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Annan Academy School Library Magazine
Dear All

Welcome to the third issue of the Excalibur. This is Annan Academy’s School Library magazine incorporating all aspects of pupil life in school. Written by the pupils for the pupils, with input from staff. This issue is an LGBTQ+ special in support of Pride recognizing everyone as individuals and celebrating that individuality. Before reading the articles submitted by the pupils I didn’t realize I had a flag or a classification, I am a “Straight Ally” meaning I am a heterosexual person who supports the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. While I think it’s great these flags and terms exist to help people I also believe whole heartedly that we come under one big classification...people. We are all people, wonderfully, gloriously individual people. This issue will feature articles chosen and written by our pupil reporters plus interviews. We get to know Miss McDaid a bit better in ‘Teacher Exposed’ and discover what wonderful creatures our staff have for pets and a little about them in Teacher’s Pet. Mrs Nixon

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The Top Ten Books Borrowed From your School Library
Jan 2018 to May 2018

1) The Getaway by Jeff Kinney
2) Naruto VOL 1 by Masashi Kisimoto
3) A Shiver of Snow and Sky by L. Leuddecke
4) Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon
5) Naruto VOL 2 by Masashi Kisimoto
6) All About Mia by Lisa Williamson
7) Gregor The Overlander by Suzanne Collins
8) Tom Gates: A Tiny Bit Lucky by Liz Pichon
9) Bad Dad by David Walliams
10) Tom Gates: Yes, No Maybe... by Liz Pichon
It is crucial that we learn to accept everyone as the same. In the end, we are all human beings, so being LGBTQ+ should not matter. Unfortunately, in many ways it is one of the things that most defines us as people. It may be difficult to accept yourself, especially if you are not aware that being queer is okay. I myself found it really hard to accept my feelings for another female classmate as I was brought up without knowing anything about the LGBTQ+ community. Once I found out that she was also pansexual, I knew that there would always be others too.

Having been raised with either no knowledge or a negative view of other LGBTQ+ people made my life as a young pansexual very difficult. Once I began to develop feelings for others of the same gender, I started to look to people that I knew for help with figuring myself out, only to be met with negative and biased views of the community. By the time I reached the Academy, I had backed myself into a corner of thinking that I was “broken” or “unnatural” or a “freak”. It was not until I took to the internet for advice or even just for understanding that I discovered an entire community filled with people who were having the same problems. I joined several LGBTQ+ support groups online and we all helped each other through whatever situations we were in. The people in the support groups that I am in are very kind and considerate people, and although talking like this online is risky, all of the groups that I am a part of are certified and official.

Towards the end of S1, I had decided that I would finally face my feelings and come out to one person; my best friend. She took it very well, saying that she would always be my friend and that it didn’t matter that I was pansexual. This gave me a confidence boost, and a few weeks later I told another four or five of my friends. Now, at the beginning of S3, I have officially come out as pansexual to around fifteen people, including my brother.

Coming out can be one of the hardest things imaginable to us LGBTQ+ teenagers, but it is entirely up to you whether you do it or not. My advice from someone who is only out to my closest friends is to make sure that you only come out to people who you are certain you can trust. There are plenty of extravagant ways to come out, but although these ways make it fun, they could take more time, and by overthinking it for a long period of time you could manage to persuade yourself not to do it. It is probably easier to just sit the person you are going to tell down and make it quick and painless, like ripping off a plaster.
If you know that your family will not be accepting, you should probably wait until either they change their mind or you are independent enough to support yourself without them. Parents should always support their children no matter what, but unfortunately that is not always the case. There will always be someone who will support you, even if your parents do not.

