

Bridge College

A specialist college like
no other

Prospectus 2022/23


Bridge
College

TOGETHER
 **TRUST**



Welcome to Bridge College

The Bridge Way Our Guiding Principles

- **Students come first and are at the centre of what we do.**
- **We strive to constantly improve and innovate.**
- **We are all responsible for ensuring the success of Bridge College and its students.**

Bridge College

Openshaw, Whitworth Street
Manchester, M11 2GR

0161 487 4293

admin@bridgecollege.ac.uk

togethertrust.org.uk/bridge-college

A very warm welcome to Bridge College from **Jeremy Swinn,** **Acting Principal**

Welcome to Bridge College. We are part of the Together Trust, one of the North West's leading disability charities. We provide specialist education for students aged 16 to 25 with learning difficulties, complex health needs and autism.

Bridge College is the first step to an independent, happy, adult life for our learners. We're here to give students a voice in their future and get them ready for a happy and fulfilled adulthood.

Students achieve their potential through personalised support, tailored learning and hands on life skills. Our flexible curriculum allows students to make choices about their education and equips them with the skills they need to exceed their aspirations.

Students learn from knowledgeable tutors, speech, language and occupational therapists and behaviour specialists whilst having the support from our highly trained support workers and specialised nursing team.

I'm incredibly proud to be the Principal of such a fantastic college. Our highly experienced and dedicated staff team are passionate about improving the lives for our learners and will do everything they can to support students achieve their best possible outcomes.

The atmosphere is exceptional; come and see for yourself. Contact us now to arrange a visit and meet our staff team.

Jeremy and everyone at #TeamBridge



Meet our: outstanding integrated clinical team

We have a multi-disciplinary clinical team onsite. The team is made up of Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Positive Behaviour Support Specialists, Assistant Psychologist, Assistive Technologist, Physiotherapist, and Nurses.

At the college we use an integrated therapy model which means clinicians work directly and in collaboration with specialist tutors and support staff, as well as the young person.

They work collaboratively by training and upskilling everyone in implementing equipment, specialised programmes, skills teaching or adaptations to the environment or workplace. This support is designed to break down the barriers a young person may face when they access their learning.



Occupational Therapy

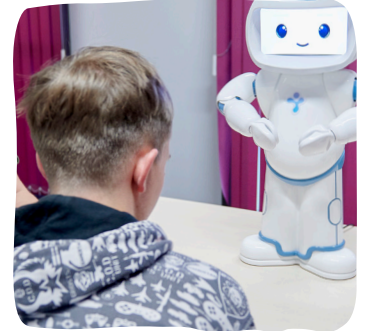
Occupational therapy focuses on the reduction or removal of barriers to engagement in meaningful and purposeful activities, this includes access to the environment, activities of daily living and learning. We complete assessments, set goals and work on increasing independence with everyday activities, including washing, dressing and personal care. The types of treatments we use include: the provision of equipment for independence and learning in the classroom, participation support for students by adding or reducing sensory stimulation throughout their day and specialist assessment in hearing and visual impairment.

The Occupational Therapy team work alongside the tutors and therapists, ensuring that the student participation is optimised daily.

Meet our: outstanding integrated clinical team

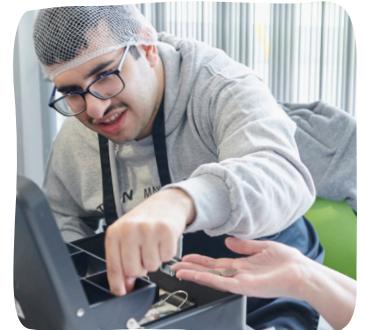
Physiotherapy

The Physiotherapy team help students develop and maintain their physical ability whilst at college. We use a range of treatment options and specialist equipment, which are tailored to individual students needs. Specialist treatments include: hydrotherapy, rebound therapy, postural management and sensory sport. Physiotherapy is embedded at the core of the curriculum and we aim for all our students to reach their optimum physical potential during their journey at Bridge College.



Assistant Technologist

Our Assistive Technologist supports students to learn new skills to interact and control their immediate environment. Specialist equipment is tailored to individuals to support everyone to reach their full potential. We use a range of high-tech equipment including robots, switches, voice recognition software and specialist communication devices. Equipment is embedded into learning sessions to support learners to understand, engage and influence the world around them.



Meet our: outstanding integrated clinical team

Nurses

The nursing team at Bridge consists of 2 nursing staff. We provide day to day nursing support for all students. This includes medication administration, development of care planning, staff training for clinical skills such as gastrostomy care, tracheostomy care and many other clinical skills. We provide care which is evidence based, person centred and holistic. We work closely with the wider team at college and in the community to provide the best support possible for our students. The nursing team look for any opportunity to promote health and wellbeing. We also plan and deliver relationships and sex education.

