

Our School

Welcome to The Bridge Newsletter

We're proud to be celebrating Black History Month this October. This is important because we want to recognise the often-neglected achievements black people have made to British culture and the world; but not only that - at The Bridge SEN School we pride ourselves on embracing diversity in all its forms. Our learners and our staff together form a wide range of cultures and backgrounds. This diversity is something we cherish; moreover, it is our goal to prepare our learners for the world outside, for the workplace, to value themselves for who they are, and to respect and value diversity in others.

Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal

Fortnightly News: 16 October 2020



Educational

This month we have celebrated diversity, examining countries around the world and to mark Black History Month our learners studied about the life of famous South African revolutionary and philanthropist Nelson Mandela. – Chinwe Okonkwo

Black History Month

Black people have lived in Britain since Roman times, but this fact isn't really taught at school. Typically, children are taught the biographies of individual black people, which is worthwhile, but not enough. This doesn't reflect the forces that led Britain to interact with Africa, it doesn't show how important the sugar slavery economy was in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, and it doesn't speak at all about how Britain's relationship with the US is linked to cotton, and how cotton was produced by enslaved African Americans.

Generally, children leave school believing all this happened in the US, not Britain. But in reality, Britain's treatment of black people has been exactly the same as in America. Why are we not more aware of the shameful history of slavery in this country?

But science shows African people populated Ancient Britain. Sometimes people don't want to accept this, but Britain was part of the Roman Empire, and the Roman Empire was multiracial. In Tudor England, John Blanke was

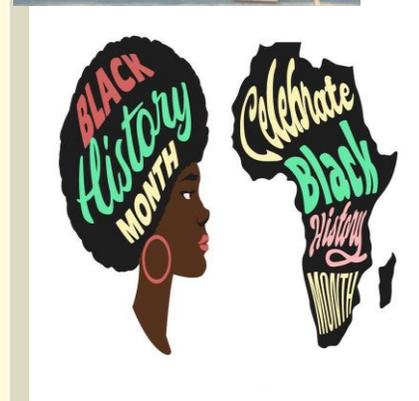
a black musician who played to Henry VIII. We have a historical record, a letter he sent to the King, asking for a pay rise – a reflection of self-worth and self-belief if ever there was one. (And yes, Henry increased Blanke's wages.)

There are other omissions. After abolition, former slave owners got £20,000,000 for their loss of human property. Former slaves were not free straightaway - they were actually ordered to work 45 hours a week for their former owner, over the next 4 – 6 years...

We are celebrating Black History Month at The Bridge School, and we continue to celebrate diversity in our workplace every day. We hope we are a leading example of a diverse and multiracial team whose first concern is our learners and the quality of care we provide, regardless of background and race.

Adapted from the BBC's Alt History series [here](#)

Learn more about John Blanke [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 or Tel: 02077038587

I Heard you on the Radio!

The Bridge SEN School manager, James Nuttall, was interviewed for the **Voice of Islam Breakfast Radio Show** this month. Here James talks about the effect the pandemic has had on SEND teaching and learners, how we at The Bridge have been surviving and responding to this strange situation. James also gives advice on how parents can continue to support their SEND children whilst they are out of school.

You can listen to the [full interview here](#). starting at 1:11:36.

World Mental Health Day – The New Normal

10th October is World Mental Health Day. An important event every year, helping to raise awareness of mental illness, this is especially true in 2020, a difficult year for almost all of us. Stress affects us in different ways, and we all have different methods of coping.

This month, Bupa interviewed a number of its colleagues about their experiences dealing with the pandemic:

David Hynam says he makes sure he goes for a walk with his dog at least twice a day – he'd been working long hours and not moving out of his office chair – bad for him, and very bad for his dog.

Helen Vlasich says she uses EAP (Employee Assistance Programme), a kind of counselling and advice service offered through the workplace. She does this once a month for 50 minutes, and it gives her a safe place to speak about her concerns and feelings during lockdown. Talking in this way helps her to help her clients.

Evelyn Bourke says that, once quarantined, the line between home and the office was lost. She dealt with this by making a new routine for herself – going to the park once a day and listening to the birds singing.

You can watch a selection of the interviews here: [here](#):

How have **you** been dealing with stress this year? Personally, 40 minutes of meditation a day helps me.

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

For updates regarding Covid 19 and safety conditions, please take a look at the following links:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/index.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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 - Maryanne Orakah.

Our Activities Centre

This week we focussed on money management. We planned out a shopping list and how much we would need before going to the supermarket. Then at the end of the week we went to the shops, bought all our ingredients and then came back to the centre to make our pasta and meatballs! This also allowed the learners to practice maintaining hygiene in the kitchen environment and have a tasty lunch. - Geovanessa 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 or Tel:02077038587

THE BRIDGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

EDUCATION

HALF TERM – Monday 26th October 2020

END OF TERM – 18th December 2020

Please visit our website: 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.

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.

Don't think that there's a different, better child 'hiding' behind the autism. This is your child. Love the child in front of you. Encourage his strengths, celebrate his quirks, and improve his weaknesses, the way you would with any child. – **Claire Scovell LaZebink Author of Growing Up on the Spectrum**