

Issue 5
March
2023

HIGH LIGHTS

BY HIGHTED STUDENTS, FOR
HIGHTED STUDENTS

SPECIAL FEATURE

#behindthelens

For LGBTQ+ History Month

AWARD SEASON

**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY**

**12 DAYS OF
ACTION**

**PLUS:
The Line
Strike Action
Turkey Syria Earthquake
and much more ...**

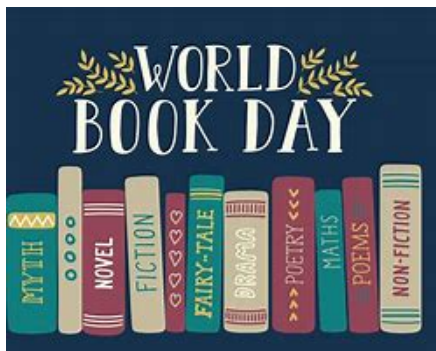


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Leah V, Abbie B, Laynie L, Olivia S, Saskia S, Year 12 Media Studies students and society presidents



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PERSONNEL

Editor in Chief: Miss McKenner

President: Tomi O

Student Editor: Freya Q

Design Team: Laynie M, Abbie B and Freya Q

Journalists: Gloria A, Saskia S, Tomi O, Zara P, Leah V, Olivia S, Mia W, Abbie B, Laynie L, Jessica A and Isabella C

Guest Journalists: Hollie H, Ella S, Beau G, Eleanor P, Sarah M, Jack E, Millie P and Esmae L-F



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Wed, Mar 8, 2023

International Women's Day is a global day that aims to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, in addition to calling for gender equality and women's rights. This year, the theme of International Women's Day was Accelerating Equality & Empowerment. The aim of this theme is to get the world talking about why equal opportunities aren't enough since people start from different places, so true inclusion and belonging require equitable action.

This year, there was a main focus on the gender pay gap due to the 2022 'Global gender gap report'. The index found that no country had yet achieved full gender parity. The countries that had closed the highest percentage of their gender gaps were Iceland (90.8%), Finland (86%) and Norway (84.5%). In comparison, the UK had closed 78% of its gender gap, ranking 22nd out of 146 countries. The index also predicted that, at the current rate of progress, it would take 132 years to reach full global parity.

The theme for this year's House of Lords debate on International Women's Day is education. The government have taken measures to try to narrow gender gaps in education in the UK and across the world. For example, they have funded initiatives in the UK to improve access for girls to science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects and funded programmes in developing countries to improve both access to and the quality of education.



Higsted, as usual, celebrated International Women's Day in style with an open mic, in lesson activities and the opportunity for students to take a pledge, promising to embrace equality. (Teachers took part too!)

“Equality is the goal, and equity is the means to get there. Through the process of equity, we can reach equality.”

International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate fellow female successes which are occurring all around the world, here are some inspiring stories of women who are striving for, and obtaining, equality:

Élisabeth Borne became the second woman in French history to become her country's prime minister in 2022. She was appointed to the role, which is the second most powerful in French government, by President Emmanuel Macron.

New Zealand film director Jane Campion became the first woman to receive multiple Oscar nominations for best director when she was nominated for *The Power of the Dog* in February.

Ketanji Brown Jackson was confirmed on 7 April as the first Black woman to serve on the US Supreme Court. The lifetime appointment passed by 53 votes to 47 in the US Senate.

A FANTASTIC WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is the annual celebration and appreciation of the positivity that is spread through books and the benefits of reading. It was a memorable day of Highsted students and staff embracing this year's theme of 'Fantasy' through their efforts of creating costumes in line with the theme and relating it to their favourite books. Many pupils contributed for different reasons, with the main reasons being that they love to dress up, and they believe that everyone gets to express themselves when they have the freedom to dress up as the book characters that they love. The school was full of many different characters from books, ranging from Alvin and the Chipmunks to Dr. Who, with costumes getting very creative, for example competition winner for Year 12 Maryam C, who dressed up as Platform 9 and 3/4 from the Harry Potter series (pictured). During break time and lunch time, students and teachers were showing off their amazing costumes, bringing a sense of community to the school. Highsted also supported the 'Read for Good' challenge which saw many students taking part in a sponsored read in order to raise money for the charity.

"World Book Day allows everyone to tap into their childhood"

We wanted to know what our students and staff love about World Book Day.

We spoke to some members of the English department, who commented:

Miss Hobbs- ***"World Book Day allows everyone to tap into their childhood and allows us time to reflect on magic of literature. It's a day that brings joy to many people"***.

Mr Lovett: ***"it's a great opportunity to be creative and have fun!"***

Mr Spedding- ***"without villains, no heroes want to celebrate. That's why I dressed as an orc! World Book Day reignites imagination brings magic to the school"***.

It was wonderful to see so many students all the way from Y7 to Y13 in costume and in good spirits on the day. Congratulations to our costume winners Daisy E in Year 7, Amy I in Year 8, Fiorina C in Year 9, Isabelle B in Year 9, Imogen J in Year 10, Heather M in Year 11, Maryam C in Year 12 and Rosie B in Year 13.



WORLD BOOK DAY GALLERY

Daisy E, Year 7



Amy I, Year 8



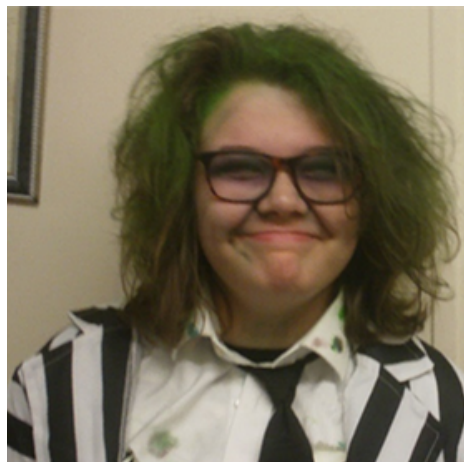
Isabelle B, Year 9



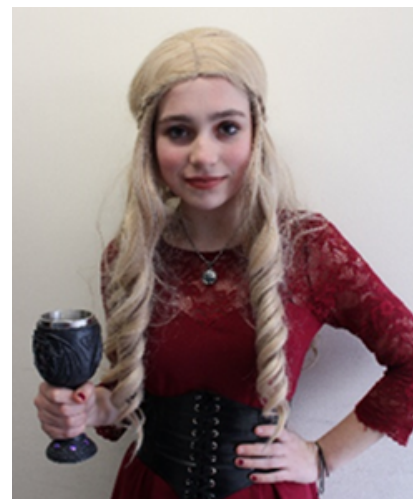
Fiorina C, Year 9



Imogen J, Year 10



Heather M, Year 11



Maryam C, Year 12



Rosie B, Year 13



LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

In February, the LGBTQ+ society worked on a charity event that allowed for Highsted, as a community, to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month together. The charity event ran from Monday 20th February to Friday 24th February with stalls and an open mic to support their chosen charities, Stonewall and Mermaids. We interviewed the society about the planning and preparations for the event, and why they wanted to show their support.

Brooke S, Marissa L, YR13s, co-presidents

Q: What have you done to raise money?