Speech and Language Therapists

The Speech and Language Therapy team (SALT) support students to develop their speech, language and communication skills. We assess students' understanding and expressive language and provide guidance, support and therapeutic intervention so that they can access their education and communicate more successfully.

We work alongside the tutors and support staff to embed therapy support across the college, ensuring that classrooms are 'communication friendly' by adapting the classroom environment and resources needed to learn. For students with complex communication needs, we provide training and support around Augmentative and Alternative Communication ('AAC') – promoting the use of a range of communication methods including signing and using communication aids. For those who need it, we also provide assessment, advice and support for feeding and swallowing.



Meet our: outstanding integrated clinical team

Positive Behavioural Support

Positive behavioural support is based on an assessment of the social and physical environment in which the behaviour happens. This includes the views of the individual and everyone involved. The assessment uses this understanding to develop support that improves the quality of life for the person and others who are involved with them.

All learners at Bridge are supported on a personalised programme suited to their learning needs. The positive behaviour support team functions as an integrated element of the college support system. The team aims to be integral to the delivery of individual learner's programmes, using functional assessment to identify learning goals that are beneficial to the young person's long term well-being and supporting staff to facilitate the young person's learning according to their individual need.



Our Curriculum

We're proud to offer a person centred curriculum, which is centred around your needs.

We're here to give students a voice in their future and get them ready for a happy, fulfilled adulthood. Our flexible curriculum means students can make choices about their education. And our support gives them the tools to succeed. Together we develop individual learning plans shaped to suit each student's interests, needs and aspirations. So, everyone leaves with the skills and self-confidence for their future.

Why Bridge College?

- We treat everyone as an individual. Create your own learning and support plan based on your aspirations
- Think about what you love to do, then choose from a broad range of vocational subjects to suit your interests
- Celebrate your own version of success, whether that's communicating with more confidence or working towards an accredited qualification
- Get all the support you need to achieve your ambitions. From state-of-the-art facilities to specialist communication tools, to a multi-skilled team of tutors, nurses, therapists and assistive technologists
- Take part in our work experience and supported internship programmes



Our Curriculum

Health

Build new skills to support mental and physical wellbeing, social relationships, and safety. The health curriculum is delivered through a choice of subjects including a variety of internal sport sessions, arts, drama, media, and music. We also offer an individualised PHSE programme including e-safety.

Employment

Our employment framework is focused on developing work-related skills. These include safety in the workplace, teamwork and resilience, customer service, personal development/presentation and the advantages of work. These practical skills are developed in onsite work skills sessions and our creative print and café enterprises. For those who require external placements our onsite team will follow personal aspirations to source sustainable voluntary work placements in the local community.

Community

Access the local area to build your abilities and independence. Build understanding of planning to travel, keeping safe, transport, road safety and practical money skills. Learning options include group community access, community-based sport sessions, swimming, team-based sports and accessible cycling. We also offer bespoke individualised travel training to those who want to learn to travel a set route with increased independence.

Independence

Build your independence to gain new confidence and life skills whilst taking part in catering and horticulture sessions. Our specialist learning teams will support the development of keeping safe, practical daily living skills, routines, dressing and appearance. You will learn how to transfer skills home to support you in your adult life.

Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)

PMLD curriculum based on communication and interaction with high levels of input by AT.

The learners in PMLD access a curriculum written with a communication focus by the Curriculum team and Speech and Language Therapy teams.

Physios provide a comprehensive timetable including hydrotherapy, rebound therapy and physiotherapy passports for sessions which support and facilitate the curriculum. Sessions are designed to ensure consistent delivery across PMLD with a multi-sensory experience at the centre.

All sessions include, sensory stories, intensive interaction, bespoke student activities planned from their targets and aspirations. Occupational therapy support delivery of switch work which enables the learner to interact and control their environment. The multi-sensory communication approach includes sensory cues which indicate key moments and transitions in the day. All these facets come together to deliver an education which develops the learners ability to access the world around them and to make decisions to control their experience and environment.



Autism (ASC)

Autism curriculum

All the students at the college have an individualised curriculum that is tailored to meet their needs and aspirations. We recognise that many of our students with autism benefit from a low stimulation and highly structured environment to support their learning.

Our autism friendly classrooms have a familiar and consistent staff team. Tutors work collaboratively with the college's therapy team, particularly the occupational therapy team and positive behaviour support team to ensure students are happy, calm and ready to learn.

The college is always looking at innovative ways to enhance the opportunities for students. We have recently introduced social robots within the curriculum, which focuses on the development of social communication and emotional skills to reduce levels of anxiety for young people and enhance their mental health and wellbeing.



