

## Our School

Fortnightly News: 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

As we come to the end of another academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable journey of learning, growth and heartwarming moments we achieved this term. To our exceptional learners with unique strength and abilities, you have shown resilience and determination, inspiring everyone to see the world differently, I am proud of each and every one of you. My sincere gratitude goes out to our parents, guardians and shareholders who have placed their trust in us and to our dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly to provide personalized attention to the learners. I wish everyone a restful summer break and I also encourage us to reflect on our success, knowing that we are stronger together. I look forward to everyone returning next year with renewed energy and enthusiasm, ready to continue making a positive impact in the lives of our exceptional students.

-Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



## Educational

*The learners have been engaged with lot of educational and sensory activities. Some of the activities include cooking, recognition of letters and number, money management, matching, and shopping. Last week the learners visited SEA LIFE LONDON as part of their activities. they all seem to be happy going there and exploring.*

### Transition/Graduation

We at The Bridge SEN School are delighted to announce the graduation of one of our lonest attending learners. Congratulations to Calvin Finecountry who has been at the school since we first opened our first incarnation back in 2018.

While we are happy that Calvin has entered this new stage of his life, we are sad to see him go as he has been a fixed presence of the school for so long. We wish him well on a successful transition into another stage of life.

Our sincere gratitude goes to his mother, staff of The Bridge SEN school that worked and contributed tirelessly to the achievement of this goal.

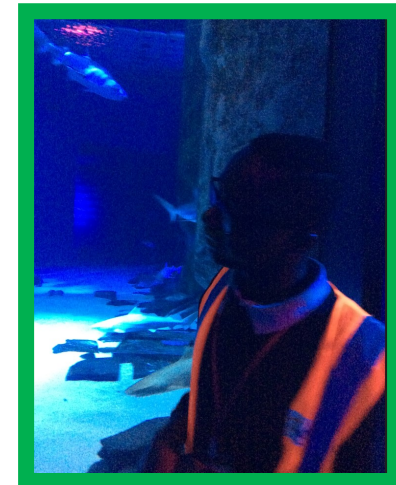
Good Luck Calvin!

### NONVERBAL CHILDREN WITH AUTISM MAY UNDERSTAND MUCH MORE LANGUAGE THAN THEY PRODUCE

A new study suggests that nonverbal or minimally verbal children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) may comprehend significantly more language than they are able to express. Researchers analysed data from around 1,600 children with autism and low verbal skills and found that 25% of them exhibited better receptive (understanding) language skills than expressive (speaking) language skills. Parent reports were found to be more appropriate than standardized measures in capturing language variations in these individuals. The finding emphasizes the importance of supporting language comprehension development in such children. Clinicals and therapists should consider these receptive language skills when planning and implementing interventions. It is recommended to provide simple and clear instructions to ensure the children can benefit the most from the interventions. The researchers suggest that integrating social and motor skills training into language interventions may enhance overall outcomes, as these areas of development are closely linked.

**Source: Autism Research Institute**

To read more: [Here](#)



The Bridge SEN School runs an **ASD Activity Club** on **Saturdays**, 10am to 4pm. There are lots of activities available for young learners within the ages of 16 to 25 years. These activities range from bowling, snooker, photography club, Art and Crafts, Museum visits, Cooking, Interior Decoration, etc. We receive referrals from members of the public and local authorities; please contact the school on [admin@thebridge-school.co.uk](mailto:admin@thebridge-school.co.uk) or Tel: 02077038587

# Activities & Advice

## Autism-Friendly Attractions for Summer Vacation

Creating an autism friendly summer vacation involves considering activities that are enjoyable and accommodating for individuals on the autism spectrum. Here are some ideas for autism-friendly summer activities:

**Outdoor Nature Exploration:** Visiting parks, botanical gardens or nature reserves can be a great way to engage with nature. The environment often offers predictable and calming surroundings, providing opportunities for sensory experiences without overwhelming stimuli.

**Outdoor Picnics:** Plan a picnic in a quiet and scenic location, allowing for a relaxing and low stimulus environment. Bring along some favorite foods to make the experience enjoyable.

**Movie or Sensory Cinema:** Check if there are sensory-friendly movie screenings in your area that offer lower sound volume and adjusted lighting, making the movie-watching experience more comfortable.

**Swimming:** Swimming can provide sensory input and be a great way to cool off during the summer. Look for quieter swimming locations or times to avoid overcrowding.

**Family game night:** Host game nights with board games, puzzles or interactive video games that the individual enjoys. This can be an opportunity to bond and have fun as a family.