A: We set up a charity stall selling "queer representing items" including handmade items such as badges, bracelets and dreamcatchers, all of which could be custom made too.

Q: What do the 2 charities mean to you?

A: Stonewall is very important for gay rights and Mermaids is very important for youths in particular.

Marissa has only heard of Stonewall more recently. These charities need to become more prominent and spreading awareness to our community enables them to receive support.

Q: What's your overarching goal?

A: Brooke- Awareness more than anything else, it's not necessarily about the money.

Marissa: The more years that the charity events run for, the more normalised people within the LGBTQ+ community become and reduce homophobia and stigma within school and society as a whole.

Q: Have you got any other events planned this year or for the future?

A: Not at the moment as exams are coming up for both year 13s and year 12s but hopefully charity events like this one become an annual occurrence.



The event was accompanied by an open mic led by Jack E in Year 13. The group managed to raise over £130 with their efforts.

SCIENCE WEEK STARTS WITH A BANG!

In celebration of British Science Week, Year 7 students enjoyed a visit from a science show on 10th March. One experiment involved the contents of a bowl being ignited, "it literally burst into flames." The explosion was quite powerful, as it visibly stretched from the floor to the ceiling. Lidia R described this experiment to be "really cool because we could feel the heat on our faces." In another experiment, fire was put against a balloon, causing the balloon to explode – the sound produced was supposed to be louder than the explosion of a jet engine. During another experiment, they placed some confined gunpowder in a bowl, alongside Rice Crispies to allow everyone watching to see the full extent of what was about to happen. After setting it alight, there was an explosion with Rice Crispies everywhere.

Another shocking experiment involved a bed of 1000 nails, as one of the leaders demonstrated how the laws of physics enabled him to lie on top of it. He then had another board (with several more nails on) and had this placed on top of him, so that he was sandwiched between. The number of nails spread across the board meant that his weight was evenly distributed, so that the nails didn't puncture any skin. Going further, he then had two bricks and a block of cement placed on top, and asked Mrs Field (with equipment put in place to ensure her safety) to break the cement using a sledgehammer, remaining unscathed.



The show was a great success and there were many year 7s who enjoyed the show. Poppy N said that "In my opinion, the Science event was really fun because we got to see how different things worked and I loved the way the teachers were able to get involved as well. I also think it was nice watching someone else do it instead of us because you really got to see what happens." Alice R said "I absolutely loved the Science show, it was really fun to watch and interact with. It made Science seem way more interesting and it was a very positive experience!" Nicole J thought "The Science show was really cool, it would have been nice if we had more time so the guy could do all of the experiments but overall, it was really good. Especially the fire one."



There have also been plenty of other activities and workshops following this performance, including making fan powered cars and rocket launchers. Mr Jackson has led on an engaging and invigorating week of enriching STEM activities which our community thoroughly enjoyed, as an important opportunity to encourage more students to discover the joys of Science.

12 DAYS OF ACTION

Over the last two terms, Sixth Form students, who are all members of societies, have been presenting to Year 9, 10 and 11 students on how women are victimised in the industry relating to their society. Inspired by 16 Days of Action, which is an annual campaign which takes place between 25 November (the International Day Against Violence Against Women) and 10 December (World Human Rights Day), students have been campaigning for an end to gender-based violence, and for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls, by researching charities which are seeking to help women, and educating other students on the bias women face in a variety of everyday situations and workplaces.

Presentation topics have included gender based violence in sport, the abuse of actresses in the film industry through the ages, with directors enforcing the 'casting couch' process, and high-profile criminal cases of violence against women. Having featured some society articles in our last issue, we have included articles written by a variety of societies which summarise their research and campaigning aims. Many societies have chosen charities relating to their research to raise money for this year, with our Highsted community aiming to use this project not only to educate, but to make a difference. It has been a rewarding experience for students to passionately speak out against injustice, but a humbling on the realisation of just how important this issue is.



THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES CONTAIN REFERENCES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

If you, or someone you know, needs support on the issues featured in this section, consider the following sources:

Childline

0800 1111

childline.org.uk

Kidscape

0207 823 5430

kidscape.org.uk

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

0800 800 5000 (for adults concerned about a child)

0800 1111 (18 or under – Childline helpline)

nspcc.org.uk

YoungMinds

0808 802 5544 (Parents Helpline)

85258 (Crisis Messenger for young people – text the letters YM)

youngminds.org.uk

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IS ~~NOT~~ ACCEPTABLE



Gender based violence can occur in all types and levels of sport.

Although Sport tends to be seen as something that promotes ethical value, fair-play. Violence is something that occurs often in sporting settings.

In some places, violence is directed against a person because of their gender, this phenomenon is understood as gender-based violence and may include sexual harassment and abuse (including emotional and physical abuse). Gender-based violence in sport affects girls, boys, women and men. Gender-based violence has been noticed among peer-athletes, between coaches and their athletes and needs to be spoken about to prevent it continuing.



The verbal violence that women receive when in the sporting industry is not acceptable and should not be tolerated. But, this does not just happen to women.

Purposely giving hate comments or deliberately harming people physically during a game is in no way acceptable and we need to continue to raise awareness for this.



Computing Society

Our aims and values

We are aware of the gender disparity within the computer science field. We are also passionate about creating more diversity within such a male-dominated industry, especially targeting the problem of discrimination in the workplace, which a woman may face when she finds herself in the minority at work.

What we plan to do this year

We would like to get people interested in computing through activities, delving into:

- ❖ Dismantling a computer
- ❖ Learning the history of how hardware/software and game consoles are made
 - ❖ Developing and designing code, such as a game
 - ❖ Robotics and AI

Our charity event

Because we feel that equal access to education is incredibly important, our chosen charity is CAMFED – they provide financial and social support for girls in Africa to attend school. Developing women's education also links to our agenda of increasing the number of women in STEM.

We will be selling numerous items, including:

- Sweets
- Snacks
- Drinks
- Crocheted items
- A raffle

We're also hosting a Mario Kart tournament! It will work in a pair system, one person will be steering around the course and one will be going backwards/forwards, with the person steering being blindfolded. You can sign up in pairs or by yourself, and we can match you with someone to play with.

Did you know?

- As of March 2022, only 20% of computer scientists are women.
- 92% of software developers are male
- About 90% of the world's currency is on computers
- The password for the control of nuclear missiles in the USA used to just be 00000000
- There are more than 5000 computer viruses released every month

12 days of action

We will be focusing our 12 days of action on violence against women online and what safety measures can be brought in to prevent it. We will also be bringing in the theme of gender bias in STEM, including discrimination in the workplace.

Diversity Society: 12 Days of action

Girls and women belonging to ethnic minorities are among some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our society. A collective effort must be drawn up to address the mistreatment of them- and most importantly deconstructing these systematically oppressive ideas from the root.

What actions can be taken?

Being aware of the latest news and social commentary about current events that affect women and girls belonging to ethnic minorities, is a way to be a more active ally and to have an element of understanding and compassion.

Importance of raising awareness.

In order for us to help make a change to our society it is important to acknowledge the inequality of females of ethnic minority. With this we'll be able to create/ contribute to charities and their events such as: black and minoritized womans fund , imkaan and more.

