

Joe Blomfield

(He/Him)

What's your role?

Enterprise Events and Operations Adviser

When did you join the university?

September 2020

What's a fun fact about you?

I started drag back in 2017 and have hosted local town prides in Kent for the past 5 years.

If you could have dinner with three LGBTQ+ icons, who would they be any why?

My first would be Lady Gaga because I just think she is an absolute icon. Secondly, I would choose Paul O'Grady as an absolute pioneer and powerhouse of British Drag. And lastly I would choose Alison Hammond, just because I think that trio would be hilarious.

What's your favourite thing about being LGBTQ+?

For me, it's the niche shared experiences or interests so many of us have that span any other difference. For example, the way me and my friends communicate through quoting X Factor Auditions from 2007, or the love of 'Mother' characters in TV shows like The Traitors.

What's your coming out story?

So I came out to my dad as we unloaded the dishwasher one evening, as I wanted to go to a sleepover with two female friends. My logic was if he knows I'm gay, he won't have a problem with it.... It worked!

Why is being out at work important to you?

For me personally, not being out isn't really an option. I am very much the stereotypical loud,



dramatic and camp sort of person. But for me, that is why it's so important to be able to work in an environment where that is okay, and that I won't be judged because of that. I am extremely fortunate to work in a team who not only don't judge me for this, but will embrace it.

What would you say to staff who may be facing difficulties because of being LGBTQ+ or having difficulties "coming out" at work?

My recommendation would definitely be to come and join the Staff Community, even as an ally if you are not out at work. It's such a brilliant group of people, and such a supportive network that if you are facing any problems, I genuinely believe people would do all they could to help.

What would you like to see other colleagues doing to help make the university a better place to be LGBTQ+?

I think the main way is to get involved. Whether it be getting involved with Allyship, or attending LGBTQ+ Staff Community events to learn more, or just listening to LGBTQ+ people when they talk about the issues that are facing the community.