

Bridge College

A specialist college like
no other

Prospectus 2024/25


Bridge
College


TOGETHER
TRUST
charity





A Bridge to **new skills**
where students **thrive**
and **belong**

The Together Trust

We are passionate supportive
positive professional

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.

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



Our Curriculum

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

Meaningful relationships are created through an ethos of high expectations, aspirations and opportunity. All work collaboratively with shared values to support students to take their place and have a positive impact on society. Our curriculum is tailored towards the individual aspirations and needs of our learners. We provide students with the essential skills and knowledge to help them thrive in line with their personal targets. Our curriculum is highly influenced by student voice and we introduce students to future opportunities which will build on their existing skills, whilst challenging them to reach their full potential.

We are

passionate

supportive

positive

professional



Foundation	Vocational - Extended Curricular	Personal Emotional Social Development	Assessment & Accreditation Opportunities	Pathways
<p>Functional Skills</p> <p>Literacy</p> <p>Numeracy</p> <p>Information and Technology</p>	<p>Options</p> <p>Forest School</p> <p>Duke of Edinburgh Student Council, Arts Award, Sports Award</p> <p>Enrichment</p> <p>Music, Drama, Art, Gardening, Animal Care, College gatherings, whole college events, Hair and Beauty</p>	<p>Integrated Therapy</p> <p>Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT), Positive Behaviour Support (PBS), Occupational Therapy (OT), Physiotherapist, Assistive Technologist</p> <p>Personal Development</p> <p>Community and Travel, Home Living (including home cooking), Active Learning, Enterprise</p>	<p>Edexcel NOCN</p> <p>Arts Award</p> <p>DofE</p>	<p>Steps to work</p> <p>Skills For Life (independence skills)</p> <p>Sensory</p> <p>Supported Internships</p>
<p>Employment</p> <p>Work Experience, Careers, Work Shadowing</p>				

Our Curriculum Pathways

Sensory

Sensory Curriculum focuses on 3 core principles:

Curiosity, Communication and Connection

On the Sensory pathway this will centre around maximising independence and self-advocacy, developing a learner's control of the world around them.

Curriculum will work closely with the therapy teams (OT, SaLT, Physio, PBS, Medical) to maximise the potential of every learner. Learners on this pathway can have complex physical, developmental and medical needs which need careful planning and care from the whole MDT team.

Students will be supported through switch work and a total communication approach with a clear program of day care and activities that learners can access.

Skills For Life

Bridge offers all 'Skills for Life' students a foundational suite of curriculum subjects that provide a solid foundation of learning and experiences that are meaningful and relevant. Through our unique Curriculum Offers there are a range of additional curriculum subjects and experiences that allow students to discover new topics and ways of seeing the world, enabling them to develop into rounded individuals.

Steps To Work

Steps to Work offers a pathway for students to develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes that enable individuals to navigate various aspects of their personal and professional lives. Through a range of enterprise and employability-focused sessions, students will pursue their work aspirations, develop own career preparation skills and their personal development goals.

Our steps to work pathway also offers a pre internship course which consists of Employability skills, personal development as well as Maths and English.

Supported Internships

Supported internships are a structured, work-based programme with the core aim to provide the opportunity for young people to achieve sustained, paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace, facilitated by the support of an expert job coach.



Subject offer

Literacy

Within Literacy we focus on further developing functional reading, writing and comprehension skills, along with communication, for students to utilise in real life situations and to support students to access the wider curriculum.

Numeracy

Students engage in real life numeracy related topics, such as understanding the value of and use of money, further developing their concept of time and sequencing work associated tasks.

PSHE

Students engage in a wide range of topics which support their personal development and prepares them for life after college. PSHE covers essential areas such as careers, relationships, health and wellbeing, safety and sex education.

Home living

Our Home Living curriculum prepares students to increase their independence in home or familiar environments. Students will develop practical daily living skills, which they can confidently implement in their day-to-day adult lives. This incorporates personal hygiene and care, cooking, cleaning and establishing routines.