What needs to happen.

Whilst being aware of current events is already very important, passive witnesses will only do more harm. It is important to spread awareness whether it be in person or online, sign petitions and actively protest- ideally in real life when it is safe to do so. Power lies in numbers; when there is more of us standing up against blatant oppression, there will be a greater chance of change.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



D

omestic violence is violence that has been committed by someone with a close relationship to the victim, usually a partner or family member. Abuse presents itself in many ways, all of which comes with their own challenged and emotional upsets for the victims.

High-profile cases of Domestic Abuse: **ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM.**

Possibly one of the most high-profile domestic abuse cases the world has ever seen was that of Rhianna, in 2009.

She suffered at the hands of then-boyfriend and rapper, Chris Brown, when he attempted to push her out of her car, threatened to beat her and punched her repetitively. Brown was arrested and charged with two felonies and sentenced to five years probation, and 180 days community labour.

Counting Dead Women is a project set up by Karen Ingala Smith to investigate and report on the violence experienced by women; particularly, women who were killed by men. She reports that in

59% of murders of women by (ex-)partners, evidence can be found of prior abuse.

@REFUGECHARITY,
0808 2000 247
CRIMINOLOGY SOCIETY

The Domestic Abuse Act

In 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act came into place; it attempted to put a solid definition to what domestic abuse is and how it can impact someone's life. The act placed duty on local authorities to provide refuge and safe accommodation, and to create a safer environment for those fleeing domestic abuse, providing them with 'priority need' for housing support. The Act ratified non-fatal strangulation and attempted to protect victims from 'revenge porn'.

57 women were killed by their former or current partners in 2020.

**END
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE.
KNOW THE
SIGNS.**

It is important to know the more 'discrete' signs of domestic abuse. Perhaps most obvious is any form of physical abuse, but under this umbrella terms is:

- Sexual
- Psychological
- Neglectful
- Emotional
- Controlling
- Coercive
- Economic

You should not have to:

- You tiptoe around your partner
- Apologise excessively
- Remind yourself that you love them
- Feel constantly put down
- Have little influence over decision making
- Feel as if your partner is very mistrusting.

TERM 2: 12 DAYS OF ACTION

BEHIND THE SCENES, GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE FILM INDUSTRY



Harvey Weinstein and the 'me too' movement.

Harvey Weinstein used to be a film producer who is a convicted sex offender and assaulted over 80 women. The situation triggered more allegations against powerful men and caused many women to come forward about their experiences of sexual assault with the #MeToo movement. The original purpose "Me Too" was as a phrase to show how many women also experienced sexual harassment and assault and it's still used today as a hashtag for this purpose. The movement is to empower sexually assaulted people through solidarity, empathy and strength in numbers to show how many people have experienced sexual assault, particularly in the workplace. Actors such as Gwyneth Paltrow, Lupita Nyong'o and Uma Thurman posted about the #MeToo movement and there was widespread coverage discussing sexual harassment that helped people globally. Weinstein was charged with third degree rape and was sentenced to 23 years in prison.

Hitchcock's treatment of Tippi Hedren

Tippi Hedren worked with the director Alfred Hitchcock in the 1963 film *The Birds* and the 1964 film *Marnie*. After finishing *Marnie*, Hedren refused to work with Hitchcock again due to his abuse and inappropriate behaviour. The extent to which Hitchcock mistreated Tippi can be seen in the remake of their relationship in the 2012 film *The Girl on the Train* and in multiple interviews with her. In one, Tippi opened up about one of the many occasions in which Hitchcock groped her: "I can't call it an assault, but it was very unpleasant," she said.

"And it was just as we had arrived at the hotel, and all of a sudden he comes at me like he wanted to kiss me, and, you know, it was an unpleasant situation and very embarrassing for me. And there were about three more of those incidents, and I said, 'I want to get out of the contract.'" This only begins to show the way Hitchcock mistreated Hedren. During the shooting of their two movies, Hitchcock would get jealous and resentful when he saw Hedren speaking to male colleagues. At one point, when they were both in the back of a limousine, the director lunged at Hedren and tried to kiss her. In another encounter, during the filming of "Marnie," Hitchcock asked the actress to touch him and shared romantic fantasies with her. Tippi wasn't the only female mistreated by Hitchcock. He used his power as a white male director of the time to manipulate Tippi and stop her from being able to say anything. Tippi has since spoke



To find help or get more information:

SATEDA – campaign to end domestic abuse and enable women to end the cycle of domestic abuse and rebuild their lives through education, support and advocacy.

National domestic abuse helpline – 0808 2000 247

THE LINE

Two years ago, plans were announced by the Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, for a new linear smart city called 'The Line.' It is currently under construction in Neom, Tabuk Province. Designed by world-leading architects, this megadevelopment aims to provide a healthier and more sustainable quality of life. It is predicted to stretch over 26,000 square kilometres of desert and will be home to over 9 million residents. Housed within a mirror glass façade, the structure will aim to be approximately 500m tall, 200m wide, and around 170km long.



The main benefit of this development is that the energy and water supplies are 100% renewable, with zero carbon emissions, as there will be no need for cars. Residents will have access to everything they need - within a 5-minute walk for amenities, and 2-minute walks to parks and the surrounding nature. The Line's infrastructure makes it possible to travel end to end within 20 minutes by a high-speed rail line, therefore making 40% of the world accessible within 6 hours, at the heart of the globe's key trade routes. According to Neom, the entire city's minimal physical footprint will ensure that 95% of the development's land will be preserved, therefore ensuring more space for nature. By leveraging AI technology, services are autonomous, saving time and effort. For example, intelligent solutions create efficiency and a year-round temperate microclimate with natural ventilation. Leaked documents even show proposals for everything from robotic cleaners and an artificial moon, to flying taxis and more innovative technology. On the other hand, this could also mean that people will not necessarily need paying jobs if there is enough technology to do it for them.



The entire Neom development intends to become so self-sufficient that it will be referred to as a "country within a country," where residents may be called 'neomians.' Some argue that this is a revolutionary idea that will change the future of our society. However, this development is also proving to be slightly controversial, and comes with many questions. How will this project be afforded? What does this mean for the future? Will there be more of these structures? With residents moving in before 2030, this project certainly is the start of something that will change future lives, for the better or for the worse.

TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

CONTAINS IMAGES SOME MAY FIND DISTRESSING

.Earthquakes will often occur as a result of volcanic activity, the movement of tectonic plates, geological faults and man-made interference (such as mining or nuclear bombing). China, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, the US, Turkey, Indonesia and the Philippines are countries commonly affected by them.

On 6 February 2023, at 04:17 TRT, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Southern and Central Turkey and Northern and Western Syria. The epicentre was 37 km Northwest of the city of Gaziantep, and was followed by another earthquake after thousands of aftershocks. Statistics show that at least 54,387 people have died, with a further 125,000 non-fatal injuries. Millions of people have been affected, with 2.4 million people displaced, and over 200,000 buildings destroyed, costing around US\$109 billion in total.

