

Our School

Fortnightly News: 31st March 2023

Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

As we come to the end of the term and also enjoy the onset of spring the Easter celebration is drawing close. I want to thank all our amazing members of staff, parents and shareholders for their support this term. It's also a season of new arrivals, with new staff, new governor and new children all being welcomed by the school community. I wish everyone a good Easter celebration and I pray we all feel the peace and love of God during the celebration. I look forward in welcoming all our learners back after the celebration. Have a beautiful Easter and a blessed remainder of 2023.

-Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



Educational

The learners have been engaged with lot of activities like cooking, bowling, painting, recognition and matching of numbers, letters and money management, yoga and lot more. Our learners have improved greatly including the new student which is a fine community achievement. They are aware of seasonal events and the Easter celebration and have started doing Easter crafts which serve as a sensory and creative exploration.

Maryanne Orakah Delivered a Bouncing Baby Boy.

The entire members of The Bridge SEN School team wish to celebrate with Maryanne the school former administrator of her safe delivery of a bouncing baby boy. May the good lord protect her, the baby and her entire family. Welcome to the world, son!

New Governor

We are happy to welcome a new governor that will be joining the board of governors from next term. Dr Adesola Sewo is a Specialist Doctor at Little Brook Hospital in Dartford working in the Mother and Baby Unit. She is sure to bring a wealth of experience to the role and I hope you will join us in welcoming her to the school.



New administrator: Jennifer Lewin

Now that Maryanne is occupied with her new baby, we want to inform you all that the school now has a new administrator. Jennifer Lewin will be replacing Maryanne in administrating duties. Jennifer has come to us from working as a behavioral specialist and will bring her expertise to the school. She can be reached by all the usual channels and we look forward to welcoming her as part of the team. I hope you'll do the same.

OFSTED Under Nationwide Scrutiny

School inspectors Ofsted have been in the news recently following on from a number of very negative responses to their downgrading of a number of schools across the UK. A large number of negative reports have been generated in response to all that has happened. True to their character, Ofsted remain unmoved. To read more click on the link [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

Activities & Advice

Easter Friendly Activities For Autistic Children

Making Egg hunt Autism Friendly

As we know, Easter celebration comes with a tradition of the egg hunt which is called “Easter egg hunt”. This can be a challenging activity for children on the spectrum. This is because it involves multiple things that it can represent. There are ways to make your child participate and fun in the tradition. To achieve this, you must prepare in advance to ease stress and for easy practice. Here are some tips.

Before the hunt:

- Practice at home with few friends and neighbors to get it just right
- Visit the event place in advance with your child to make he/she familiar with the environment.

The day of hunt:

- Arrive before the event start to avoid crowds and also to explain to your child once again.
- Make sure you are prepared by bringing headphones to protect your child from the noise of other children if required.
- Bring all needed items like basket especially the ones used to practice at home.
- Explain to other parents and children about your child situation and needs to avoid lots of pushing and rushing.
- Stay with your child and grab his/her hand, if necessary, when going for the activity
- Also inform your child that it is okay to do things at his/her pace.
- Be festive by dressing along with the party.

Remember Easter is a fun time to help your child become more social and interactive. To read more use this link

[Here.](#)



Raymond Babbitt

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

Raymond Babbitt is a man with Autism and Savant syndrome. He is played by Dustin Hoffman in 1988’s “Rainman” which was a well-received depiction of autism. Babbitt is someone who adheres to strict routines, ritualistic behaviour, demonstrates little emotional expression, and has marked impairments in the use of nonverbal behaviours. He also has superb memory recall. While the character has been celebrated for making autism more prominent in the public consciousness, he has also had a mixed reception. Audience have praised the depiction given by Dustin Hoffman, generally agreed to be accurate and sensitive. However, the film and character has been criticised for suggesting that autism and savant skills always co-exist (in reality this is very rare), leading to the belief that all autistic people have unusual abilities.

Autistic Children Communicating Their Personality Using Artwork

A touring art exhibition is giving young people who are autistic an opportunity to express themselves. This exhibition is being held in the Flowfield Art center in Portstewart, county Londonderry. The exhibition is about what Autism means and it showcases more than 140 pieces of art created by autistic post-primary pupils from schools across Northern Ireland. Each pupil artwork is personalized by communicating what their individual artwork means to them. One of the pupils whose name is Molly attached a quote to her artwork saying “Autism makes us unique in ways people aren’t able to see and it makes us better people”. Another of the pupils whose name is Emma said her artwork was about highlighting the many positives associated with being Autistic. She also said to BBC News that “I view my autism as my ability not a disability”. To read more use the link [Here.](#)

Source: (BBC News)

Our Activities Centre

The learners have engaged in so many sensory activities including bus ride to bowling, museums and park. They were also involved with indoors activities like cooking and making decorations for the Easter celebration. The learners are enjoying the activities being carried out in the activity 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

- End of term: 31st March
- Term begins: 17th April
- Inset Day 17th April

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

ACTIVITY CENTRE

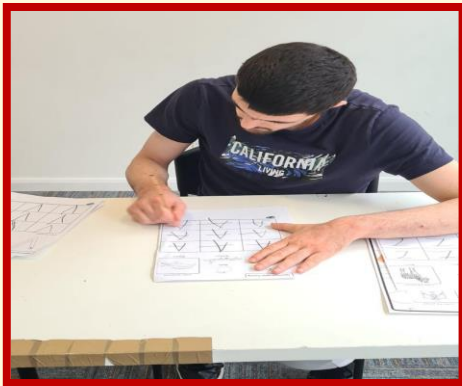
Our activity centre in Thornton Heath is open throughout the year, Except on Bank Holidays.

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

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”

- Margaret Mead