

## Our School

Welcome to The Bridge Newsletter

Fortnightly News: 02  
October 2020



We're back! Although these strange, post-lock down, times may be continuing, we are committed to staying positive and to providing our learners with the high quality of education they deserve. Though we had moved online during earlier months of the pandemic, we are now back in school and working face-to-face. The safety and well-being of our learners and staff is of the utmost importance to us and we are taking every imaginable step to help keep our school community healthy while continuing to support them.

**Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal**

## Educational

This week our learners have been time-travelling – they began in the Stone Age, stopped off in the Middle Ages, and finally came back to the present day. Throughout this journey we compared three major aspects of life: clothes, food and houses. We discovered that during the Stone Age people ate very healthy food like fruits, nuts and vegetables. Hunter-gatherers, as those people were called, actually had very healthy lifestyles. To celebrate some of the student's cultural heritage we have also done several activities based around Nigerian Independence day.

### School Governors

The Bridge School is delighted to confirm its new **Board of Governors**. We proudly wish to welcome Don Okoro, Lynn Nuttall, Tracy Elridge, Nwamaka Akukwe, Mike Harris, Freda Jacobson, Hannah Otoo and Dr John Babalola. All of these fine people will be doing their utmost to hold the school to account and to ensure our learners have an optimal educational service continually available to them. You can see their profiles [here](#):

Though individual governor's roles are still being worked out, we're optimistic about the unique contributions they will each bring to The Bridge. And, more than anything, we're very pleased that, in spite of these challenging times, progress and innovation are still possible.

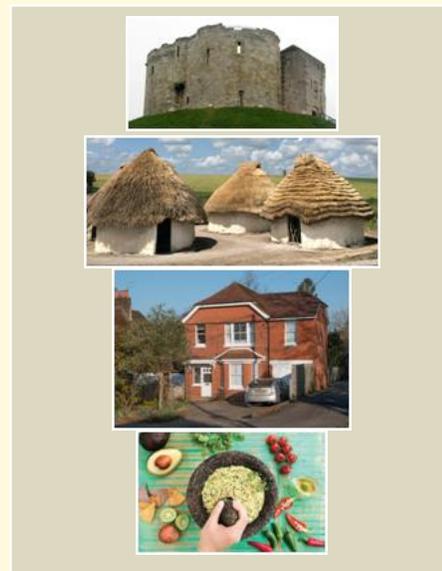
### New Appointments

This month sees the arrival of a **New Welfare Officer** at The Bridge. If not exactly a new face, it's a certainly new role for Simon Richards, who settled into this position earlier last month. Overseeing the running of the classes, Simon will make it his priority to ensure all Bridge SEN School learners can enjoy their lessons in the safest and most supportive of environments. Please join us in wishing Simon well in his new role.

### Disruptions to Routines – How to Help

Due to the global pandemic, the routines on which so many people who are on the autistic spectrum depend have been severely disrupted. Young people with autism thrive with consistency so such disruptions can lead to changes in a learner's behaviour, may often result in challenging behaviour. Therefore, it is advisable that parents and families of young people with autism try to follow a routine at home such as regularly practicing everyday tasks and spending some time going over academic tasks. Furthermore, being able to choose their own school supplies in anticipation of returning to school helps learners mentally prepare for their return.

The government has provided a written statement with invaluable advice on supporting SEN students returning to education. **Vicky Ford, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families**, states in her open letter to children and young people with SEND, their carers and their support workers: *Time out of school is detrimental to children's development*. She notes the disruption this may cause and invites education providers to understand the root of challenging behaviour. Read the full letter [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

# Our Activities Centre

This week in the activity centre the learners have been building their own repertoire of recipes. They are amassing different recipes in their own folders so they can choose what they cook each week and choose different dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner. This helps the learners have control over aspects of their own lives, develop autonomous skills, and learn about how to maintain a healthy environment in which to prepare food.

- Geovanna Wedderburn Activity coordinator

*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)*

## THE BRIDGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### EDUCATION

HALF TERM – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020

END OF TERM – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

(Please visit our website: [www.thebridge-school.co.uk](http://www.thebridge-school.co.uk) for full Academic Year 2020/2021 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.

- Social Distancing measures are in place
  - Regularly handwashing is mandatory
  - Tracing apps are in place
  - 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 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 WEEK

*All children and young people value the structure and routine of regular attendance as well as the support and strong positive relationships provided by their school or college.* – **Vicky Ford MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families**

We publish our newsletter fortnightly. Copies will be emailed to you and made available on the school's website (<https://www.thebridge-school.co.uk/our-school>). Thank you for your feedback. If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, please email me at [admin@thebridge-school.co.uk](mailto:admin@thebridge-school.co.uk) - Maryanne Orakah.