

## Our School

Fortnightly News: 12th August 2024

### Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

As we conclude this academic year, I am immensely proud and grateful for our community's remarkable efforts and accomplishments. This year has been one of growth, challenges, and triumphs, and it is with heartfelt appreciation that I address each one of you. I deeply appreciate our staff's hard work and innovative approach, our learners' perseverance and achievements both big and small, our governors' continued support and commitment to excellence, and our parents' dedication in their child's growth and development. Let's carry forward the lessons, memories, and bonds into the next year. Thank you all for a job well done. Enjoy a well-deserved break, and I look forward to another successful year ahead.

-Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



## Educational

*The summer term has been both impactful and enriching for our learners, who returned from the half-term break with renewed energy and enthusiasm. They actively participated in a wide range of activities, including yoga, outdoor adventures, shopping, cooking, music, and much more. The term culminated with an exciting visit to the O2 at Greenwich, where the learners had an incredible time.*

### Achievements of the 2023-2024 Academic Year

We were thrilled to announce that The Bridge SEN School was officially rated "GOOD" in our latest OFSTED report. The report highlights significant improvements in teaching practices, student achievements, and the overall positive learning atmosphere. It is publicly available on the OFSTED website and can also be read on our school website.

We unveiled the 3D rendering of our new SEN school, marking a milestone in our journey toward inclusive education. Our vision has evolved to create a nurturing space where every student can thrive.

We are immensely proud of our learners who passed their ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) assessments, completing numerous modules in Personal Progress and Personal Social Development. This achievement is a testament to their hard work, determination, and the unwavering

support of their families and our dedicated staff.

Our students also enjoyed a fantastic end-of-year trip to the O2 at Greenwich, where they had an incredible time bonding and celebrating the year's achievements.

Unfortunately, due to difficulties with the scheduled construction work, our planned move to the new school has been postponed from September to the end of October. Despite the delay, we look forward to our students settling in and enjoying the new site. Thank you for your understanding and continued support during this transition.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. Together, we've achieved remarkable milestones and look forward to even more successes in the future.



# Activities & Advice

## Autism-Friendly Summer Attractions 2024

Summer is here, and it's the perfect time to enjoy various activities. Eden from the Ambitious Youth Network has compiled a list of autism-friendly attractions for the whole family:

- BFI and Odeon Relaxed Screenings: Enjoy movies in a calm setting with dimmed lights and no trailers, allowing for movement and noise.
- Flute Theatre, London: Interactive Shakespeare performances help autistic participants improve social skills in a non-judgmental environment.
- Camp Mohawk, Berkshire: An activity center offering a sensory room, soft play area, sensory garden, outdoor pool, and various therapeutic activities.
- Thinktank Science Museum, Birmingham: Features over 200 interactive exhibits, quiet sessions, free ear defenders, and a sensory room.
- Inflata Nation: A theme park with slides, trampolines, and ball pits, hosting autism-friendly events with low music and fewer participants.
- Diggerland: Hands-on experiences with construction vehicles, autism-trained staff, and sensory rooms at locations in Yorkshire, Durham, Devon, and Kent.
- Tower Bridge, London: Offers a relaxed visit with sensory toolkits, visual storyboards, and quiet exploration of the bridge's towers and engine rooms.

To read more: [Here](#)

Source: Ambitious about Autism



Our regular feature, where we examine fictional representations of autistic people.

### Adam Raki from Adam.



This 2009 film explores a young man with Asperger's syndrome's attempts to find love with his neighbour. Adam, played by Hugh Dancy, has difficulty communicating, a deep reliance on routines and an obsessive interest in space exploration. The film explores the challenges that neurotypical and neurodivergent individuals can encounter dating and shows the difficulties one can have attempting to interpret social conventions correctly. While the film arguably misses the opportunity to explore challenging situations in more depth, it does a decent job of exploring the complexity of characters with ASC and how compassionate and empathetic individuals can make all the difference to the struggle autistic individuals often face.

### "Disabled people shouldn't be scared of exercise"

15-year-old Zac Hollinshead, who is blind, autistic, and has Cerebral Visual Impairment, shares an inspiring message: **"People with disabilities shouldn't be scared of trying to exercise."** For the past two years, Zac has seen significant improvements in coordination, strength, and mental health through personal training sessions. Initially struggling with isolation and mental health issues, Zac has transformed into a confident and engaged individual thanks to supportive training at a local gym. His mother praises the positive impact on his life, and Zac's experience underscores the importance of positive physical activity for disabled youth. He has also raised funds for charity and plans to continue advocating for those with visual and other disabilities.

To read more: [Here](#)

Source: BBC News.

### UPDATE ON THE ON-GOING SUMMER ACTIVITY 2024

Our summer activity program, which started July 29th, 2024, is going with ease! Participants are enjoying a diverse range of activities, from creative indoor sessions like cooking and arts and crafts to exciting outdoor experiences such as trampoline sessions, farm visits, and museum trips. We look forward to more enriching and enjoyable experiences throughout the summer.

# Our Activities Centre

They've been having an absolute blast with a variety of fun-filled outdoor activities. With summer in full swing, they've explored countless exciting adventures. Additionally, they're diving into educational and indoor activities designed to boost their cognitive abilities and skills. The service users are clearly enjoying every moment and having loads of fun!

-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

- End of Term: 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- Inset Days: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024
- Students return to school: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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

### ACTIVITY CENTRE

## 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

*"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows".*

—Sydney J. Harris