Due to its location on the Anatolian plate, which borders two major fault lines, earthquakes are common in Turkey. However, this earthquake was the worst the country has experienced, since the 7.6 magnitude earthquake in Marmara back in August 1999. For Syrians, this is yet another devastating crisis they have had to face. Even before the earthquake, the situation in the region was already poor - with 80% of people living in poverty.



The Turkish Red Crescent launched a crisis response operation immediately after the first earthquake, mobilising teams in more than ten regions across the country. Over 5,500 staff and volunteers have been involved, supporting with search and rescue and providing basic relief items including 59,000 blankets and 54,000 tents. Governments around the world were also quick to respond to requests for international assistance, deploying rescue teams and offering aid. However, many young children and more than 350,000 pregnant women across the region are still struggling to access healthcare and daily essentials, according to UN officials. Of those, 38,800 are expected to go into labour in the coming weeks.

As of March 1st, more than 11,000 aftershocks occurred, according to Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority. Support from other countries is still being given to the residents of Turkey and Syria, including over £100 million in donations, but aftershocks are expected to continue in these countries for the foreseeable future.

NATIONAL STRIKE ACTION

You have probably seen frequent coverage in the news of various trade unions taking strike action. What is included in industrial action? Why are so many unions taking strike action? What are the intended outcomes of strike action?

Strike action is a work stoppage, caused by the mass refusal of employees to work. A strike usually takes place in response to employee grievances.

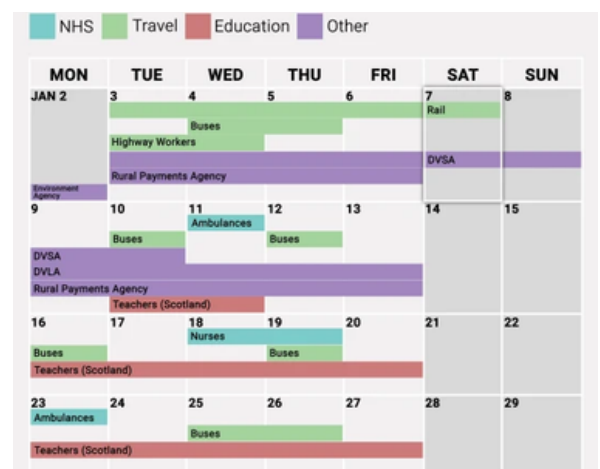
Industrial action happens when trade union members are in a dispute with their employers that can't be solved through negotiations.

A trade union can only call for industrial action if a majority of its members involved support it in a properly organised postal vote – called a 'ballot'. Throughout periods of industrial action, union leaders aim to maintain regular contact with parliamentary representatives in order to reach an agreement to end the dispute if their terms of action are met. Industrial action, including strike action, often results in widespread disruption to services, however, this is important in order to make a stand as the government seek for services to resume.



What are unions striking over?

The initial motivation for strike action for many unions is dispute over pay. While some pay offers had been made by the government prior to strike action being taken, unions have argued that any offer below inflation is a real-terms pay cut. Unions have also campaigned for their pay increases to be funded by the government rather than existing funds, which may otherwise result in redundancies to cover costs. Pension schemes are also a concern, as some workers have seen cuts to matched pension contributions. Union members are also concerned about working conditions, including hours, wellbeing concerns and equipment.



NATIONAL STRIKE ACTION



What has strike action achieved so far?

The current period of strike action began in June 2022, when the RMT voted to strike over proposed changes to their pay and conditions. This has resulted in an ongoing series of rail strikes, as they have been joined by other railway unions such as ASLEF to decrease services. As of March, further strike action for April has been called off following a fresh pay offer after the 'best and final' offer given in February was rejected by RMT in favour of further negotiations.

In response to progress being made with rail strikes, there has been a surge in industrial action, with CWU (Royal Mail), RCN, BMA (healthcare), FBU (fire brigade), CBA (barristers), PCS (civil service), UCU (university staff) and NEU (education) among the prominent unions staging mass walk outs.

Change is on the horizon for many unions. RCN, UNISON, GMB, BDA and CSP are recommending the offer to healthcare professionals of pay rises ranging from 2%–9.3%, with additional bonuses. Scotland and Wales NEU members have agreed deals of up to 12% funded pay increases for teachers. UCU are recommending its members to vote 'yes' for an uploft of up to 5%. CBA and FBU both voted overwhelmingly in favour of their respective pay deals. This is a positive sign that taking action for change is effective, and that the priviledge of the right to protest is an important one. The latest mass walk out saw over 50,000 people march to Trafalgar Square, representing a range of unions. We hope students are inspired to remember to stand for injustice and to recognise their worth when they enter the wider world.

AN HEIR AND A SPARE

Since stepping back from all Royal duties, Prince Harry has been involved in a variety of scandals- perhaps the biggest being his written memoir *Spare*. Which, as the title would suggest, surrounds the theme of feeling like nothing but a spare part in the Royal Family, such as the idiom goes that there's always "an heir and a spare" - an informal way of referring to the two children of a monarch who are first and second in line for succession.

The Prince's memoir was ghostwritten by novelist J. R. Moehringer, who was paid \$1 million for his input, and published by Penguin Random House on 10th January 2023, even after The Times reported that he had second thoughts about the book prior visiting the Queen (his grandmother) during her Platinum Jubilee. Originally priced at £28 but then later reduced to £14, *Spare* has been named the fastest-selling non-fiction book and one of the best-selling hardcover books in recent memory; it had record-breaking sales on its first week of release and as of 17th January 2023 it has sold 750,000 copies across all formats in the U.K. alone. It has also been rumoured that Prince Harry received a \$20 million advance for writing the memoir.



Before its publication, the Duke of Sussex confirmed that \$1.5 million of the proceeds from sales of the book would go to the Sentebale charity - a registered charity founded in 2006 by himself and the Prince Seesio of Lesotho to help children and adolescents struggling to come to terms with their HIV status- and £300,000 to WellChild, which is a charity that provides care for seriously ill children and young people in the United Kingdom.



However, despite these good intentions behind the sales of the book, *Spare* has come under fire due to the controversy surrounding it, making people question how accurate, reliable and truthful the memoir is. With Prince Harry stating: "I'm writing this not as the prince I was born but as the man I have become", the book focuses on his early life, his education, his time as a working royal and in the British Army, his relationships with his parents, brother Prince William and with his wife Meghan during their courtship, marriage as well as parenthood. Although claiming that the book's aim was "not trying to collapse the monarchy" Prince Harry has definitely ruffled a few royal feathers with some of the stories that he recounts, driving a bigger wedge between him and his extended family.

There have been many critical comments post-release of the book, with close friends and royal aides speaking out about some of the Prince's allegations, stating that they are either not true at all or that he twisted particular aspects of the stories. There are also some contradictory statements that have been called to question – for instance, although only a minor statement, Prince Harry said that for his first date with Meghan she was wearing a black sweatshirt, jeans and heels whereas Meghan, herself, previously revealed that she wore a blue dress. Some experts and even fans claimed that they have uncovered a handful of small inaccuracies.

