



1/20/2025

NEWSLETTER

January 2024/2025 Academic Year

<https://thebridge-school.co.uk/>

Our School

Fortnightly News: 20TH JAN. 2025

Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

A warm welcome back to all learners, parents, staff, and governors of The Bridge SEN School! I hope you had a restful and enjoyable break and are now refreshed and ready to embrace the exciting journey of learning once again. We look forward to a new term and year brimming with opportunities, growth, and success as we step into 2025. As we face the possibilities and challenges this new year may bring, let's approach them with a spirit of togetherness, resilience, and positivity. Together, we can make this year one of remarkable achievements, meaningful progress, and unforgettable moments. Wishing you all an incredible start to the New Year!

-Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



Educational

The learners have returned to school with excitement and are adjusting well to their routine. Over the past few days, they have actively participated in a variety of sensory and educational activities. These include shopping, colouring, developing cooking skills, creating collages, swimming, bowling, and many other engaging experiences.

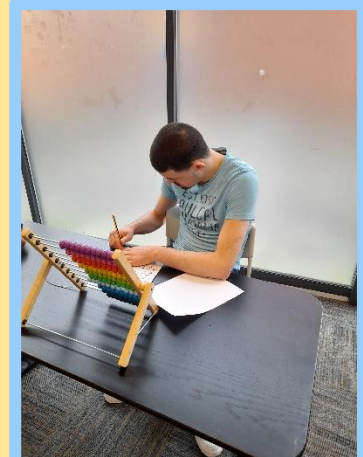
Nurturing Self-Advocacy and Communication Skills in Autism

Self-advocacy, a critical skill for individuals on the autism spectrum, involves effectively communicating their needs, rights, and preferences. It is vital for their personal and academic growth, especially during the transition to adulthood. Research by Siva Priya Santhanama, Kaitlyn Wilson, and Stephen M. Shore highlights the importance of self-advocacy, emphasizing understanding one's rights, making informed decisions, and seeking accommodations in education and work environments. Autistic individuals often face barriers such as social anxiety, communication challenges, misunderstanding of rights, and fear of judgment. Despite these obstacles, many are eager to engage in self-advocacy. Early emphasis on developing these skills during high school is crucial to prepare them for college and workplace settings. Universities, educators, and Speech Language Pathologists play a pivotal role in supporting neurodivergent students by providing training, creating inclusive environments, and fostering open communication.

Effective communication is central to self-advocacy, involving verbal, non-verbal, and written skills. Role-playing, workshops, and access to neurodivergent mentors can help individuals practice self-advocacy in real-world scenarios. Technology, such as AAC devices and note-taking apps, can further enhance their communication and advocacy efforts. Support from families, educators, and peers is essential in nurturing self-advocacy. Families can model positive communication behaviours and foster open dialogue, while educators can create inclusive classrooms that invite students to share their needs. Self-advocacy leads to empowerment, independence, and improved mental health. It enhances academic success by helping individuals obtain necessary accommodations and fosters social connections by promoting understanding and inclusivity. As society continues to embrace neurodiversity, prioritizing self-advocacy will enrich communities and ensure the voices of autistic individuals are valued.

Source: Autism Spectrum News

To read more: [Here](#)

