

Our School

Fortnightly News: 25th November 2022

Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

We're back! After a long hiatus, the school newsletter has returned. It's been a tumultuous few months with the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and not one but two new Prime Ministers being sworn in to power. These changes have also taken place during a time when the cost of living is spiralling out of control and grave concerns about the support of the mental health services are rife. However, now is not the time for despair, every country goes through periods of strife and difficulty and show they have the ability to rise again. Although things may look bleak at the moment, we must remain positive that they can return to better times.

-Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



Educational

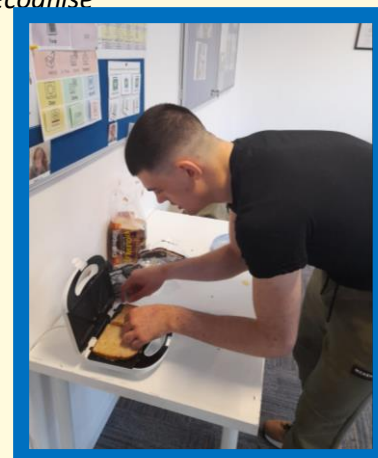
The learners this term have been learning to be more independent and manage themselves. There has been a big emphasis placed on preparing their own food, learning strategies for managing their behaviour and sensory stimulation, and taking care of their own basic needs. A school rota for basic chores has been introduced encouraging the learners to recognise individual responsibilities.

Maryanne Orakah to go on Maternity Leave

Next month the school's incredible administrator, Maryanne will leave to go on maternity leave. Maryanne has been a vital and much respected hub of the school community. She has been instrumental in ensuring that the school has reached its current position. Without her diligence, attention to detail, professionalism and empathy, many of the staff would never have felt as secure and supported as they have. Maryanne will be sorely missed at the school and we wish her all the very best while she is taking care of her child.

New Premises Purchased for the Bridge SEN School

There are big plans afoot in the school's future. In 2023, The Bridge SEN School intends to relocate. A new premises has been purchased and the school's admin and management team are working hard to ensure that the new site is fully prepared and ready for the big move. As the new site is still in the early stages of development, and there is no confirmed date for the move the school will keep the new location under wraps for the time being but we hope to soon bring you updates of the new site and what you can expect.



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

Activities & Advice

Rising Cost of Living

Since 2021 consumer price inflation has been rising in many countries. The main reason for this is pandemic-related supply shortages. As the global economy slowly recovers from its recession, there has been increased demand for products – especially consumer goods – and materials. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has also led to higher commodity prices, pushing up inflation around the world.

Across the country, this alarming rise in the cost of living is having a serious effect on many families of disabled children. Families are struggling with their bills, forgoing living essentials such as heating and skipping meals to make ends meet. Caring costs can be difficult for families to manage at the best of times. As a group disabled people can find it more challenging to cover their food costs than their non-disabled counterparts due to the ‘economic exclusion’ caused by prejudice towards those with a disability. In the current climate many are struggling even more. The government is taking action and the Department for Work and Pensions is providing an extra £150 payment for around 6 million people, but charities and support groups are pressuring them to do more.

According to [Economics Observatory](#), just under half of all people living in poverty in the UK are disabled and unless urgent action is taken the situation will only get worse.



Autistic Characters in Fiction



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

Dr Alfred Jones, **Salmon Fishing on the Yemen**.

In the 2011 film, based on Paul Torday's novel and starring Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt, a fisheries scientist receives an unusual request: to bring salmon fishing to Yemen. While he's never explicitly stated to be autistic, Dr Jones often appears blunt, humourless and is seemingly passionless. As a result, he's been adopted by the neurodiverse as he also displays an encyclopaedic knowledge of his field and a clumsy awareness for the need for social norms, even if he isn't fully aware of how to show them. As his feelings for Emily Blunt's business women grow, his meticulous attention to detail helps their project succeed. When she's distressed, he knows he has to do something and his affection manifests in a most unromantic yet thoughtfully practical manner: the making of a duck sandwich.

DRAFT MENTAL HEALTH BILL PUBLISHED

In June this year the government published its draft Mental Health Bill to make changes to mental health laws in England and Wales. The aim of which is to reduce the number of people currently detained in mental health hospitals, which sadly has occurred all too often. Some of the changes mentioned include a change of the definition of 'mental disorder', and an emphasis on the duty of professionals to listen to and follow recommendations about autistic people's treatment.

The full version of the draft can be viewed [here](#). An easy read version is available [here](#).

Our Activities Centre

The learners have been doing a variety of activities this week, from domestic chores and home economics to excursions into the community including ten pin bowling, cycling and boat trips. Many of the clients that joined over the summers are far more settled now and enjoying the routine of being in the centre. -

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 or Tel: 02077038587

THE BRIDGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

EDUCATION

- Inset days 31st October (No students attending the school)
- End of term 16th December
- First day of next term 3rd of January

Please visit our website: www.thebridge-school.co.uk for full Academic Year 2022/2023 Calendar)

ACTIVITY CENTRE

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

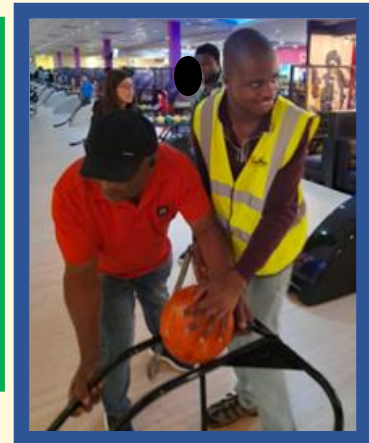
COVID 19

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

“It always seems impossible until it’s done.” – Nelson Mandela