Some critics have said that the book is “hard to follow, holds inconsistencies and inaccuracies, offers privileged military information, and is often tasteless”, whilst others have described it as “absurd”, “chaotic” and “emotionally charged”. *Spare* faced backlash with criticism from a variety of sources, including: the media (such as The Guardian who called the book “a flawed attempt to reclaim the narrative”), commentators, army veterans and the Taliban – while Buckingham Palace kept silent on the matter.



However, there have been a few positive comments relating to the book's content, for instance one buyer described it as an “incredibly courageous and brave” decision for Prince Harry to write the book. Another purchased it because they wanted to “hear from the horse's mouth”. Despite all of the criticism *Spare* has received it still appears that the book sold well, leaving audiences with many quotable lines from the book as it diverges into crude (yet humorous and unexpected) stories. How truthful and reliable the Prince's claims are we'll never really know, because the book only reveals one side of the situation – like the story about Prince William pushing Prince Harry over onto the dog's bowl during an argument over Meghan.

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN



This Issue's spotlight woman is the beautiful and talented actress and producer Viola Davis. Davis is one the few multi-award winning actresses - to have been awarded an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony (EGOT). As of recently she won a Grammy for her audiobook 'Finding Me' in which she highlights her struggles as a black woman in the film industry and her own personal journey. We want to honour and admire her achievement of being the first Black woman to win five Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Davis is famously known for her roles as Annalise Keating in 'How To Get Away With Murder', Aibileen Clark in 'The Help', her role from Michelle Obama in the biopic of 'The First Lady' and many more acting roles. Graduating from Juilliard School, moving onto Broadway and then making her way onto big screens, being recognised worldwide and being nominated for numerous performances; this is a massive achievement for any actor, but especially a black actress. Let her be an inspiration for you to never shy away from your dreams and talents, no matter who you are.

The only thing that separates women of colour from anyone else is opportunity ~ Viola Davis

SPECIAL FEATURE: #BEHIND THE LENS

One director that we have chosen to explore is Dorothy Arzner. Arzner was the only woman in Hollywood to direct feature-length films during the 1930s. Her career spanned from 1928 - 1943 and she is credited with directing 17 films: 3 silent films and 14 "talkies".

Dorothy Arzner had both a successful and groundbreaking career; she went from typing up scripts for Famous Players - Lasky Corporation (later Paramount Pictures) to cutting and editing film. During the mid-1920s, she worked as an editor and screenwriter for director James Cruze, subsequently wanting to direct her first picture, but was faced with challenges from Paramount resulting in Arzner pressuring them to let her do so by threatening to leave the studio to work for Columbia Pictures. Unwilling to lose such a talented filmmaker, Paramount Pictures eventually acquiesced. Arzner had many momentous events within her lengthy career including in 1929 when she directed Paramount's first talking feature, for which she created the "boom mic" - still widely used today, it's a microphone that's on an extended pole allowing the microphone to follow actors around the set without being in the camera-shot.



Posthumously, Arzner was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame For Motion Pictures in 1986, in 2018 Paramount dedicated a dressing room building to her and, as the first female member of the DGA, the Dorothy Arzner Directors Award was established in her honour as a recognition of the important role female directors play in both film and television



Arzner never hid her sexuality, and was open about being a lesbian with many gay critics suggesting that there's even hidden gay subtext in some of her films, however she refused to be categorised as a 'woman' or 'gay' director, insisting that she was simply a 'director'. Despite trying to keep her personal life as private as possible, Arzner was found to have romantic links to a number of actresses such as Billie Burke. She did eventually maintain a 40-year long relationship with dancer and choreographer Marion Morgan, who was 16 years older than Arzner, working on a few of her films together, Morgan choreographing some of the dance sequences. In 1920, the couple moved to Mountain Oak Drive and lived there together until Morgan's death in 1971. Her films often broke the conventions of the "women's film" genre by offering independent, strong-willed female protagonists whose decisions conflicted stereotypes and tended to centre around relationships between women, believing that "heterosexual monogamy cripples the imagination and curbs the appetite for living".

Dorothy Arzner is still widely celebrated today by many film enthusiasts and aspiring female directors as both a Feminist and a role model for the LGBTQ+ community, with some stating that she was "A true lesbian icon who never let her gender or sexuality define her career".

WENDY CARLOS

Wendy Carlos is **a pioneering, transgender electronic musician and an acclaimed composer** of film scores such as 'A Clockwork Orange', 'The Shining' and 'Tron'. Born November 14th 1939, Carlos was raised with musical influences from both her mother and uncle. At just six years old she began piano lessons and was composing pieces from this early age.

Displaying not only musical capabilities, Carlos won a science fair at age 14 for constructing her own computer. She went on to study at Brown University from 1958 to 1962 and graduated with a degree in music and physics - combining her two interests.

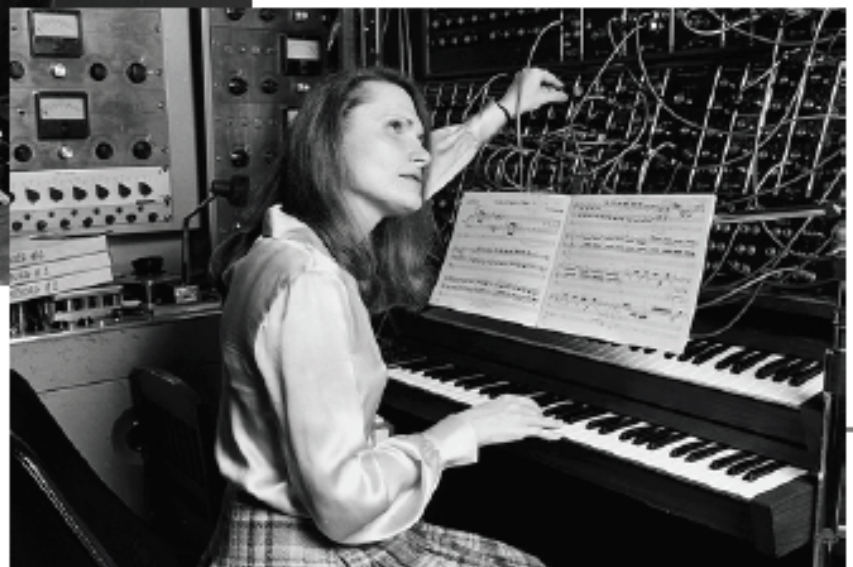
Carlos worked as a recording and mastering engineer until 1968 and she found it to be a useful learning experience. During this time, she was extremely influential towards Robert Moog founding the first commercial synthesiser, offering him extensive feedback about the device. She slowly but surely built up her synthesiser collection and was consistently composing compositions and performing traditionally classical pieces in her own way. Her album 'Switched-on Bach' was a surprising commercial success, and eventually won her the 1970 Grammy Awards for Best Classical Album, Best Classical Performance and Best Engineered Classical Recording. **She is the first transgender recipient of the Grammy.**

At this point in her career, Carlos was out to those closest to her and had begun hormone therapy in 1966. With the success of her album, she feared being perceived by the public and the media as a woman. She desperately tried to disguise herself as a man for TV appearances, donning a wig and stick-on sideburns. In 1979, she came out publicly in an interview with Playboy and was surprised by the public's tolerant and indifferent reaction.