If someone trusts you enough to come out to you, you should support them no matter what. It does not matter if you do not agree with that lifestyle for any reason, religious or otherwise, because it is their own decision and their own life and you have no say in how they live it. If you find yourself trying to justify disliking or harassing someone for their sexuality or gender identity, you need to take several steps back and reevaluate your life choices. In fact, it may be better if you cut yourself off from that person completely if you are unable to come to terms with the fact that not everyone is the same. If you are a decent human being on the other hand, and support your friend, you should first learn what they define themselves and what that label means in order to make them as comfortable as possible in their newly-outed situation.

Misgendering someone a few times while you are still learning is okay as long as it is a genuine mistake, and most people on the “gender” side of the LGBTQ+ community will acknowledge the fact that learning to call someone by their preferred names and/or pronouns can take time. However if it happens frequently and without consideration for the person, it can be very hurtful to them, so please try to remember.

In an ideal world, your sexuality or gender should not matter to anyone other than those you are actually in a relationship with. Unfortunately (and unsurprisingly), that is not entirely true. You will come across some people who are homophobic, transphobic, biphobic and the likes, and there is no avoiding that. The best thing to do is to try and to avoid or cut them off if possible. But you should always remember that, no matter your gender, sexuality, race, background or anything else, there will be people who are in the same boat as you, and people who will support and love you for who you really are.
Both sexuality and gender are complicated things, especially when you’re a teenager and got a social life to be keeping up, school work to be doing and quite possibly exams to study for. The stress of feeling different is not something to be taken lightly and even if you are not the person in question, there are ways you can help those who are. LGBTQ+ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer plus. The plus incorporates every single other sexuality and gender from pansexual to asexual, gender fluid to agender.

Most people know what gay and lesbian mean, gay being males attracted to males and lesbian being females attracted to females, and transgender being someone who has changed gender in order to feel right in their own body. But other terms like the ones mentioned in the previous paragraph are so much less well known, and this is a huge problem for those who identify with them. Here are just a few of the many names for the array of different sexualities and genders.

▶ Homosexuality: Attraction to the same gender
▶ Bisexuality: Attraction to two genders. This is most commonly male and female, but could be a combination of any of the genders
▶ Queer: An umbrella term for anyone who is part of the LGBTQ+ community
▶ Pansexuality: Attraction to all genders/attraction regardless of gender
▶ Asexuality: Someone who is not interested in having a relationship, either sexual, romantic or both
▶ Demisexuality: Attraction between asexuality and sexuality. A demisexual person can only feel attraction to someone they have a very deep connection with, but gender usually plays no role in the selection.
▶ Androsexuality: Attraction to males and/or masculinity
▶ Gynesexuality: Attraction to females and/or femininity
▶ Polysexuality: Attraction to more than one, but not all, genders
▶ Skoliosexuality: Attraction to non-binary people
▶ Sapiosexuality: Attraction to intelligence, sexual or otherwise
▶ Antisexuality: A person who is opposed to sexual activity
▶ Greyromantic: Romantic attraction which only occurs very rarely and under specific circumstances
Heterosexuality: Attraction to only the opposite gender

Akoisexual: Experiencing romantic attraction but not wanting the person to return that attraction

Transgender: Someone who does not identify as their assigned birth gender. Whether they have undergone surgery to change their gender or not does not matter

Gender fluid: The gender identity of someone who can change or ‘flow’ between genders. Those genders can be any, the most common being male, female, neither and both.

Agender: A gender identity referring to someone who does not feel that they have any particular gender. A common mistake is assuming an agender person must also be asexual. They are two very different things so one could identify with both, one or neither

Androgynous: A gender expression that has elements of both masculinity and femininity

Genderqueer: Someone who does not conform to the genders most people would recognise. When asked what gender they are, they often refuse to answer

Gender Neutral: A gender expression somewhere between male and female

Intersex: A birth gender which has a combination of male and female biological characteristics, such as chromosomes and genitalia

Neutrois: A non-binary gender identity similar to genderqueer or gender neutral

Straight Ally: A heterosexual person who is supportive of the entire LGBTQ+ community
Almost every sexuality and gender has its own individual flag of pride. I did not know this until I attended a Pride event. Pride events happen in both Carlisle and Dumfries. This page will show you the flags of the sexualities and gender identities covered in the previous article. Again you do not have to identify with them but it’s good to know they exist.