Pastoral Support

Pastoral support

Each student has a dedicated Advanced Support Practitioner. They are responsible for continually reviewing a student's progress and well-being. They provide support plans, resources and support with transition to and from college. Advanced Support Practitioners ensure there's regular communication between college and home for each student and their families.

The college has regular Parent/Carer Forums where our student's families can come together to discuss and input ideas they feel are important to their young person.

Advanced Support Practitioners are the vital connection between student's families, our students, external professionals and our overall staff team to ensure their students' needs are met.



Facilities

State of the art facilities

Our purpose-built building is located in Openshaw, Greater Manchester. At Bridge College, we've designed a space where everyone can thrive. Our building is constructed to support students with independence and community engagement. Our position and accessible transport allow all our learners access to local community learning opportunities. We have an onsite hydrotherapy pool and purpose designed learning spaces. Outside we have accessible grow your own gardens, specialist bikes, an outdoor gym and wheelchair swing.

Come and see for yourself.



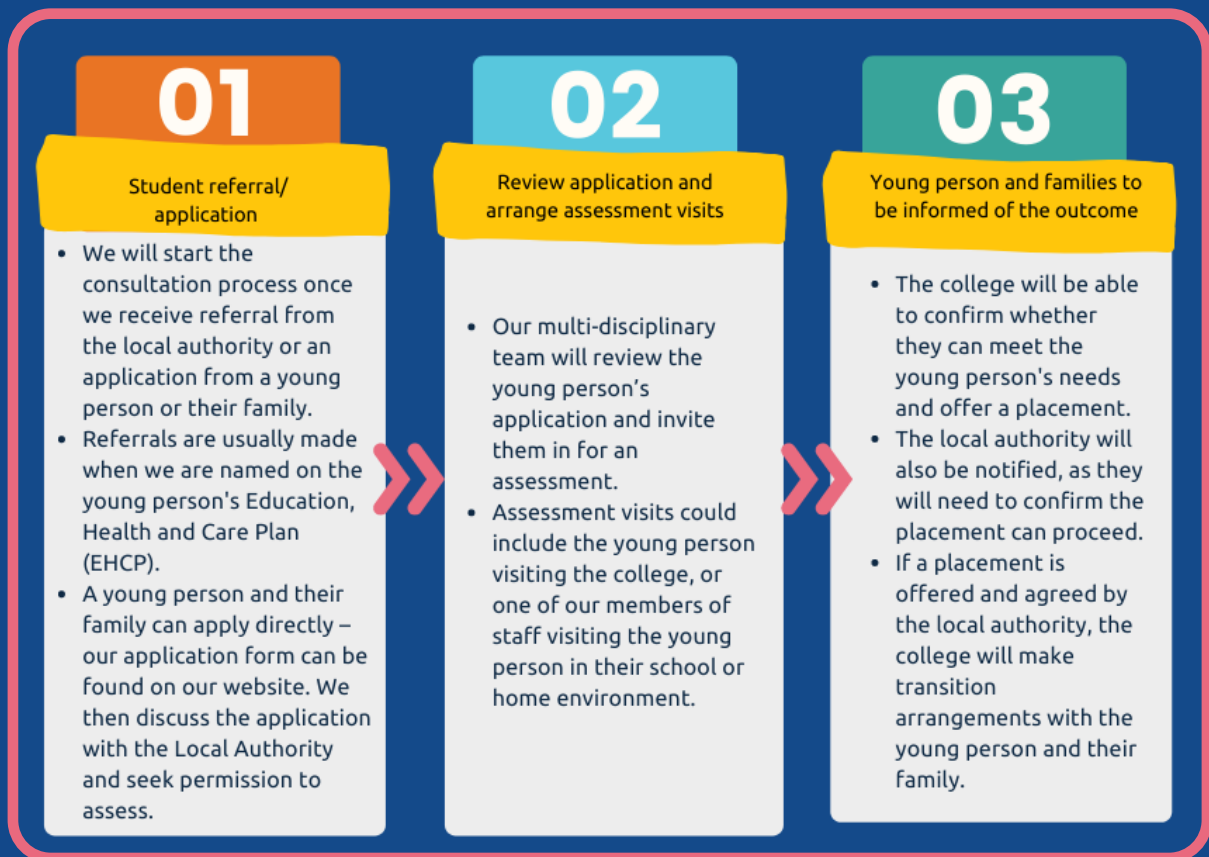
What next?

We think 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.



Application journey:



You can find out more by visiting the 'how to apply' page on our website: togethertrust.org.uk/bridge-college/how-to-apply

Bridge College Openshaw

Whitworth Street, Manchester, M11 2GR

0161 487 4293 | admin@bridgecollege.ac.uk

togethertrust.org.uk/bridge-college

f BridgeCollegeTT  **bridgecollege_**