### Prospectus 2021 Bridge College

A specialist college like no other





### Welcome to Bridge College

#### Bridge College

Openshaw Whitworth Street Manchester M11 2GR

#### A very warm welcome to Bridge College.

You'll be amazed at yourself and what you can achieve!

Bridge College is the first step to an independent, happy adult life for all our learners. We'll do everything we can to support you to achieve this.

Based in Manchester, we offer specialist education for students aged 16 to 25 with learning difficulties, disabilities, complex health needs and autism. Everyday we provide personalised support, tailored learning and hands-on life skills to give you the confidence to exceed your aspirations.

Think about what you love doing, come and visit us and see how we can help you reach your full potential.

You'll learn from knowledgeable tutors, speech, language and occupational therapists and behaviour specialists whilst having the support from highly trained support workers and a specialist nursing team. We will help you on your journey to be amazing!

You'll get all the transitional guidance you need when getting ready for your next placement, whist gaining functional skills to ensure you're ready for your next steps.

Bridge College is part of a wider charity, The Together Trust, a leading North West disability charity that provide life- changing services and support for people with disabilities, autism and complex health needs.

So why not come and see for yourself. Contact us now to arrange a visit and meet with our staff team.

We can't wait to meet you!

### Our curriculum

#### We're proud to offer a personcentred curriculum, which is centered around your needs.

The foundation of our curriculum links to the Preparing for Adulthood Framework:



We offer a range of vocational subject areas which fit into our framework: Sport, Art, PHSE, Work Experience, Print Enterprise, Cafe Enterprise, ICT, Community Access, Media, Catering, ICT, Horticulture, Music and Sensory Experiences. Through accessing these subjects, you'll develop your individual goals in practical and realistic ways.

You'll have the opportunity to develop practical work place skills by following task based routines that you can apply to specific job roles through our Workskills, Work Experience and Supported Internship programme. You'll also be able to practise your skills by helping us to run our enterprise programme within our print shop or café.

More information can be found on page 9.

The curriculum is progressive and we offer learning in five stages tailored to suit you. Your achievements will be recognised through non- accredited and accredited pathways. Your individual learning journey will be carefully planned, monitored and evaluated so that when you leave Bridge you're equipped with a range of functional skills which you can apply to everyday life.

#### Other benefits

You'll have the opportunity to develop your confidence in communicating with others, building your self esteem and independence.

We teach you how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and take responsibility for your own life choices, as well as your own wellbeing. This could range from guidance around healthy eating and exercise to staying safe online.

#### Sport

You'll have the chance to develop the physical skills you need to play and compete in team games.

#### Art

Get creative with projects and collaborate with your peers to exhibit your work in local art galleries.

#### Music

Learn how to sequence sounds to play in a band or choir. Get to grips with assistive technology and develop new multimedia skills to create films and animations. In media you can use photography and video to create the next blockbuster!

#### ICT

Learn how we use ICT in our daily lives and how to code simple programmes through the use of robots. At Bridge we will give you the support you need to develop skills for the workplace.

### Gaining independence is central to your individual learning programme.

At Bridge you'll be able to develop your skills and confidence in preparing your own simple snacks and progressing to making more complex meals for yourself, friends and family.

We'll teach you the skills you need to work in a catering environment with access to our purpose built training kitchen or by providing practical experience in our cafe.

We'll work with you to create a programme which will develop your confidence, independence and understanding of traveling in and around your local community.

"A gigantic thank you for all you have done for Nafeesa this year. She has thrived under all your care and become more confident and open to new experiences. She used to be afraid of trying anything out of her comfort zone, but now she is tackling each new challenge with a smile on her face."

#### A student's sister - 2019





### Facilities

You'll thrive with our state of the art facilities in Manchester.

These include a hydrotherapy pool, rebound therapy and a specialised 4D sensory learning space.

Our large outdoor space has accessible gardens, specialist bikes and a wheelchair swing for students to use at break times and during the day.

#### Come and see for yourself!



# Integrated therapy

We have a diverse team of professionals that have a range of skills and expertise to help you make the progress you need.

#### They include:

- Speech and language therapists
- Positive behaviour support specialists
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Assistive technologist

We offer bespoke assessments which help us to identity what support you might need, and to plan strategies to help you concentrate for longer on your college work, have your own voice, develop essential social skills as well as improving your overall wellbeing.

We'll adapt your tasks and environments to suit you using specialist equipment.

#### We follow the **Positive Behaviour Support**

**model (PBS)** which means, we identify learning goals that would be beneficial for your long-term wellbeing and we focus on developing these skills to improve your quality of life.

We use a **total communication approach**, which means we use a variety of methods to communicate with each other. For example we use:

- Makaton signing
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Social Stories
- Objects of Reference
- Talking Mats

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# Supported internships

#### What is a supported internship?

In this case, a partnership between an employer and ourselves, to support people aged 16-25 with a disability, into paid employment.

It's a nationally recognised educational hands-on training programme of around 12 months based mainly in the workplace.

We'll support you and your employer to ensure a positive experience for all.

The hands-on training will provide you with the necessary skills to gain employment through real life experiential learning of the world of work. You'll follow accredited units linked to the workplace and develop essential literacy and numeracy skills.

You'll spend four days a week in your employers workplace to complete on the job training.

You'll benefit from:

- New skills valued by employers to enhance your CV
- Learning wider independence skills including independent travel.





### What's next?

We think that Bridge College truly is a specialist college like no other.

But don't take our word for it, **come and see for yourself**.

Contact us to arrange a tour of the college and to find out more about the support we can offer.

Call us on 0161 487 4293 or email admin@bridgecollege.ac.uk



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#### togethertrust.org.uk/bridge-college

Registered charity number 209782