Gay Pride (LGBTQ+ Pride)

Lesbian Pride

Bisexual Pride

Queer Pride

Pansexual Pride

Asexual Pride

Demisexual Pride

Androsexual Pride

Gynesexual Pride

Polysexual Pride

Skoliosexual Pride
End of 2017 Annan Academy played host to a visit from top YA author Lisa Williamson. Lisa has had a huge success with her first novel The Art of Being Normal which tells the story of David Piper a kid whose parents think he is gay but really he just wants to be a girl. Leo has started at Eden Park High School and just does not want to be noticed. He has a secret of his own to keep. This book offers a great insight to life as a transgender teen in high school and navigating adolescence. As an author and an actress Lisa also spent some time working at the Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS). Their stories and experiences inspired her to write The Art of Being Normal. Fifty of Annan Academy pupils plus staff members met Lisa and heard her presentation on her inspirations as an author when asked “Are there any questions?” every single hand went up at the end, such was the effect of Lisa’s talk.
Miss McDaid—English

Q. Why did you become a teacher?
A: To ensure I did something meaningful every day

Q. What is your pet hate?
A: No Manners. Doesn’t take a minute to say Please or Thank you.

Q. If you could teach any other subject what would it be and why?
A. Philosophy

Q. What other plans did you have for your career apart from becoming an English Teacher?
A. Journalism

Q. If you could be any celebrity, who would it be?
A. Bob Dylan because he is a lyrical genius and can play a mean guitar

Q. What was your favourite TV show when you were our age?
A. Saved by the Bell
Library Word Search

HARRYPOTTER HUNGERGAMES LORDOFTHERINGS
THEARTOFBEINGNORMAL GOOSEBUMPS MAZERUNNER
Games For All Club

Every Friday lunchtime  in the Learning Plaza
Board Games, Card Games and RPG including…
Risk, Monopoly, Exploding Kittens, Yu Gi Oh,
Pokemon, Magic the Gathering,
Dungeons and Dragons and so much more.
Pop along and see.

Prize Draw takes place at the end of every term, gotta be in it to win it.
Hi thanks for stopping to read this! 😊

I am going to be talking about my favourite graphic novel series SCOTT PILGRAM. This is a great series!!! I totally recommend it to all ages. It has a great sense of comedy and romance. It’s a 6 book series. So you’re probably asking yourself what is Scott Pilgrim about...

The books are about a boy named Scott who meets a girl named Ramona Flowers and they start to date and he finds out about her 6 evil ex’s so he battles them with power and comedy. I love the style of the books the text has a very retro twist which I love a lot
Awoken by the sunlight shimmering through the Viennese blinds in Aunt Gabbi’s living room, I shifted my body on the burgundy worn-out couch, accidentally waking Sammi and Gabbi. Their eyes opening slowly, they each gave me a look that said; ‘What did you do that for?’ Scared, I scooted off the 4-Seater and stumbled into the kitchen.

When I finally found the tea and coffee, I made us all cups of tea and coffee. I placed them on a tray and carried them through. I knew to do this because one of the first things anyone on the Martin side of the family does, is drink tea and coffee, no matter the weather – quite like the British.

After we had all woken up properly, I summoned up the courage to ask a vital question. ‘Gabbi? When is the relative coming?’

‘Later on.’ was the reply. ‘Well, I think so anyway. I’m not sure now.’ She was getting frustrated with herself – one of the “100 common traits of Martin Men and Women” “Arrgh! Cèdre! Why did you have to ask me so early? Right, let me see….’ With that, she took out her brand new phone and checked the exact time our relative would be arriving.

‘WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME WHAT’S GOING ON!! ?’ Gabbi’s eyes looked up from her phone so fast that I am perfectly sure it gave her a headache.

