

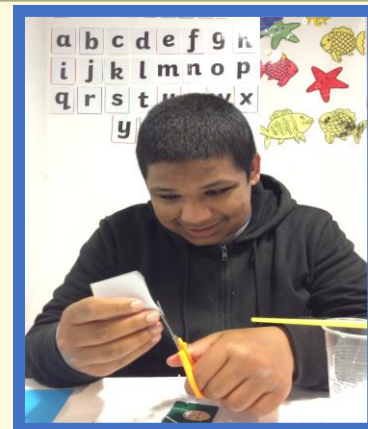
## Our School

Fortnightly News: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and rejuvenating half term break. It is a pleasure to have return to the school, ready to embark on the second half of the summer term to continue our journey of academic excellence and our learner's personal growth. I would like to express my gratitude to our staffs, parents and shareholder for your dedication and hard work during the half term. The summer season is a time when nature flourishes, and we, too, have the opportunity to grow and flourish. Once again, welcome back! Let's make this summer term one filled with growth, achievement and endless possibilities.

-Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



## Educational

The learners are back from the half term break and they seem excited to be back in school. They are being engaged in some educational activities like creating colourful collages, emotion check-in, art & craft, sensory exploration, movement & dance, recognition & patterns and community activities. This helps them ease back into learning routine and learn self-expression.

### Bridge Student Wins Gold

One of our learners, Layo Sewo, recently competed in the London Youth Games swimming competition. And won gold! Layo's dedication, hard work, and perseverance have paid off and the entire staff and learners of The Bridge SEN School are proud of his accomplishment.

### Our OFSTED Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

We are happy to announce that after our most recent Progress Monitoring Inspection, OFSTED have decided that the school now meets all the standards of the Independent School Standards. This report can be found on the website but a copy is also available [here](#). This comes as a great relief and is a testament to the hard work of the staff dedicated to improve the school.

### CJ Ware Gains Photography Award

The Royal Photographic society has acknowledged the remarkable photographic skills of CJ Ware, a 30-year-old man from Paignton. Despite being autistic and deaf, CJ has excelled in the art of photography and recently attained a Licentiate qualification from the society. CJ's journey into photography began 13 years ago, and it has become a profound source of comfort and expression for him. Having faced three heart attacks as a teenager and relying on a wheelchair for mobility, CJ finds solace behind the lens of his camera because it allows him capture moments and find tranquility. To obtain his Licentiate, CJ submitted a collection of 10 photographs that showcased his diverse skill set and artistic abilities. When describing his photographic style, he expressed a fondness for unconventional imagery and an eye for spotting beauty in the often overlooked. Overall, CJ recognition stands as a testament. To read more click on the link: [Here](#). Source: BBC News.



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

## Summer Friendly Activities for Autistic Children

Summer can be a great time for autistic individuals to engage in activities that suit their interests and preferences. Here are some summer activity ideas that can be enjoyable and beneficial for autistic people:

- **Outdoor Exploration:** Going for nature walks, hiking, or visiting local parks can provide sensory stimulation and opportunities for relaxation. Look for a quiet and peaceful outdoor space.
- **Water Play:** Swimming, splashing in a pool or visiting the beach can be enjoyable for individuals who are comfortable with water. Sensory-friendly splash pads or calm water areas can be great alternatives for those who may be sensitive to loud noises or large crowds.
- **Arts and Crafts:** Engaging in creative activities such as painting, drawing, sculpting, or crafting can be calming and allow for self-expression.

Other activities include:

- Reading a book
- Joining virtual summer activities.

To read more about other activities click on the link [Here](#). Source: **UFHealth**



## Autism in Fiction

### Shaun Murphy

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

Dr. Shaun Murphy is an autistic surgical resident in the TV Series, [The Good Doctor](#) where he is played by the actor Freddie Highmore.

Shaun Murphy demonstrates several characteristics typically associated with autism: he subverts social norms, demonstrates stoic body language and has difficulty maintaining eye contact. He is a positive character and is able to form and sustain a healthy relationship throughout the series of the show. He also demonstrates a capacity for empathy and a desire to prevent suffering. His perseverance allows him to become a surgeon despite resistance and concern from his peers. However, criticism of the character includes the reinforcement of the impression that all autistic people have savant skills and that only such individuals can benefit in society.

## Helen Hignett-Clawson Launched an Adaptive Clothing Line for Disabled Children.

Helen Hignett-Clawson, a former police officer from Middlewich, Cheshire, launched an adaptive clothing line called Adaptive clothing UK for disabled children. Helen had to retire in 2016 due to head injury that caused seizures, paralysis, and blackouts. Determined to make a positive impact, she started the clothing line to make dressing easier for disabled children.

The inspiration came from her own struggles with getting dressed, as well as her niece Lily's experience with autism. The clothing is designed with fewer catches and buttons, making it more convenient for parents and beneficial for children with physical limitations, disabilities, sensory processing disorders and autism.

Despite her challenges, Helen takes pride in her adaptive clothing line and her ability to make a difference.

To read more click on the link [Here](#). Source: **BBC News**

# Our Activities Centre

The learners have been engaged in so many sensory activities including bus ride to bowling, art & craft, visits to the museum and park. They were also involved with indoors activities like cooking and yoga activities. 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](mailto:admin@thebridge-school.co.uk) or Tel: 02077038587

## THE BRIDGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### EDUCATION

- Half term begins: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- End of term: 21<sup>st</sup> July 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

*“Apply yourself. Get all the education you can, but then, by God, do something. Don’t just stand there, make it happen.”*

- Lee Iacocca.