"As human beings we do change, grow, adapt, perhaps even learn and become wiser."

-Wendy Carlos



Jeremy O. Harris



List of works

Stage

- Slave Play (2018)- nominated for a Tony award in 2020
- "Daddy": A Melodrama (2019)
- *Water Sports; or, Insignificant White Boys* (2019)
- *Black Exhibition* (2019)
- *Yell: A Documentary of My Time Here* (revised 2020)
- *A Boy's Company Presents: 'Tell Me If I'm Hurting You'* (2021)

TV and Film

- Zola (2021), co writer with Janicza Bravo
- Emily in Paris (2022)
- Co-producer for Euphoria (2019)

About him

- Born in 1989
- Playwright
- Screenwriter
- Producer
- Actor
- Philanthropist
- Gay

Jeremy O. Harris is an openly gay playwright known for bringing his personal identity into his works through inventive methods. His sophomore production *Slave Play* holds the record for most nominations for a nonmusical show at Tony's with ten and has been lauded as a scathing critique of racial and sexual politics in the United States.

Following his success on the stage, Harris's work has gravitated toward the screen; he served as a consultant for season one of HBO's *Euphoria* and became a formal producer on its second. The 32-year-old received an Independent Spirit award nomination for his work on Janicza Bravo's *Zola*, the first film and script to be adapted directly from social media. He has since signed a deal with HBO that will allow him to produce a pilot for the network, in addition to working on other programming.



BEHIND THE LENS – LGBTQ+ filmmakers

Isabel Sandoval

She is a transgender Filipina filmmaker and actress, and is considered an auteur. She has been nominated and won many awards at film festivals for some of her notable works such as *Lingua Franca* (2019), *Señorita* (2011) and *Apparition* (2012).



Sandoval was inspired by films that show impossible love relationships. The film *In the Mood for Love*'s concept of emotional destination influenced her. Her films mostly contain themes of women who are marginalised or at a disadvantage who have to share personal conflicts and choices.



Dee Rees

Dee Rees is a lesbian American screenwriter and director. She is known for her feature films *Pariah* (2011), *The Last Thing He Wanted* (2020) and *Mudbound* (2017) which all

won awards. She also is the first black woman nominated for the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.



Much of her directorial influence is pulled from her own life, *Pariah* is a coming-of-age drama about a young black woman grappling with her sexuality and the world's response to it. She has faced some setbacks because of her LGBT themes, many actors turned down the role to a queer crime drama she wrote which never got off the ground. However, she has been majorly successful with Netflix buying *Mudbound* for \$12.5 million.

Andrew Ahn

Andrew Ahn is a gay American film director and screenwriter and directed his feature films *Spa Night* (2016), *Driveways* (2019) and *Fire Island* (2022). He has had quite a few nominations for his films and won them for Best Narrative Feature, Best Feature film and more.



He was inspired by his favourite film *The Wedding Banquet* when directing *Fire Island*. He said that it is important to acknowledge the discrimination that happens within the LGBTQ community and he is glad he didn't shy away from that in his film.

Derek Jarman

Jarman was a British filmmaker, costume designer, writer, artist and gay rights activist. He died at 52 of an AIDS related illness in 1994.

He won many categories for his films *Edward II* (1991), *The Garden* (1990) and *Caravaggio* (1986) at the Berlin International Film Festival and others. He got a BAFTA award in 1992. In the 70s, he



was outspoken for for gay rights and his struggle with AIDS.



LGBTQ+ History Month: Behind the Lens

Russell T Davies OBE

Russell T Davies is a Welsh writer and producer, famous for television shows such as *Doctor Who* and *It's A Sin*. Many of his works contain elements of homosexuality, as he himself identifies in this way, his late partner being Andrew Smith.



Davies' first show for the BBC in 1985, *Why Don't You?*, began his career as a children's TV writer and producer. Leaving the BBC, he joined Granada Television to write adult television where he began to explore themes of sexuality and religion in his scripts in shows such as *Queer As Folk* and *Revelations*.

Fast forward to 2005 and Davies takes on the role of writer and Executive Producer for *Doctor Who* in its revival, working alongside Christopher Eccleston and David Tennant. The revival of this much-loved series came with an increased representation of LGBT themes. Captain Jack Harkness was a character introduced part way through series 1 and was displayed as being bi/pansexual, even sharing the first gay kiss in *Doctor Who*'s history with The Doctor in the series 1 finale. At this time, Davies also wrote two spin-offs, *Torchwood* and *Sarah Jane Adventures*. Though the latter was aimed at children, *Torchwood* was an adult show starring five bisexual main characters, including Harkness.

He left *Doctor Who* in 2010, around the same time as he was awarded an OBE for his services to Drama. Alongside this, he has been nominated for several BAFTAs and Welsh BAFTAs, winning nine in total. On top of this he has been nominated and won a number of other awards, particularly for his work on *Doctor Who* and *It's A Sin*.

It's A Sin (2019), starring Olly Alexander, was one off his projects taken on after his departure from *Doctor Who* and depicts the experience of gay men during the HIV/AIDs crisis in the late 20th century. He admits that the script for this was hard to pitch as it was a 'tough' subject matter. Eventually, after many negotiations, a deal was made with Channel 4 for a five-episode series. Upon release, it was particularly popular among young (16-34) viewers. It also resulted in an increase in HIV testing with one charity receiving orders for 8200 kits on one day. Merchandise for the show was sold and money raised went to HIV testing charities.



Davies is set to return to *Doctor Who* this year, alongside David Tennant as the 14th Doctor as well as Ncuti Gatwa as the 15th doctor who will be the first gay and the first black actor to play the time lord.

THE BRIT AWARDS 2023

Hosted by comedian Mo Gilligan, the 43rd annual BRIT Awards took place on Saturday 11th February. The awards recognise the best of British music whilst also acknowledging international contributions as well. This year's competition was fierce, as each category was compiled with artists whose musical achievements made them deserving contenders for the awards.



Leading the night's nominations, Harry Styles and Wet Leg were each nominated for four different awards. Styles was the big winner of the night, taking home Best Pop/R&B Act, Artist of the Year, Song of the Year and Mastercard Album of the Year, whilst Wet Leg took home Best New Artist and Group of the Year. In one of their acceptance speeches, group member Rhian Teasdale paid homage to Alex Turner's infamous 2014 acceptance speech – ***"That rock'n'roll. It just won't go away. It might hibernate from time to time and sink back into the swamp."*** She then went on to thank all the women involved in making their album, commenting on how the genre can feel like a ***"boy's club"***.

Styles' speech for Album of the Year was also notable. ***"...I wanna thank Niall, Louis, Liam and Zayn because I wouldn't be here without you either. Thank you so much. I'm really, really grateful for this and I'm very aware of my privilege up here tonight so this award is for Rina, Charli, Florence, Mabel and Becky."*** Of course, his thanks to his former bandmates set Directioners into a frenzy, but his acknowledgement of the female artists who deserve accolades just as much should be noted.