Active learning

Active learning supports students' wider development through combining physical health and promoting teamwork and collaboration. Students will engage in a range of sports, horticulture-based activities, all of which are accessible to our wider cohort.

Community and travel

Integrating our students into the local, and wider, community is fundamental to our aims and ethos. Students will access the local area to build their understanding of planning to travel, keeping safe, transport, road safety and practical money skills. For some of our students there is also a focus on acceptance of different sensory environments. Community based activities link with the wider curriculum to include visits to museums, art galleries, community-based sports sessions, swimming, team-based sports and accessible cycling, as well as generalising skills learned within the classroom.

We also offer bespoke travel training to those who want to learn to travel a set route with increased independence.

Enterprise

Enterprise focuses on new and innovative ways for students to develop their creative, business and leadership skills. These can then be utilised to make products, create marketing material and generate profits, which are then re-invested in future projects and the local community.

Creative Arts

This area of the curriculum offers opportunities to engage in visual and performance-based arts, ranging from digital media, art and design to dance, drama and music. Students follow the Arts Award scheme of work and have opportunity to show case their work to a range of audiences and in professional settings.

Enrichment

A range of extra-curricular activities which enhance the daily timetable and provide students with memorable experiences where they can learn new skills and be exposed to new opportunities based on personal aspirations and interests.

Motor Activity Training Programme

At Bridge College, MATP is the special Olympics sport and sensory programme for students with severe and/or multi disabilities across the sensory pathway. The aim of the programme is to lead to sporting achievement that is relative to the individual, giving athletes on the MATP programme the opportunity to compete and demonstrate their skills with other learners across the borough, district and nationally through MATP challenge Events and the Special Olympics. It provides genuine opportunities that are realistic and tailored to individual needs. Through the programme we look to increase physical activity, functional ability, and interaction through sport, whilst promoting positive self-image, engagement, and friendship.

Multimedia and ICT

Multimedia and ICT will teach students to use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content.

Careers

Students who are supported by our careers team focus 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 on site via enterprise sessions. We will source sustainable work placements, in line with personal aspirations, for students who are at a stage where they are able to access external working environments.

We monitor and track progress in line with the functional skills, Arts Award and personal, social, health and economic framework.



Supported Internships

Our supported internships are full time work placement with a view for students to gain paid employment by the end of the programme. We are working in partnership with DFN Project Search and Sodexo.

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.



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.

The Sodexo logo features the word "sodexo" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. A red swoosh underline is positioned under the "o" and "d", and a blue star is placed above the "o".

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

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 utilising and implementing special equipment and, 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.



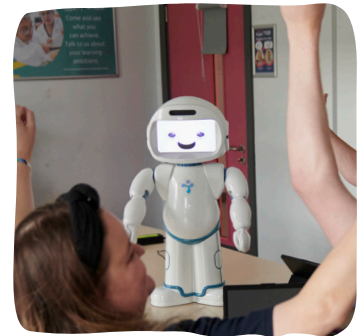
Physiotherapy

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.



Assistive 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.



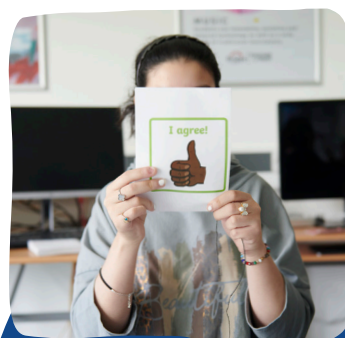
Nurses

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.

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.



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.



Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)

Our learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties 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)

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 Pastoral, Learning Support Manager or Senior Learning Support Assistant. They are responsible for working alongside the tutors to review progress and ensure well being are effective. The pastoral team establish regular communication between college and home for each student and family. They also ensure that support plans are integrated into classroom practice, provide resources and support with transition to and from college.

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.

The pastoral team 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, a rebound therapy room, a sensory room 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



Bridge
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