LGBTQ+ History Month

February 2021

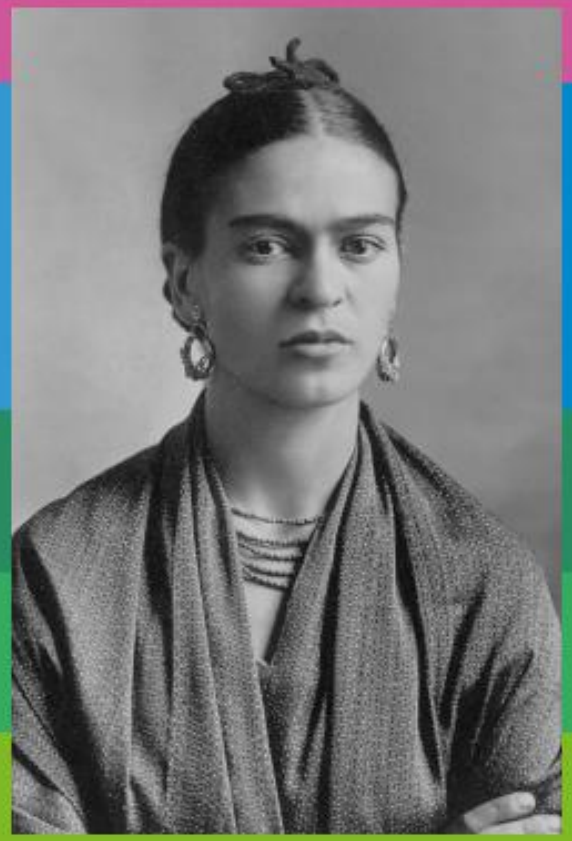
This week in form time we are going to be learning about the contributions of key LGBTQ+ figures to the subjects you study in school.

Today, we will be learning about people from Art, Maths, Computing and PE

ART

Frida Kahlo

(1907-1954)



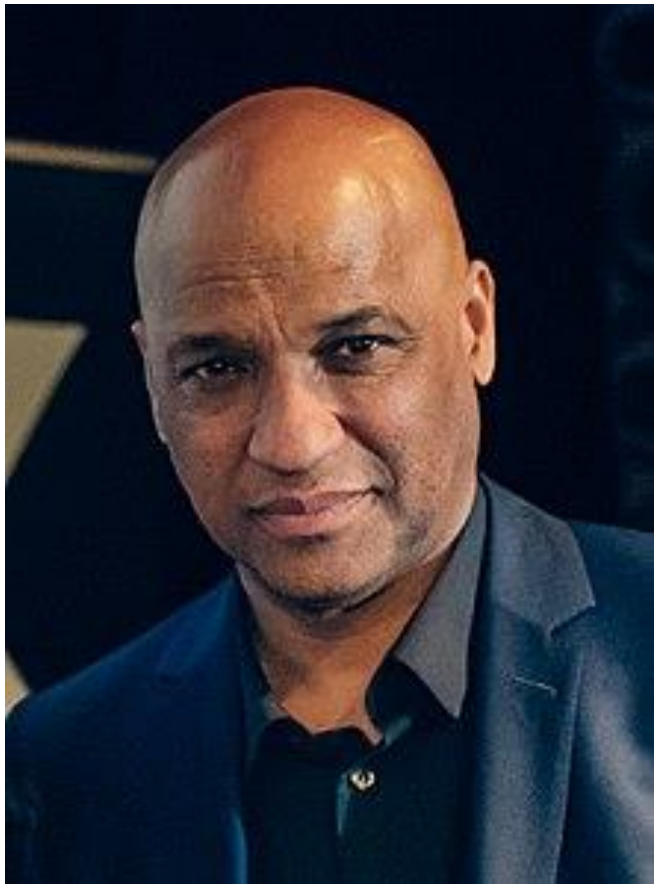
Mexican painter

Acclaimed after her death for powerful art that expresses indigenous Mexican tradition and female experience

Disabled by bus accident as a teenager

Bisexual woman

Ms Ivanova nominated Mark Sealy



I would like to nominate Mark Sealy (he/him).

Sealy, amongst many things is a cultural historian and a curator at Autograph - a visual arts centre in Shoreditch where he is Director. The gallery is part of a photography organisation which champions work investigating issues around cultural identity, race, representation and human rights. He completed a PhD at Durham University, where his research focused on photography and cultural violence. He has curated several major exhibitions, and his publications include *Different* (Phaidon 2001) with Professor Stuart Hall and most recently *Decolonising the Camera: Photography in Racial Times* (Lawrence & Wishart 2019).

I admire him for his work and particularly his book 'Decolonising the Camera.' I have heard a number of lectures of his on subjects such as identity, gender, race, migration and human rights.

