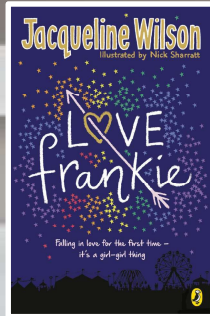
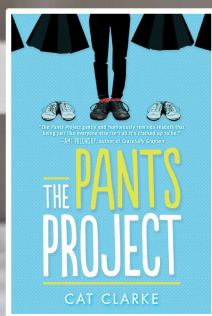
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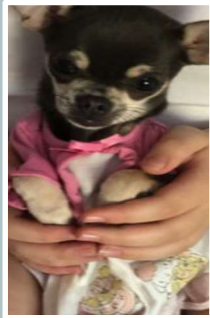
9/10



7/8

Recommendations by the editorial team. If you have a recommendation, or would like to write a review for a future issue, email us at MSS-magazine@swale.at

THE MEOPHAM (PET) FAMILY



Daisy - Stella S



Nugget - Jess T



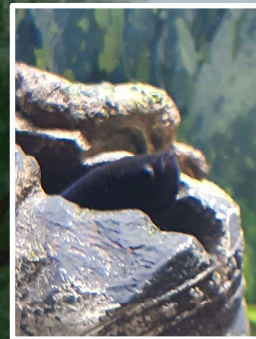
Merlin - Mrs Williamson



Rosie-Abi S



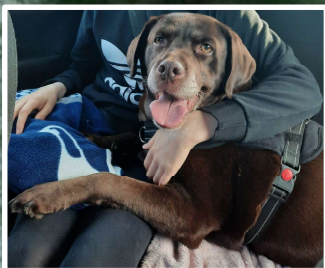
Misty - Mrs Vince



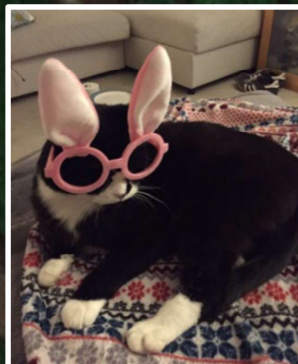
Espresso - Ashe R



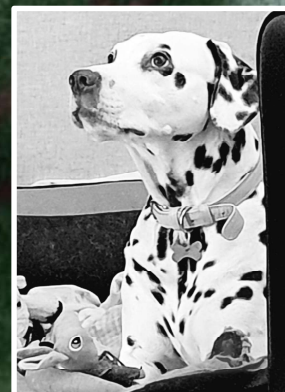
Dobbie - Penny I



Pops - Joe O'F



Rudi - Penny I



Lexi - Harry G

If you would like to share a pet photo for a future issue, email it to MSS-magazine@swale.at, along with a note of your pet's name.

**“There’s nothing wrong
with you. There’s a lot
wrong with the world you
live in.”**

Chris Colfer



Art by Florence Maclean