‘Erm… Cèdre’ she managed to say, Sammi’s last words sitting in the dense fog ‘I think it is time we – I mean you – I mean we tell Sammi here what is actually happening. Don’t you?’

‘Thank god! I thought I would have to strangle one of you to learn what’s going on! Wha- What?’ At this point, I was shaking my head, crying into my hands. ‘Sammi,’ I started ‘We aren’t just leaving John and Sherry. We aren’t just staying with a relative.’

‘Then what are we doing? C’mon, tell me… Cèdre Thomaz Paolo Martin! I have a rig-’
'Right to know' I finished for her, ‘I know.’ With one last look at her seething face, I decided to tell my sister everything. Every. Last. Detail.

‘It all started when I got my notification email for the family tree.’ I began my explanation, ‘when I realised that that was our ticket out of here”. “After you were in compliance with my plan, I set it in motion. Obviously, the first thing I did was ask Gabbi if we could stay for the night a couple of days in the next week and after she said yes and asked why, I asked her for help finding a suitable family member for us, preferably with at least one child, or grandchild, our age. Soon, it was narrowed down to seven candidates willing to take us in. When I checked it out, I decided to rule out any we hadn’t met which brought it down to five. Then, I had to remove any within the same place at John and Sherry’s. Now, at two, I had to speak to each one, only, problem was, one lives in Scotland, the other, Iceland. So, I video called each candidate. First came the Icelandic one. He moved over there with his family the year Mama and Papa died. I ruled him out because of him being 78 this year, and the fact he had arranged for us to marry his Icelandic family members” I looked at Sammi to see a shocked slash angered look on her face.

“After declining Iceland, I video called the final one with my fingers crossed. It was Mama’s sister Jean.”

“I was told the story of how Mama and Papa. Mama had travelled from her humble home in the town of Annan in South West Scotland to Italy to the Florence School of Fine Arts on a scholarship. Papa was in Florence on holiday and they brushed shoulders walking past each other in a restaurant. From that moment onwards, they knew they were perfect for each other.”

To be continued
**Introducing Sport: Tennis**

Tennis is a sport that is played with a tennis racket and ball on a court with a net halfway through the court, which you have to hit the ball over using the racket. The aim is to win the point, the game, the set and finally, the match.

The sport has some amazing players like Serena and Venus Williams (USA) and Andy and Jamie Murray (UK).

The biggest tournaments in Tennis are;


Annan has its own Tennis Club called the **Annan Seaforth Tennis Club**. The courts are beside Hecklegirth Primary and are all weather so you can use them no matter the weather.

If you’re not a club member and want to book a court to play you can go onto **ClubSpark.ita.org.uk/AnnanSeaforthTennisClub** to book a court or buy a membership so you can play anytime. There is free play on Monday 11am – 12pm, Wednesdays 1pm-3pm, Friday 3pm – 5pm and Saturdays 9am-11am. And for anyone who wants to learn how to play or get better at tennis you can go to tennis sessions on Sunday at 11.30am.
The Games Workshop School Alliance is a club for under 18's that helps young people to collect, build, paint and play games with miniature models from the worlds of Warhammer.

A wonderfully creative and inclusive enrichment activity, a Games Workshop club is not only easy to run, it is officially licenced by the Duke of Edinburgh's award to deliver a programme of learning for Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

No previous knowledge of our hobby is needed and Mrs Nixon can help you when you first join as can our players who have first-hand knowledge of the hobby.

**Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime in the School Library**
The Johnston household would be very dull and boring without these furry rascals. No matter what happens the fur babies always bring joy and smiles to the Johnston family. We have Felix (Black and White), Toby (Tabby) and Ginger (Ginger and White). Toby recently celebrated his first birthday and Felix will be celebrating his second soon. Ginger still has some time to wait before turning one but likes to boss the other two around and showcase his craziness. All three love some snuggles and getting their picture taken. Life really wouldn’t be the same without them. **Mr Johnstone**

In Annan Academy we have the ideal pet in Music, Fluffy, our Goldfish, was rescued from a water cooler in the S6 Common Room. She has now been with us in the Music Dept. for the past 15 years. She has changed colour over the years and is now white rather than gold but she is always in good spirits and has a massive appetite for her favourite Aquarian Goldfish flakes. **Mr Brand**
This is Bruce! He’s a Jack Russell crossed with a Poodle, a scruffy little mutt basically. He likes long walks on the beach and evenings in by the fire. He’s very lovable and likes to jump up on you at a moment’s notice. Miss Ash

Flyer, 22 years young, first Home bred pony, mum was my pony club pony and dad was my own stallion. Best pony ever great attitude and always great company. Miss Walker-Jones
Mrs Ainslie loves clean Izzy but dirty Izzy messes with her OCD!!!
Izzy is a 4 year old Coton du Tuleur and she is very strong. She is also very hairy and needs a lot of grooming.
She loves meeting new people but you mustn’t get too close as she loves to lick people’s faces and she has a very long tongue!

Mrs Ainslie

Here is my teachers pet! Her name is Tilly and she is 11 years old. Myself and my friend Aileen share her and she loves having two Mums! She loves chasing cats (but can never catch one!) and trying to catch water from the hose! She is a great guard dog, barking at the door and anyone with a ladder! She loves rolling about down the river and chasing balls, which she never brings back!

Miss Russell
These photos were taken by Kirsty Barlow for her Higher Photography project on dogs. Joy enjoyed being a model as you can see. Mrs Collins
Celebrating all Graphic Art

Featured Artist: Lauryn Smart
BOTHER ME ONE MORE TIME WHILE I'M READING.
I DARE YOU.

Source of meme: https://www.bookbub.com/blog/2016/04/15/things-all-bookworms-do Last Accessed: 05/06/2018
I WEAR A BOOK NOW.

BOOKS ARE COOL.
What would you do if you had discovered you had died? Would you freak out? Would you be happy? Would you fall into denial?

I did none of that. I just stared blankly at the three arches standing in front of me. One was blue, one was purple, and one was red. I thought I knew what I was doing as I stepped through the blue arch, but I didn’t.

I had thought it would be obvious. That blue stood for Heaven and red for Hell. I hadn’t realized how stereotypical I was.

Of course, I didn’t realize anything at that point. My memories were all gone. My family, my name, even my gender.

As I walked through the blue arch, a billion thoughts ran through my head.

‘Why am I even here?’ was the main one, though. It echoed through my mind, blocking out most of the other thoughts.

The blue arch had swallowed me whole, leaving me in a dark room. I turned around, before slapping my face against the wall. Where was the door?

I could have said it was magic, but I knew it wasn’t Harry Potter.

*Harry Potter. That name was familiar.*

As if by magic, which it most likely wasn’t, the room disappeared, revealed Hogwarts.

*That place seems familiar too. Maybe it’s connected to Harry Potter?*

*Or could it be a school?*

*School. Wait, I remember that. I was there... and then I wasn’t?*

A flashback occurred to me; acids went missing in Science; the school bully added something to his pie in Heath and Food Technology...

*I ate the pie. I’m dead.*

Suddenly, I woke up. And I woke up in the school library, sitting on a chair, a Harry Potter poster in front of me. In my hand, was a book about a school bully who put poison in a pie.

Mrs Nixon walked towards me. “Oh, have you just woken up?” she smiled, “I’m not surprised. This library’s huge. Too much imagination.”

*But there can never be too much imagination. It just depends how much you can take in.*
Facts about Annan

“With Riding of the Marches on the horizon I thought I would include an excellent piece of work that had been submitted during an English Library period by a pupil completing the facts vs opinion exercise. The response to the exercise had been overwhelming with so many great submissions. The detail in this particular piece caught my eye and I, with permission from the author, decided to use it for an article in the magazine. Enjoy.” Mrs Nixon

So as many of you know we live in a small town called Annan. But what most of you don’t know is that Annan is the third largest town in Dumfries and Galloway with an estimated population of 10000 people.

