Xavier Rogers current studying Progression to Adult Life

Sorry if this gets personal but I just want to express myself because I feel like it needs to be said. Ever since I heard about the abuse that the LGBTQ+ community was receiving every year due to homophobia and transphobia, I've always wanted to stand up and fight for what's right because I've ALWAYS believed that everyone should have the freedom to be who they are and be comfortable and know that they're safe walking down the street.

It hurts my heart knowing that youths/kids are going homeless because "Jesus doesn't love them" or when they're physically getting abused by random people, whether by their own parents, peers or anyone in general. It isn't fair at all, about 40% of suicides in 2020 alone were LGBTQ+ youths that have either contemplated suicide or HAVE committed suicide in the last year.

These statistics are getting higher and higher each year due to bullying. Before I came out as Transgender in 2019, I was closeted (hiding it) for 7+ years because I was told at a young age that "girls stay in the kitchen and cook for their husbands" or "boys play with action figures and cars". There were times in secondary school when people were asking me about why I would always wear my hoodie in the summer, even if it was like 24*c outside, that's because I'm Dysphoric about my chest (insecure).

I was an early bloomer and started developing a lot faster than my peers, I didn't like it, I used to cry about it and complain to my parents all the time that I didn't like it and I wanted them gone and things like that. When my period came around, I got worse, I would refuse to go to school on those days, I became depressed but always kept a happy smile because I was told that it was normal to feel uncomfortable on those weeks but nobody understood that I was wishing for it to go away and not come back. It wasn't until year 11 that I started watching these transgender people who have come out and transitioned too whether it's to a female or male and just watching them grow as a person just made me so much happier. When I started college, my eyes were opened properly for the first time, I saw boys with make-up and skirts and girls with short hair and piercings, I felt so free, so comfortable yet... it still took me a whole year to build up the confidence to tell anyone. But after I did, I felt so much better, I also realised that not everybody will bring you down, I've gotten so much support from everyone, I've started to become more confident in myself too. Therefore, I will ALWAYS fight alongside the LGBTQ+ nobody walks alone.