



22 November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Thursday 1 December is International World AIDS Day. This important day seeks to raise awareness for the 38.4 million people currently living with HIV and the 650,000 annual deaths due to AIDS-related illnesses. Since 1988, the World AIDS Day charity has been working to raise awareness for and to destigmatise HIV and people who are affected by it. They create opportunities for people to speak out about their experiences and learn about the help they may require.

Since the first diagnosed case of HIV in 1984, we have come a long way, with antiretroviral drugs becoming more and more accessible for patients, allowing them to live long and healthy lives. Unfortunately, there is still a huge proportion of people who are not informed on how to protect themselves from catching HIV, with over 70% of infections taking place in sub-Saharan Africa alone.

The World AIDS Day charity works tirelessly to destigmatise HIV. Upon its discovery in the 1980s, HIV was mostly prevalent in gay men, leading to it becoming known as a “gay disease”. This is not only hugely damaging for the gay community (with some countries and states going as far as not allowing gay men to donate blood), but also puts heterosexual individuals at greater risk of infection, due to many people being misinformed about their own risks of contracting HIV.

Lastly, we have contacted the World AIDS Day Charity and they have sent us 100 Ribbons to hand out on 1 December. If you feel you could help us raise money in support of International World AIDS Day, please feel free to make a donation using the link below. Any amount would be greatly appreciated!

[Donation Link](#)

Remember to Rock the Ribbon on 1 December!

Yours sincerely

Oscar 11Y and St Katherine's Team Pride

Sources and further reading

<https://www.worldaidsday.org/about/>
<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet#:~:text=Global%20HIV%20statistics&text=1.5%20million%20%5B1.1%20million%E2%80%932.0.accessing%20antiretroviral%20therapy%20in%202021.>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4893541/>
<https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2021/06/14/which-countries-prohibit-gay-or-bisexual-men-from-donating-blood>

Headteacher: Justin Humphreys

St Katherine's School, Ham Green, North Somerset BS20 OHU

T: 01275 373737 E: school@stkaths.org.uk www.stkaths.org.uk

St Katherine's School @stkathsschool