During WW1 Annan didn’t know what it was best at producing so it tried trading. Annan was connected to Glasgow, Southwestern, the Caledonian and The Solway Junction railways so Annan used these opportunities to sell thing like cattle, sheep, grain, cotton goods, ropes, ships, salmon and curled hams.
Running through Annan there is a walk called the Annandale Way. It is a 53 mile walk that follows the River Annan.

In Annan there are a great number of schools but one school is Annan Academy. Annan Academy was first founded in 1802.

The Everholm

The Everholm has many things to see and do. For example the Quarter Cake Stone is the name of a slice of ground in the Everholm Park. In 1824 the bridge downstream of the River Annan was built from stone quarried from the banks of the river. The quarter cake was made from desert sands that have been cemented together to become fine red stone that is many of the buildings today in Annan.
**Bruce’s Motte and Baileys Castle**

The Norman family of Brus were granted land in Annandale by King David I. They made a castle in 1124. It was a wooden earthwork structure placed to watch over the River Annan and the Solway Crossing. All structural evidence of the castle has been removed but the landscape has been turned into a private garden and it is well preserved. In 1140 a monk stayed at the castle overnight. Whilst staying he asked that a thief that was being held by Robert the Bruce should be pardoned in his name. This wasn’t an unusual request so his request was granted. When Malachi left the next day he saw to his horror that the thief had been hung. After this Malachi cursed the Bruce’s. Annan was severely flooded shortly after this the family abandoned it for a castle in Loch Maben. The family must of took the curse seriously because in 1292 a member of the Bruce family stood vigil as St Malachi’s tomb with a gifting parcel of land to the monks who tended it. Perhaps it was done to lift the Saint’s curse who knows.

**The Robert the Bruce trail**

The trail features places in Dumfries and Galloway that played a significant part in the Bruce story. The trail covers an extensive area but you can visit these sites individually or follow car routes that have been divided into three separate trails in Dumfries there is a town foot trail.

**Annan Riding of the Marches**

In Annan there is an annual event which is Annan Riding of the Marches. In the Riding of the Marches there are different floats and they go around Annan. There is also a Queen of the Border which is chosen out of Annan Academy’s S2’s.
Robert Burns in Annan

Robert Burns worked as an excise man in Annan. Burns wrote THE Delis Awa Wi’ Th’ excise man whilst staying at Provost Williamson’s house in 1792. A restraint is now where Provost Williamson’s house was.

Annan Town Hall

Annan’s Town Hall was built in 1878 by John Graham who was a local stonemason. It was built to replace an earlier tower house that was built in 1723. The clock on the Town Hall was added in 1900 which was paid for by Thomas Chalmers.

River Annan

Down the River Annan is the railway bridge that was built in 1847 and beyond that at the town quay on the mill there is the sight of Nicolson’s ship yard, which produced clippers and other vessels from 1820 till 1865.

(https://katiejanderson.wordpress.com/tag/old-annan/)
Gravity Defying Water

**Equipment:**
- a glass
- a piece of card, preferably laminated

**Method:**
- Best done over the sink!!
- Fill the glass with water, put the card over the rim.
- Hold the card in place as you turn the glass upside down.
- When the glass is upside down, let go of the card.
A BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS ISSUE GOES OUT TO ....

MISS MCDAID

TEACHERS PETS CONTRIBUTORS: MR BRAND, MISS COLLINS, MRS AINSLIE, MISS RUSSELL, MISS WALKER-JONES, MR JOHNSTONE, MISS ASH

MISS ASH

MR WARDROP

(CREATOR OF OUR PEN SWORD)

OUR FANTASTIC REPORTERS