MATHS

John Maynard Keynes

(1883-1946)

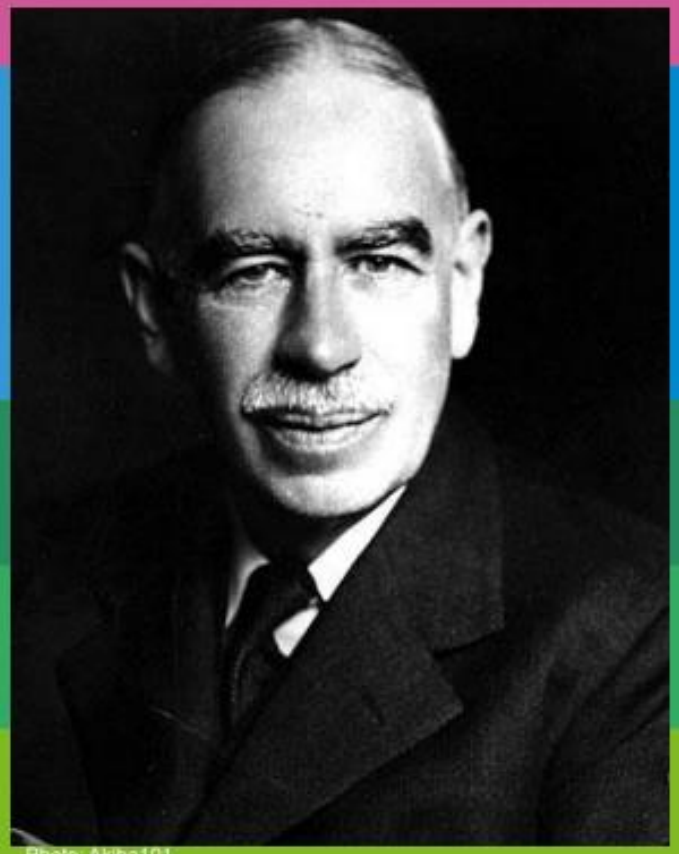


Photo: Akiba101

British economist

Regarded as founder of modern macroeconomics

Ideas formed foundation of Western twentieth-century economic policy

Bisexual man

Ms Freeman and Mr Mohamed both nominated Alan Turing for both Maths and Computing!

Alan Turing (he/him) Broke the Enigma code which helped end World War 2. He was the father of the modern computer and artificial intelligence. Most recently, he became the face of the new £50 note.

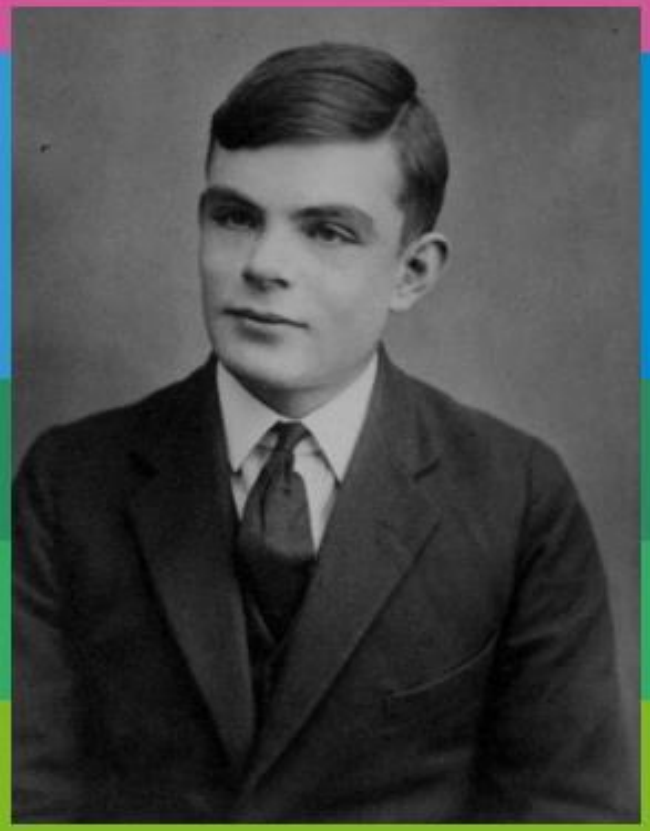
Alan Turing was so intelligent, what he did for Computing and academia in a year, took some people a lifetime. Yet, the reason I admire him was his relentless drive and total obsession to solve a problem, even when everyone told him it could not be done.

For a wonderful introduction to this exceptional man watch the film 'Imitation Game', starring Benedict Cumberbatch, (Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2jRs4EAvWM). Furthermore, t here is a display in Lower School, outside IL1/2, going deeper into his work.

ICT

Alan Turing

(1912-1954)



Pioneering computer scientist

First person to propose idea of a computer program

Led team that created machine to crack German Enigma code, shortening the second world war

Gay man

From the world of Computing Mr Udagawa has nominated Tim Cook

Tim Cook (he/him) is a gay man and the founder of Apple.

This essay written by him reflects his understated but highly influential attitude to coming out.

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-10-30/tim-cook-speaks-up

He says-
“Being gay has given me a deeper understanding of what it means to be in the minority and provided a window into the challenges that people in other minority groups deal with every day. It’s made me more empathetic, which has led to a richer life. It’s been tough and uncomfortable at times, but it has given me the confidence to be myself, to follow my own path, and to rise above adversity and bigotry. It’s also given me the skin of a rhinoceros, which comes in handy when you’re the CEO of Apple.”

PE

Nicola Adams
(1982-)

Photo: Richard Gillin

British boxer

First woman to win Olympic boxing title

Champion flyweight boxer at Olympics, World Championships, Commonwealth Games and European Games

Bisexual woman

Mr Johnson has nominated Billie Jean King

Billie Jean King (she/her) is one of the most famous names in professional tennis. Billie Jean King is a Lesbian woman.

Over the course of her career, she earned 39 Gram Slam titles from 1966 to 1975. She also famously beat Bobby Riggs in the "Battle of the Sexes" match.

In 1981 the media, without King's prior consent, published stories about her being gay and her publicists told her to deny the claim due to the prejudice of the time.

"I said: 'I'm going to do it. I don't care. This is important to me to tell the truth.'" King told NBC News 44 years later. "The one thing my mother always said, 'To thine own self be true.'"