This week in Year 9 Citizenship we will explore LGBT rights.

• First of all, look back at the work you did last week. On the next slide there is a Wagoll which will help you to annotate your work with further ideas, and a feedback clip. **The most effective way to use the Wagoll is to read it alongside your own work from last week, comparing and making notes (in a different colour pen if you have one) as you go.**
• Don’t forget, you can also use your Q4K to support you in your work.
• On some of the slides there are yellow boxes with a link to a short video from Dr McKay. The content of the video will be clear from the box. Some of these boxes will be there to give extra support – for example, reading through and explaining the information, just as would happen in the classroom. Other boxes will add ideas on the material, modelling the way you might respond. **Make sure you are listening to the clips, and emailing your Learning Consultant in good time if you have any questions.**

Complete the activities on the following slides. Where possible, use lined paper and a biro to complete your answers.

Please date your work and title with “Citizenship - Week Commencing 6th July 2020 - Year 9” – this will help you to keep your work organised. **Once completed, send your work via your Q3 email to your Citizenship Learning Consultant.**
Have women become more equal in Britain over the last hundred years?

Over the last hundred years in Britain, there have been big steps forward for women’s political, social and economic rights, yet in all three of these areas discrimination still exists in various forms. Political rights relate to how much influence people have over decisions affecting society. Women only got the right to vote on equal terms as men in 1928, the year before the first female Cabinet Minister was appointed. Today, the UK has had two female Prime Ministers (Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May), and yet women are still underrepresented in politics. Only just over a third of MPs elected in 2019 were women, and in 2020 only just over a quarter of the Cabinet are women. The same story of progress and ongoing problems can be seen in social rights, which people benefit from in their everyday lives. The 1960s saw a breakthrough for women’s reproductive rights, with the introduction of the contraceptive pill, and the legalisation of abortion in 1967. However, everyday life is still far from equal. Women typically do 60% more household chores than men, and are often still expected to take responsibility for caring for family members, including children. Finally, there has been significant progress in economic rights also, relating to jobs and money, yet unequal treatment persists. The First and Second World Wars saw women entering the workforce in record numbers. At the end of the Second World War the ‘Marriage Bar’, which stopped married women and mothers doing certain jobs, was lifted. Moreover in 1970 the Equal Pay Act was passed, making it illegal to pay women less than men for doing the same work. Nevertheless in 2020 women still only earn 83p for every £1 men earn. This largely relates back to the caring responsibilities mentioned above. As many women take time out of their careers to focus on these roles, by middle age women have often missed out on promotions at work, leading to lower earning overall.
The rainbow flag, pictured here, is closely associated with LGBT rights, and Pride events.

What do we mean by LGBT, what is Pride, and what do you think rights are like for LGBT people in the UK today?
The situation for gay men in the UK for much of the twentieth century was very bad. Gay relationships were completely illegal, and many gay men faced blackmail or prison. Famously, the Victorian writer Oscar Wilde was sent to prison because of his sexuality (where he wrote *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*), and the persecution faced by the code-breaking war hero Alan Turing was so bad that he ended up taking his own life in 1954. This legal persecution was only faced by men who had relationships with other men (whether they were gay or bisexual). Lesbians were not covered by this law, partly because politicians were worried that mentioning them in the law would encourage women to become lesbians.

In 1967 the Sexual Offences Act improved things by making relationships between men legally possible, although they were still treated unequally. For example the age of consent was set at 21, 5 years higher than for heterosexuals. Also, the law only applied to England and Wales. It would not be until the 1980s that Scotland and Northern Ireland made similar changes, and not until 2001 that the age of consent was equalised.

The 1980s saw continued discrimination against lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Some of this was driven by fear and ignorance about HIV, a virus to which gay and bisexual men were particularly vulnerable, and for a time had no effective treatment. In 1988, Section 28 made it illegal for schools and local councils to ‘promote’ gay relationships, which meant that many schools did not feel able to discuss them at all, for fear of breaking the law. It would not be until 2003 that Section 28 was repealed (scrapped). In 2010, the Equality Act made it illegal to discriminate against people because of their sexuality, whether lesbian, gay or bisexual, yet significant social prejudice still remains.
Public Attitudes and Equal Marriage

After the legalisation of gay relationships in all parts of the United Kingdom in the early 1980s, public attitudes towards gay people began to shift. In 1983, 50% of people agreed that relationships between adults of the same sex were always wrong. This number rose in the mid-1980s to 64%, probably as a result of the fear of HIV, before steadily falling. By 2010, only 20% of people in the UK had that view, while 47% of people thought gay relationships were not wrong at all.

However, throughout this period of change, gay people were not able to get recognition for their relationships through marriage. This meant that their relationships did not have to be taken into account during medical emergencies, and that gay people could did have the same legal and financial rights as other couples.

This changed in the UK in 2004, when same sex couples were able to form a civil partnership, which gave them broadly the same rights as married couples. However, they were still not able to get married, in the strict sense of that term. This changed in England and Wales in 2013 with the Marriage Act. Scotland extended marriage to same sex couples in 2014, with Northern Ireland following in 2020.

The idea of a civil partnership proved popular, giving the legal protection of marriage without carrying that term, which some view as being discriminatory towards women. For that reason, heterosexual (opposite sex) couples have also able to choose a civil partnership in all parts of the UK, since 2020.
Transgender Rights

With public attitudes towards lesbian, gay and bisexual people becoming more favourable over time, and the legal discrimination they faced being largely removed by the early twenty-first century, the focus of a lot of campaigning by LGBT groups shifted towards the prejudice faced by the transgender community.

Surgery for transgender individuals developed a great deal over the twentieth century, partly led in the UK by the plastic surgeon Harold Gillies, whose pioneering work during World War One we studied earlier this year. It was not until 2004, however, that people were able to apply to have their change of gender legally recognised and be issued with a new birth certificate. Furthermore, the transgender community was also protected by the same 2010 Equality Act which sought to prevent discrimination against people on the basis of their sexuality.

However, much prejudice remains. Research published by the LGBT organisation Stonewall in 2017 showed that 40% of transgender people had experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the previous twelve months. This was double the rate of hate crimes or incidents experienced by the LGBT community as a whole.

Recently, there has been more controversy over gender recognition. Plans to make it easier for transgender people to have their change of gender legally recognised were dropped by the UK Government in June 2020. The debate over gender recognition also became a major talking point during this year’s election of a new leader for the Labour Party.
Now think back to the question we asked at the beginning of the lesson:

How would you describe and explain LGBT rights in the UK?

Have your views changed and, if so, how?

If you can, share these slides with someone else in your household, and see what their views are, too.
In a paragraph, answer the following question on this week’s material, to show your understanding. Remember, the slides are there to support you, but there is very little point in just copying information out. Read it, pick out key points and then put these together in your own way.

**How far have LGBT rights in the UK developed over the last hundred years?**

You should include (and explain) the following points:

- Rights for gay people
- Transgender rights
- Public attitudes
- Equal marriage
- Examples where discrimination continues

*Remember to include specific examples (facts and figures) in your work, as well as clear and detailed explanations. Both of these are needed for a strong answer.*