Remember, each individual on the autism spectrum is unique, so it's essential to consider their specific interests and sensitivities when planning activities. Flexibility and understanding go a long way in creating an enjoyable and autism friendly summer vacation.



### Tina Belcher

A New feature, where we examine fictional representations of autistic people.

The eldest daughter, of Bob Belcher from the animated show *Bob's Burgers*, Tina Belcher is a determined love-hungry teenager with awkward social skills and obsessive interests. In a show where most of the characters could be perceived as autistic using the DSM-5 (Duyga Kaba, et al 2010, 108), Tina's personality is incredibly relatable. In essence, she's just a quirky young girl trying to survive the awkward transitional time between childhood and adolescence. She struggles at times to display her emotions properly and puts herself under copious amounts of (often self-induced) stress. This can cause her to crawl under tables and she has obsessive fixations. Overall, her personality is full of entertaining, contradicting factors. She has a confident attitude about her appearance and personality. Tina is also a splendid example of an autistic character breaking down a common convention of autistic people being genius savants making her recognisable as a positive neurodivergent character in mainstream media.

### Kyle Jamie Eldridge

Kyle Jamie Eldridge, a sharply dressed 26-year-old town councillor in Abergavenny, takes his role seriously, believing that his appearance reflects the importance of his job. He attributes his meticulous approach to his autism, which gives him critical thinking skills that he considers valuable for public service. As the only councillor to complete all non-mandatory training, he is well-prepared for councillor work, arriving at meetings having thoroughly read and understood relevant documents. His dedication to good governance and understanding of the council's responsibilities have earned him praise from colleagues. Being on the autism spectrum presents unique challenges and strengths for each individual, and Kyle's mind works in a way that allows him to remember discussions in minute detail, holding others accountable for their decisions. Despite difficulties related to sensory overload and amplified pressures, he remains motivated by helping others rather than personal gain. **Source BBC News**



To read more: [Here.](#)

# Our Activities Centre

The learners have been engaged in so many sensory activities including bus ride to bowling, art & craft, cycling and park. They were also involved with indoors activities like cooking and yoga activities. We are also organising summer activity for the clients that involves activities like trampolining, boat trip, cycling and lot more. – Activity Co-ordinator

The Bridge SEN School admits students all through the academic year between the ages of 14-25. If you are interested in placing a student at the school or obtaining more information, please contact [admin@thebridge-school.co.uk](mailto:admin@thebridge-school.co.uk) or Tel:02077038587

## THE BRIDGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### EDUCATION

- New Academic Year Begins: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Please visit our website: [www.thebridge-school.co.uk](http://www.thebridge-school.co.uk) for full Academic Year 2023/2024 Calendar)

### ACTIVITY CENTRE

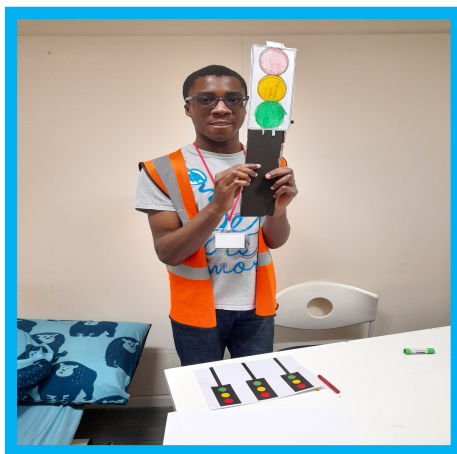
Our activity centre in Thornton Heath is open throughout the year, Except on Bank Holidays.

### COVID 19

We are in regular contact with the local authorities to ensure that we react appropriately and in a timely fashion to any development. We observe the most up-to-date rules concerning COVID 19.

- Weekly tests are carried out on learners and staff
  - Social Distancing measures are in place
  - Regularly handwashing is mandatory
  - NHS Track and Trace QR Code are signposted around the school.
  - Face masks are worn throughout classes
- Our Full Policy is available on our website**

## Drawings/Pictures of the month



### OPENING TIMES AT LIRAL VEGET COLLEGE LONDON

Liral Veget College Limited is the sister company of Right Support Management, under which The Bridge SEN School is now operating. We offer a variety of **English language courses**, **After School Club** and **Life in the UK Preparation classes**. Our current opening times are 8.30am – 18.00pm Monday to Friday and 10.00am - 14.00pm on Saturdays.

**Academic Manager** - James Nuttall.

### QUOTE OF THE FORTNIGHT

“ Change is the end result of all true learning.”

Leo Buscaglia.