Formed in 2019, the British girl group FLO has taken the music industry by storm. Following the release of their debut single 'Cardboard Box', they have established themselves within the R&B scene. The trio were the recipients of the BRITS Rising Star Award 2023 after being shortlisted by a panel of music industry experts. This award is one of many the group has received. Being so early on in their career, we have much to look forward to from the band.



When nominations were announced on January 12th, people were quick to note the complete absence of R&B within the 'Pop/R&B Act' category. Despite criticisms from both artists and audiences alike, the Brit Awards have continued to group the two genres together. In a series of tweets, singer-songwriter Mahalia declared that R&B in the UK was **"thriving"** and that **"Winning awards isn't the reason why we make and release music. We do this out of love. But, at this point, it's nothing short of disrespectful."** On the awards' red carpet, Mahalia wore a jacket embellished with the words "Long Live R&B". The Burberry coat featured artwork by Nigerian artist Olaolu Slawn and made a clear statement on the issue.



ACADEMY AWARDS 2023

Officially known as the Academy Awards, the Oscars have been hosted every year since 1929 making this year's the 95th Academy Awards. This year the awards ceremony was held 13th March in the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood and could be streamed from a variety of platforms including YouTube TV, ABC, Sky and for the first time ever NOW TV via Sky Cinema.

Due to being such an influential awards ceremony, the Oscars panel are expected to recognise a variety of representations, and over time we have seen this. For instance, in 2021, Chloé Zhao was the first woman of colour to win "Best Director" for her film *Nomadland* and in 2022 Jane Campion won "Best Director" for her film *The Power of the Dog*. Despite these groundbreaking moments, there were no female directors nominated for this award in 2023's Oscars, even though Charlotte Wells' *Aftersun* was nominated for "Best Leading Actor" and Sarah Polley's *Women Talking* was nominated for "Best Picture". Some sources, such as Far Out Magazine, said that "The 2023 Oscars has failed female filmmakers". Many others have also expressed their disappointment that Gina Prince-Bythewood for *The Woman King* and Maria Schrader for *She Said* have been completely ignored in all categories, missing out on having any nominations. Many have also expressed the feeling that the Oscars no longer feel the need to focus on giving women as much representation because they've done it now, as if it's a "trend" or a "phase".



Although, "there has never been this much Asian representation in the Oscar acting categories" until now, with Michelle Yeoh being the first Asian woman to be nominated for and to win the "Best Leading Actress" award. Other Asian nominees included Ke Huy Quan (who won "Best Supporting Actor"), Stephanie Hsu and Hong Chau, resulting in a total of four Asian nominees, which makes it all the more surprising when this number is considered to be the most Asian representation in the Oscars ever. *Everything, Everywhere All at Once*, a film with a predominantly Asian led cast, was highly regarded that evening winning 7 out of 11 award nominations, including "Best Picture", making it one of the biggest winners of the night. It wasn't just a memorable night for Asian actors but also for crew: Daniel Kwan, who has origins from Hong Kong and Taiwan, won three categories: "Original Screenplay", "Best Director" and "Best Picture", while producer Jonathan Wang, whose late father was Taiwanese, shared the win for "Best Picture". Both are the first U.S.- born Asians to win their Oscar categories.

However, the significant leaps in representation for ethnically Chinese and Indian winners doesn't necessarily mean that 2023's Oscars were overly diverse in the sense that Black representations were sparse with *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* winning only one award, the only predominantly Black film to win that night, for "Costume Design", meaning that Ruth Carter is still the only Black costume designer to win an Oscar.



Whereas, nominations are still a "a mixed bag for LGBTQ+ representations", with several LGBTQ+ stories being nominated, including *Tár* which is about a lesbian conductor unravelling as her past catches up with her - nominated 6 times - and *Everything Everywhere All at Once* which tells the story of a family learning to embrace their queer daughter.

But even then, LGBTQ+ talent appears to be few and far between across the line-up, as several presumably straight actors earned nominations for playing queer characters, including Cate Blanchett - who has been previously criticised for playing the eponymous Carol who was also a lesbian character - as the title character Lydia Tár. As well as Brendan Fraser being nominated for "Best Actor" for his role as a gay English professor mourning the loss of his male partner, so again a straight actor playing a queer character, leaving the LGBTQ+ community to feel overlooked once again. Which is clear through the reactions of the media where headlines, featuring on LGBTQ+ targeted magazines, state that "Stephanie Hsu [a female POC who plays lesbian Joy in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*] losing and Brendan Fraser winning is a punch to the gut for LGBTQ+ people".



So there we have it, the representations at the Oscars, 2023. Hopefully the 2024 Oscars will be more equal, in terms of diversity, across the board as a whole and that all minority groups are celebrated for their involvement within the film industry, whether they act in front of the camera or work behind it. And as Michelle Yeoh aptly stated in her acceptance speech: "dream big, and dreams do come true. [...] Never give up."

FASHION WEEK

January and February are the months of fashion. The months consisted of fashion weeks in cities, New York, London, Paris and Milan fashion week. For those obsessed with everything styling and clothing, it is a time where the fashion world (designers, brands and houses) is abundant and blooming, with so many new and unique looks to keep up with. The industry event influences the upcoming fashion trends for the current and approaching seasons. Spring/Summer collections are presented in September/October and the Fall/Winter collection in February/March.

It is believed that the original Fashion Week started in New York in 1943, but the actual concept of fashion week originated in Paris due to so many fashion designers showing off their designs to clients on runways in Paris. As a result of this, Paris Fashion Week is the most coveted because of the city being the fashion capital of the world.

New York Fashion Week usually occurs first out of the main cities; NYFW consists of a lot of culture and is the fashion show to which majority of A-list stars and celebrities attend - and of course they all pull out their best outfits for the occasion. The event is mainly held in Manhattan and features big names such as Marc Jacobs, Tom Ford, Michael Kors and Calvin Klein.

London Fashion Week consists of more emerging talents, such as experimental designers and brands that are less commercialised. LFW is often where you can expect anything from the shows, really focusing on uniqueness and inclusivity. It is always at the forefront of new creators, artists and designers making a name for themselves.

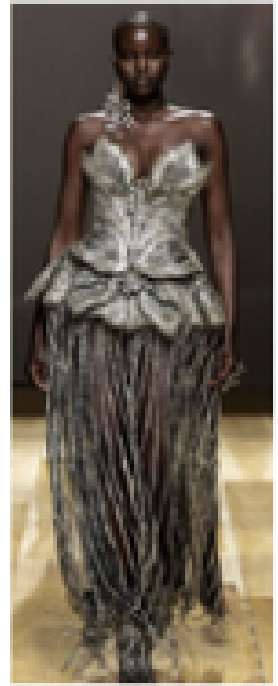
Milan Fashion Week is known more for their more outlandish collections and maximalist designs. Italian brands such as Dolce and Gabbana, Versace and Gucci are typically the brands that walk the runway during this week.

And the end of it all **Paris Fashion Week** is where all the larger and more exclusive brands go: Dior, Louis Vuitton, Balenciaga - leaving the very best until last - high glam and high style! This year there were numerous celebrities who attended the event, making it one of the most popular events of the season.

A number of fashion weeks across the globe go unnoticed such as Japan, Tokyo, Copenhagen, Lagos, Miami and many more. For the fashion industry, Fashion Week serves as a platform for upcoming creatives.



