

National Student Pride 2012 – NEXT WEEKEND 24-26<sup>th</sup> February!

Over 1,000 students from all over the UK are descending on Brighton next weekend for the annual LGBT student festival, National Student Pride.

One of the main daytime highlights will be the 'Question Time' debate in association with Attitude magazine. The panel includes Attitude Editor Matthew Todd (Stonewall Editor of the Year), John Amaechi OBE (the NBA's first out gay basketball player), Steven Davies (England Cricketer), Dan Gillespie Sells (Lead singer of The Feeling), James Wharton (a gay soldier who has worked extensively with Stonewall in schools to combat homophobic bullying) and gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell.

"After X-Factor winner Joe McElderry headlining 2011 we are so excited for 2012," said Danica Histed, Chair of National Student Pride. "The move to the Brighton Dome enables the event to get much bigger and much better, including allowing the Under 18's in to the daytime event for the first time."

Sponsorship from external organisations has been essential in ensuring that the event is able to continue and expand, and although, given the current climate, seeking this has been challenging, Ernst & Young (who have just been announced as 2012 Employer of the Year in Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index) have generously offered their support these last two years as platinum sponsors of the event.

Liz Bingham (Managing Partner for People, UK & Ireland at Ernst & Young) commented "We're very proud to support National Student Pride for another year. At Ernst & Young we are passionate about enabling people to come together in an environment where they feel included and respected. National Student Pride enables LGBT students to do just that. We are committed to ensuring that all our people can succeed, regardless of their background. The differences that combine to make us who we are also give us the diverse ideas and outlooks that really make a competitive difference in today's world".

American Express have opted for this year's Gold Sponsorship package whilst the Silver Sponsors are Accenture. Pascal Guignard (Vice President at American Express and Executive sponsor of the UK Pride network) said: "National Student Pride brings together LGBT students from all over Britain who are making important decisions every day on their future. As an employer committed to diversity in the work place, American Express is pleased to be supporting a cause that aims to help the student community to not only achieve their desired career goals, but help them find a supportive environment in which to work and succeed."

It all kicks off on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February with registration in Charles Street followed by the official pre-pride party at Revenge nightclub, with the main event taking place at Brighton Dome from 1pm on the Saturday. In addition to the Question Time Debate there will be stalls and a job fair with companies such as Ernst & Young, Accenture, American Express, IBM, Stonewall and THT. There will also be a bar and live music brought to you by Brighton Pride's Women's Tent. The cast of the hit C4 TV show 'My Transsexual Summer' will be doing their own Q&A on the main stage.

The evening merriment commences with the Brighton Tour - great drink deals and games around Brighton's Gay Village - and climaxes with the massive club night at Brighton Dome Corn Exchange. It is here that partygoers will be treated to a live performance from girl band Stooshe; currently on the Radio One playlist and making a huge splash with their new single featuring Travie McCoy. Celebrity appearances and chart topping indie-pop-electro-house with resident DJs James Barr (Capital FM), Alex Baker (Gaydar Radio, Brighton's Revenge and London's Onyx), and DJ Jonesy (Juice107.8 Radio Brighton). And it doesn't stop there, revelers can continue on into the early hours at the official after party at Brighton's Revenge nightclub from 2am.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit [www.studentpride.co.uk](http://www.studentpride.co.uk) and follow us on [twitter.com/studentpride](https://twitter.com/studentpride) and [facebook.com/studentpride](https://facebook.com/studentpride)

ENDS

***For more information email Tom Guy, President National Student Pride: tom@studentpride.co.uk or call 07861 226906. For the logo: <http://www.studentpride.co.uk/press>. For past photos of the event email Tom.***

Notes to Editors:

- i. **About Ernst & Young**  
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Ernst & Young was ranked 1st in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index in 2012
- ii. Student Pride was born out of a response to an Oxford Brookes Christian Unions talk on 'Homosexuality and the Bible'. Over the years the event has attracted thousands of students from all over the UK.
- iii. This year's event has attracted major support from the gay media. Attitude, [gaydar.co.uk](http://gaydar.co.uk), G3, Out in the City, G-Scene, Gay Star News, Boyz, Real Brighton, Juice 107.2fm and gaydar radio are among media supporters.