



**Etone College**  
'PROGRESS FOR ALL'

# LGBTQ+

# HISTORY MONTH

**Notable Figures**



# Alan Turing

Alan Turing was not a well known figure during his lifetime, but today he is famous and celebrated for the crucial part he played in the victory over Nazi Germany in WW2.

Turing was a mathematician who cracked something called the Enigma code, which is thought to have shortened the war by several years.

He was also a victim of mid-20th Century attitudes to homosexuality and in 1952 was arrested because being homosexual was illegal in Britain at this time.

In 2013 he was pardoned for this 'crime', and in 2017 the government agreed to officially pardon men accused of 'crimes' like this, meaning they will no longer have a criminal record.

This pardoning has come to be known as the Alan Turing law. In 2019 Turing was named the most "iconic" figure of the 20th Century and his face now appears on the £50 note.





# Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde is one of the famous playwrights of all time, in fact, you might even have studied 'The Importance of Being Earnest' - one of his most famous plays - at school.

He was married to a woman and had two sons, but was later accused of being homosexual. After details of his private life were revealed during a court case had started, he was arrested and tried for gross indecency.

He was sentenced to two years of hard labour, and his wife took their children to Switzerland. His time in prison severely affected his health and once he was released he spent the rest of his life in Europe.





# Edith Windsor

**Edith Windsor or Edie - was a leading woman in the fight for LGBTQ rights in America.**

**Her case against the American justice system was the first time same-sex marriage was recognised as legal in America. Edie married her wife Thea Syper in Canada in 2007, Thea died in 2009.**

**When Thea died, the American government said that Edith had to pay \$363,053 in tax.**

**This was because only marriage between a man and woman had something called unlimited spousal exemption from federal estate taxes.**

**Edie decided to sue and said that the law was discriminating against same-sex couples. She did and was successful. Her fight led to an Act called the Defence of Marriage Act being overturned.**





# Lafy Phyll

**Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, better known as Lady Phyll, is a British LGBT rights activist and anti-racism campaigner.**

**She is the co-founder of UK Black Pride, which began in 2005 as a day trip to Southend-on-Sea in England. It now attracts nearly 8,000 people every year.**

**Lady Phyll created the event to promote unity and co-operation among all LGBT people of African, Asian, Caribbean, Middle Eastern and Latin American descent in the UK, as well as their friends and families.**

**She is also the Executive Director of the charity Kaleidoscope Trust, which campaigns for the human rights of LGBT people in countries around the world where they are discriminated against.**





# Justin Fashanu

Justin Fashanu was Britain's first openly gay footballer, and although 30 years have passed he remains the only male footballer to reveal his sexuality while playing professionally in the top tiers.

Hi career was going well, having risen through Norwich City's youth ranks and in 1981 he became the country's most expensive black player with his £1m move to Nottingham Forest.

He stunned the football world in 1990 by when he told a newspaper he was gay. But after this he didn't receive much support and suffered homophobic bullying, as well as harassment from the tabloid newspapers.

He died in 1998 and was inducted into the National Football Museum's Hall of Fame in Feb 2020, with his niece Amal Fashanu calling him "one of the bravest men I've ever come across".





# Elton John

The singer and pianist has sold over 300 million records, making him one of the best-selling music artists of all time.

In 2019 he received France's highest civilian award, the Legion d'honneur, by President Emmanuel Macron, who called him one of the first gay artists to give a voice to the LGBT community.

Elton came out as bisexual in a 1976 interview with music magazine Rolling Stone, and in 1992 said he was gay.

He and his partner David Furnish were among the first couples in the UK to get a civil partnership in 2005, when the law was changed to allow gay relationships to be legally recognised.

In 2014, after gay marriage became legal in the UK the pair got married and have two sons born via surrogacy.



