

Bridge College

A specialist college like
no other

Prospectus 2023/24


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

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togethertrust.org.uk/bridge-college

A very warm welcome to Bridge College from **Principal John Cannon.**

Welcome to Bridge College. We are part of the Together Trust, one of the North West's leading disability charities and 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, range of therapy services including speech and language, occupational therapists and behaviour specialists whilst having the support from our highly trained support workers and specialised nursing team.

I'm very 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 where we make sure students come first, make lifelong memories and develop a wide range of new skills.

John 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

Assistive technology strategies support 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 provide day to day medical support for all students. 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.

Preparation for life and work

The Preparation for Life and Work curriculum is composed of personal, social and health development, skills for independence, functional skills, and an introduction to the concept of employment. The pathway will stretch and challenge students to develop knowledge, skills and behaviours and make informed choices and decisions that will support the transition to their planned destination, and ultimately, to adulthood.

On completion of a successful Preparation for Life and Work programme, students will make a transition towards their chosen destination including progression to one of the more employability focused pathways, supported or independent living, or further educational opportunities.



Preparation for life and work

Work placements

We work with a variety of organisations and students are provided with opportunities to gain skills in a variety of employment sectors linked to their aspirations.

Enterprise and lessons

In addition to student's external work placements, they continue to develop their employability skills through the college's student run café, print shop and internal assistant roles. The Supported Internship curriculum includes both accredited and non-accredited work-based learning. It also focuses on independence, social development, and physical and mental wellbeing.

Travel

Where appropriate, students have opportunities to develop their independence when travelling to and from college/ work, supported by the college's accredited travel trainers.



Supported Internships

We have started working with Project Search and Sodexo to offer a Supported Internship course starting in September 2024.

The programme is based directly in the workplace at Sodexo to provide an on-the-job experience for interns.

The length of the course is one academic year, and the aim is to secure paid employment on completion along with developing other meaningful skills.

Interns will have access to specialised therapeutic input including speech and language therapy and occupational therapy. They will also have access to expert travel training professionals to support their independent when travelling to and from work.



Supported Internships

About Sodexo

Sodexo has around 30,000 employees and has more than 2,000 sites where they provide facilities management and food services in environments including office buildings, hospitals, schools, military sites, sports stadiums, prisons, and more.

The Supported Internship will be based at Sodexo's Head Office site in Salford, and interns will have opportunities to work at sites across Greater Manchester.

About DFN Project SEARCH

DFN Project SEARCH believe in empowering all young people to enter the workplace with confidence.

DFN Project SEARCH is a business-led, one-year transition to employment programme for young people with a learning disability and autism or both.

DFN Project SEARCH is based on the most successful transition to work programmes in the world and has been recognised by the UK government as a model of good practice within the national learning disability strategy "Preparing for Adulthood pathways".

At the end of the programme, on average 60% of DFN Project SEARCH graduates move into full-time permanent roles and 70% of DFN Project SEARCH graduates gain jobs in total.



Find out more: togethertrust.org.uk/bridge-college/how-to-apply

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

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. Advance 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:

01

Student referral/ application

- We will start the consultation process once we receive referral from the local authority or an application from a young person or their family.
- Referrals are usually made when we are named on the young person's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- A young person and their family can apply directly – our application form can be found on our website. We then discuss the application with the Local Authority and seek permission to assess.

02

Review application and arrange assessment visits

- Our multi-disciplinary team will review the young person's application and invite them in for an assessment.
- Assessment visits could include the young person visiting the college, or one of our members of staff visiting the young person in their school or home environment.

03

Young person and families to be informed of the outcome

- The college will be able to confirm whether they can meet the young person's needs and offer a placement.
- The local authority will also be notified, as they will need to confirm the placement can proceed.
- If a placement is offered and agreed by the local authority, the college will make transition arrangements with the young person and their family.

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





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