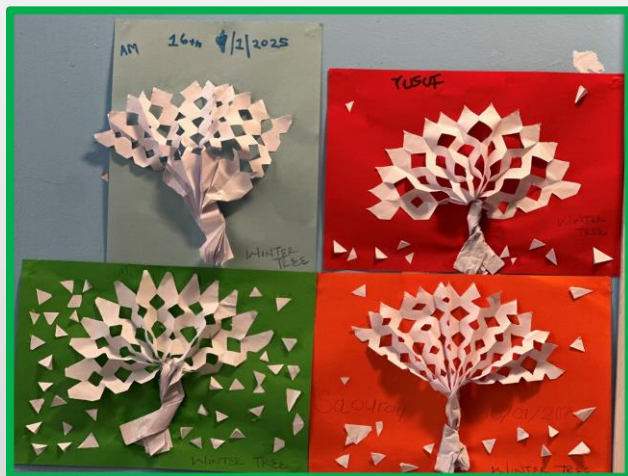
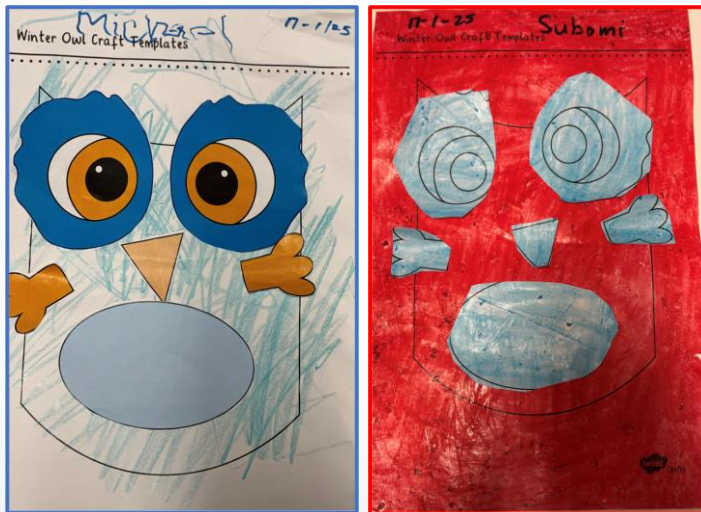


Activities & Advice

PHOTO SPEAKS ON ART & CRAFT

Our learners have shown great creativity and enthusiasm in their art and craft activities. These activities not only allow them to express themselves but also help in developing fine motor skills, cognitive abilities, and social interaction. From painting and drawing to making handmade crafts, each piece reflects their unique perspectives and strengths. The activities are carefully tailored to suit their individual needs, encouraging exploration and fostering a sense of accomplishment and pride in their work.

Take a moment to appreciate and see some of the learner wonderful work done.



Our new feature represents notable individuals living with autism and other learning disabilities.



CHRIS PACKHAM

Chris Packham, a British naturalist and television presenter, has Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism. Diagnosed later in life, he has been open about his experiences with neurodiversity. Through his advocacy, particularly in the 2017 BBC documentary "Chris Packham: Asperger's and Me", he raised awareness about autism, challenging stereotypes and promoting acceptance of neurodivergent individuals. His journey highlights the value of different ways of thinking and has had a significant impact on autism representation in the media, encouraging greater understanding and support for those on the autism spectrum.

Parenting Neurodivergent Children: Insights from Paddy and Christine McGuinness

Dealing with an autism diagnosis can be challenging, but understanding and acceptance are key. Paddy McGuinness shares his struggles, emphasizing the importance of embracing autism and understanding its impact on the family. Professor Baron-Cohen highlights neurodiversity, celebrating the unique strengths of autistic individuals, such as pattern recognition and attention to detail.

A diagnosis provides clarity, access to support services, and strategies tailored to the child's needs. The National Autistic Society stresses the importance of understanding that the child remains the same but now has clearer support pathways.

Schools play a significant role, offering adjustments and inclusive education. Parents are encouraged to collaborate with professionals and seek autism-focused support groups. Addressing the mental health of both the child and the parent is vital. Masking, particularly common in girls, can lead to stress, so fostering open communication is crucial.

Celebrating the positives, accessing legal rights, and sharing experiences with others help families navigate the journey and break the stigma around autism.

To read more: [Here](#)

Source: BBC News.

Our Activities Centre

The learners are thrilled to return to the activity centre after the Christmas break, reconnecting with friends and enjoying activities like colouring, baking, puzzles, and cycling, despite the chilly weather.

-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

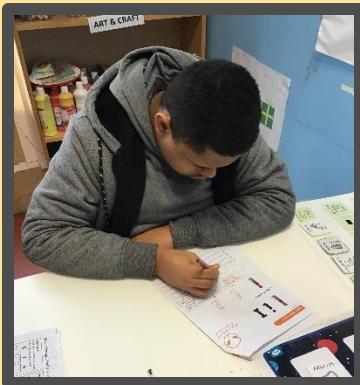
- Term Begins: 6th January 2025
- Half Term: 17th – 21st February 2025

Please visit our website: www.thebridge-school.co.uk for full Academic Year 2024/2025 Calendar)

ACTIVITY CENTRE

Our activity centre in Foulsham Road is open throughout the year, Except on Bank Holidays.

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 operates. 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

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

– W.B. Yeats