FASHION WEEK GALLERY



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Women's History Month celebrates not only the esteemed contributions of women throughout history but ensures that those overlooked are also acknowledged. Through this spirit of unity, we successfully uplift women, and what better way to explore this solidarity, than to look at dynamic girl groups both old and new.



The Supremes

As the leading act of Motown Records, The Supremes dominated the 1960s as one of the most successful groups of all time. With a distinctive sound, they ranged from performing pop and disco to soul and R&B. Their accomplishments helped pave the way for future African-American musicians to strive for mainstream success.

Recommended: *'Nathan Jones' & 'Baby Love'*

Floetry

Comprised of Marsha Ambrosius ("the Songstress") and Natalie Stewart ("the Floacist"), Floetry were an English R&B duo that formed in the 90s. After bonding over music and poetry, the pair took these interests and cultivated their unique sound. Though only together for under a decade, they blended spoken word and skilled vocals to create relevant and meaningful art.

Recommended: *'Floetic' & 'Butterflies -Demo'*



boygenius

Formed in 2018, 'boygenius' are an indie-rock supergroup. The members Julien Baker, Phoebe Bridgers and Lucy Dacus released their first EP the same year, in which Pitchfork declared they, "***elevate each other's individual talents***". Following a hiatus, the group have released a new EP, announced an album & is going on tour - all this year.

Recommended: *'Not Strong Enough' & 'Bite the Hand'*

FLO

FLO are an up-and-coming girl group that was officially formed in 2019. The members: Renee Downer, Stella Quaresma and Jorja Douglas are all from London and, following their debut last year, have quickly cultivated a dedicated fan base. They are reigniting a spark within the music industry, as their classic R&B and Hip-Hop inspired sound is reminiscent of the 90s and early 2000s.

Recommended: *'Feature Me' & 'Cardboard Box'*



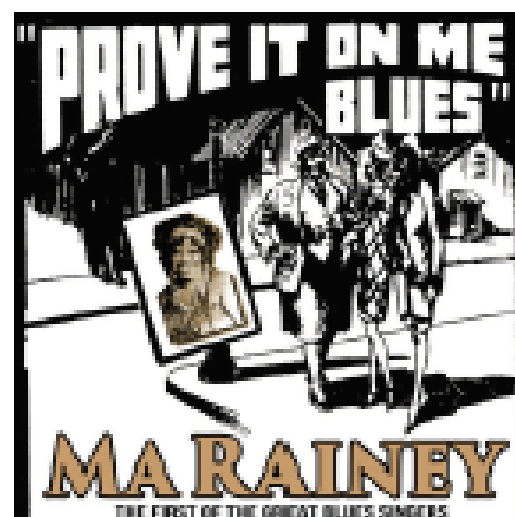
LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Celebrated in February, LGBT+ History Month was founded in 2004 by 'Schools OUT' co-chairs, Paul Patrick & Professor Emeritus Sue Sanders. The educational charity's motto for the celebration is **"claiming our past, celebrating our present, creating our future"**. Music can do just this as it commemorates, celebrates and conveys stories that will last a lifetime.

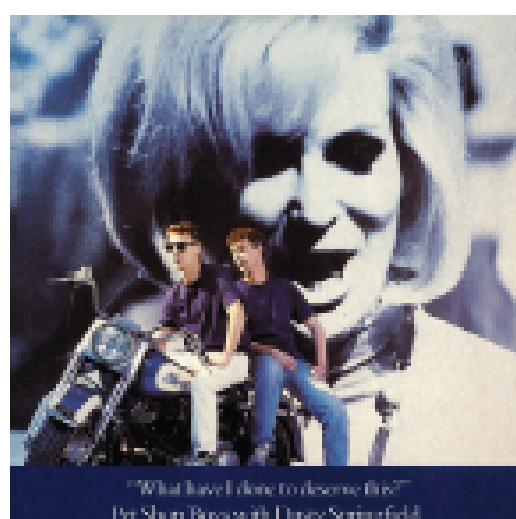
'Prove It on Me Blues' – Ma Rainey

Dubbed the 'Mother of Blues', Ma Rainey's contributions to music made her a notable trailblazer for many of the musicians we know and love. The early twentieth century was a time when sexuality and fluidity were incredibly taboo, Ma Rainey lived her truth and explored this in her song – 'Prove It on Me Blues'. After portraying her in Netflix's biopic of her life, Viola Davis stated that, **"...she was unapologetic about her sexuality,"** and that she **"didn't want to sweep it under the rug."**



'What Have I Done To Deserve This' – Pet Shop Boys & Dusty Springfield

The Pet Shop Boys are an English synth-pop duo who dominated the 80s charts. In 1994, Neil Tennant (one-half of the duo) came out as gay. This collaboration with Dusty Springfield came after a relentless search for a female singer to join them on the track. Despite pushback from their record label, they knew she was the one meant to sing with them. Springfield came out as bisexual in 1970, but her brave act, unfortunately, wasn't well received due to the stigma surrounding anything other than a heterosexual relationship. This collaboration allowed Dusty Springfield to return to the music scene and perform boldly with her iconic vocals.



'Rainbow Dragon' – Keiynan Lonsdale

Keiynan Lonsdale is an Australian actor, dancer and musician. After gaining notoriety from acting in projects such as 'Love, Simon' and 'The Flash', Lonsdale returned to his musical roots. In 2020 amidst the rollout of his album 'Rainbow Boy', he released the **fun, bold** and **defiant** single 'Rainbow Dragon'. He encourages listeners to feel free to be whomever they want to be, as he openly explores his gender expression and sexuality.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Children's Mental Health Week was acknowledged this year between 6 – 12 February. Endorsed by mental health charity Place2Be, the theme this year was 'Let's Connect'.



Ahead of the week, Place2Be released data supporting the importance of this year's focus. In an exclusive announcement with BBC Newsround, it was revealed that 78% of young people seen by a Place2Be counsellor within the last year have experienced anxiety in social situations, and that 65% of children and young people seen by Place2Be counsellors in the last year had difficulties interacting with their classmates. Of course, children, particularly those in KS2–3, have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, as lockdown periods, lost face-to-face learning and 'bubble' systems have vastly impacted their social skills. Now that we are in a fortunate position to be safely moving back to face-to-face contact, it is important to acknowledge why children are feeling anxious about connecting with others, and to help children to develop their social skills.



Place2Be's work included outreach from the Princess of Wales, celebrity endorsement on social media from the likes of Harry Kane and Paloma Faith, and a joint blog with NAHT (the school leaders' union) exploring the role that schools play in helping children's mental health, calling for a properly funded network of support services.



Within our Highsted community, we acknowledged the week with a series of assemblies, and wellbeing activities which took place daily in the library to encourage connections through board games and other social activities. This culminated in another fantastic and well-attended open mic event, organised by the leadership council, with Hannah T in Year 12 accompanying singers on piano. As an ongoing commitment to building stronger connections, the school continues to use the Girls on Board scheme to strengthen friendships and to build new ones by educating students about why friendships are important to everyone.





HAPPY
EASTER!