

Support of LGBTQ+ Students at LPGS

Individual / Small Group Support

LPGS Stonewall Champion Laura Warner is available for individual support of transgender students, on a weekly or ad hoc basis. She can be contacted via the Student Support page on Firefly, on email (LW@lpgs.bromely.sch.uk), or in person in M010. She is available to meet with students any day except Wednesday. She uses the resources provided by the following organisations:

Mermaids: <https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/>

NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/trans-teenager/>

Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-gender-identity-issues/>

Students may also be interested in Gendered Intelligence: <http://genderedintelligence.co.uk/>

In response to specific issues experienced by our trans students and those questioning their identity, Laura Warner established a Transgender/Gender Variant Support and Discussion Group in September 2020. This group is held in Student Support on Tuesday lunchtimes.

Trans Awareness Week

One of our Year 11 trans students prepared 3 slides for the screens around school to be shown from the beginning of Trans Awareness Week. Our Equality and Inclusion Lead Stella Odusola prepared a PowerPoint to be shared in forms during registration that week.

Transgender day of remembrance was marked in school by the use of the following website in the weekly plan for Diversity Focus on Wednesday 18th November:

https://www.amnesty.org.uk/blogs/lgbti-network/transgender-day-remembrance?utm_source=google&utm_medium=grant&utm_campaign=AWA_LGBT_trans-rights&utm_content=transgender%20day%20of%20remembrance

This session is available via the Firefly Year 10 page: <https://lpgs.fireflycloud.net/y10-1>

LPGS Pride Society & Stonewall Champion

LPGS was awarded Stonewall Champion status when Student Support Worker Laura Warner completed training with the equality charity Stonewall in September 2019.

LPGS Pride Society (PS) was the initiative of a group of Year 9 students and was established in June 2019. It is co-ordinated by Laura Warner and led by the founding members (now in Y11) and currently has a membership of over 30 students from Year 8 - 13. Before COVID-19 restrictions PS met on Friday as well as most Monday lunchtimes. During lockdown PS continued to meet weekly on Fridays using MS Teams.

PS welcomes anyone who identifies as LGBTQ+ and all allies and advocates. Everyone is welcome provided they are respectful and considerate of all identities and orientations, opinions and experiences. PS aims to create a safe space for members to learn about themselves, meet new friends and mentor others. Members work to become informed on LGBTQ+ issues and plan events to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ issues and people and to celebrate them. PS continues to fortify within the school a culture of acceptance without exception of LGBTQ+ people which is integral to a sense of equality and inclusion for all members of the wider LPGS community, and in line with both the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the Equality Act 2010.

PS ran a fundraising campaign in January (Come Out Active Month) to raise awareness for LGBTQ+ equality in sport and sold Rainbow Laces outside school, donating the proceeds to Stonewall.

PS members are currently planning a notice board which will be situated in a prominent position in the ground floor corridor. For this, gay and trans students have prepared coming out stories, 'I weigh' posters and articles about use of pronouns, where to seek help and LGBTQ+ company and events, and more.

Pastoral and Wellbeing Care at LPGS

During lockdown LPGS used the opportunity that the Daily Briefings provided to ensure that our virtual daily assemblies continued to be inclusive. PS members shared their experiences of lockdown and how they were celebrating Pride Month virtually. Creative members photographed their LGBTQ+ themed artwork and crafts. Staff from almost every department provided a variety of slides each day during Pride Month. These informative slides celebrated the lives of LGBTQ+ contributors to sport, the arts, science, business, humanities, exploration, technology and more.

SRE and PHSCE at LPGS

In late 2020 the Department for Education introduced compulsory relationships and sex education for secondary schools which includes LGBT content. The aim of this education is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds (not just intimate relationships). It is required to meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity, and must include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law. LPGS was an early adopter and began including information on LGBT issues and people in PHSCE sessions in 2019.

A PSHCE session on Discrimination: sexism, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia & Diversity in relationships is scheduled for delivery to Year 10 in January. The activities are currently being devised by Year 10 Heads in collaboration with Laura Warner and Year 11 trans students from the support group. Year 10 Heads would be extremely happy if other students wanted to be involved in the planning. Please contact Louisa Brown on lbr@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk

In response to staff feedback about issues relating to gender and sexuality, LPGS staff and Year 11 to 13 students recently attended a highly informative and positive session delivered by Hannah Jessop, Business Psychologist, Co-founder and Director LGBTed and Director Engaging for Success, entitled Diversity and Inclusion.

CPD at LPGS

Laura Warner delivered a CPD (Continuing Professional Development) session for staff in February 2020 which gave training in tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. Such training enhances our support structures for LGBT young people at LPGS and links in with the school's existing policy on anti-bullying, equality and welfare.

November 2020