**Front runner**

Alex had come to high school as a girl. She had been born as a boy, but always knew she had a girl’s brain. She had long hair, wore skirts and was best friends with Anna, a girl she’d know since she was three.

Some of the kids from her primary school knew she was transgendered and already, in the first term of year 7, rumours about her gender identity were starting to spread. She now faced the prospect of her first PE lesson. Today they would be doing athletics – sprints, hurdles and throws.

As agreed with the teacher, she got changed in the accessible toilet, which her teacher opened for her with a key. Then she walked onto the field to wait for Ms Symonds, the PE teacher, with Anna and the other girls.

“Man beast” said one of the girls, Siobhan, who was known as a bit of a bully. “Tranny” called Katie, one of her friends. “Get your willy out” shouted another of them. “This is girls’ PE, boys aren’t allowed” shouted Siobhan, and then, when she saw Ms Symonds approaching “Miss it’s not fair for ‘boygirls’ to do athletics with REAL girls. He’ll have an unfair advantage!” Some of the girls in her class laughed, but others just looked a bit scared and didn’t say anything.

“Leave her alone, she’s more of a girl than you are” shouted Anna. Alex felt relieved even though Anna looked scared. It was nice to know you that she wasn’t on her own.