



Summer 2019

In this newsletter

- ILS Official Grand Opening
- Islington Schools and Community Sports Awards
- Bike Riders
- Riffat Hussein's Story
- New Hungerford Library
- Secondary School Journey
- Satellite Provision Visit
Science Museum
- Goodbye Cheryl & Sally!



Welcome

What a great year this has been. There have been some amazing success stories, some of which are shared in this newsletter. There are stories about awards pupils and teams have received from Islington Schools and Community Sports Awards; we have reports of new openings - the ILS (even though it has been open for a while, we had an 'official' opening) and the new library at Hungerford. Some articles describe activities that have happened in our schools, such as a visit to the Science Museum and the secondary school journey. This term we say goodbye to some long serving members of staff, hear from a parent, and there is also a story about a sponsored 100 mile bike ride.

I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening across the schools in the Trust. I'd also like to wish you a wonderful summer and we look forward to all meeting up again in September.

Dr. Penny Barratt
CEO



ILS Official Grand Opening

Wednesday 19th June saw the long awaited opening of the Integrated Learning Space and the Integrated Living Space (our residential unit) in our new, purpose built buildings on Dowrey Street, Islington.

With a lot of planning and a few volunteers to arrange the day, guests, parents and students were treated to a colourful and creative performance from Mrs H and the Singalong Band before children's author and poet, Michael Rosen, formally opened the school with a poem. We all then moved into the hall for a very special celebration assembly, where we recognised and applauded some amazing achievements of our students that day.

More music from Mrs H and our farewell song helped us to show our students to the buses and begin the festivities in earnest for guests, staff and volunteers.

Special thanks go to Claire, Nicole, Daniel and Sam and all the staff from the ILS for their work in helping to organize the day, and of course, thank you to our wonderful students for making the occasion so memorable.



Islington Schools and Community Sports Awards

Connor, Jesiah and Leon from The Bridge Primary are recent winners at the Islington Schools and Community Sports Awards. They won the SEND Primary Team of the Year! Their family, friends and staff from The Bridge turned out to see the boys receive their award. It was a lovely evening held in Islington Town Hall with the Mayor handing out their trophy.

The boys won the award for their achievement in a Boccia competition held in April, where they came 3rd place. This was an event with over 20 teams with players aged from 7-19 years. This was their first time playing Boccia properly, the boys worked brilliantly as a team, they soon learnt the rules and used their skills to beat off some stiff competition! They even beat The Bridge Secondary Team! Our trophy and certificate sit proudly in the school reception for all of you to see!

by Gillian – Class Teacher





Thank you Bike Riders!

by Penny Barratt

Every year staff, students, parents, family members and friends from Woodbridge School do a sponsored bike ride from The Bridge Secondary School to their school, which is just under 100 miles away in Suffolk. They raise amazing amounts of money for us which enables us to buy new things for our schools. This year's bike ride took place on Saturday 22nd June and was completed in record time. I waved them off very early in the morning. Here are some of the photos of them starting off (when they still had lots of energy).



Thank You Tallow Chandlers!

The Bridge London Trust is immensely proud of our relationship with the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers. Stretching many years, the Tallow's have contributed tremendously to our schools and to our charity. Sitting on our Governing Body, sponsoring our Annual Spring Concert, hosting our Auction evening within the splendid Tallow Chandlers Hall and sponsoring innovation at The Bridge year on year.

Most recently, they have funded our Vocational Programme for secondary students, helping us to introduce sixth formers to the working world and gain vital qualifications, accreditation and work experience.

Our Vocational Programme allows students to participate in activities that are unachievable through normal school funding. The forthcoming Horticultural Project has been made possible through their very generous support. This broad range of work-related activities and experiences are only available as a direct result of this grant funding.

Please join us in saying a huge Thank You to the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers for their invaluable support!

Do take a moment to look at their other projects across education, skills and charity covering an incredible history dating back to the 13th Century:

www.tallowchandlers.org

Goodbye Sally!

Sally started working at The Bridge School, then called Rosemary school, 23 years ago at the same time as me. She started as an ICT consultant, then became a full-time teacher who has worked across both the Primary and Secondary Bridge sites, and for many years has served as a school governor.

Her work in education started back in the 1980s when ICT teaching was in its infancy and Sally found herself pioneering the new field of ICT in SEN education. While working at The Bridge School Sally has championed the use of innovative developments in ICT including concept keyboards, digital cameras, sound recorders, interactive whiteboards and plasma screens, iPads and many more. Sally has run training courses around the country, as well as at The Bridge School, on programs such as Communicate in Print and how school staff can benefit their students and enable them to reach their potential. Over many years she has contributed to books, periodicals and schemes of work and is a nationally recognised expert in her field. It is impossible to quantify exactly how much Sally has contributed to the life and success of the school.

She is an inspired and visionary teacher. She is always kind and patient with her students, keen to enable and empower them with access to new technologies and their possibilities. The school will miss her irreplaceable and immense knowledge of all things linked to ICT and SEN, we will miss her common sense, everyday wisdom and pragmatism. On a personal note, Sally has been a mentor to me for the last 18 years or so, initially teaching me how to create PowerPoints and then championing the resources I have made to ensure they reach as many SEN professionals as possible. I will miss her as a colleague and friend.

by Nick Wonham

Sally will be sorely missed. She is a key part of The Bridge and has developed so much in ICT across the schools. She has supported lots of teachers and helped to develop their skills over the years. We really do appreciate everything she has done for us and wish her all the very best in her retirement. I am aware that she has recently become a grandmother and I'm sure she will look forward to spending more time with her family. Thank you Sally and all the best.

by Penny Barratt

Good luck Sally!



Goodbye Cheryl!

Cheryl started work as an SNP at The Bridge School 11 years ago but retires after a much longer career working with young people and adults with learning difficulties over many years. Although she has worked with classes of all ages at the Secondary site, she has worked most closely with the 6th Form classes.

Anyone who knows Cheryl will know her as the passionate, if sometimes frustrated, custodian of The Secondary School garden. Over many years she has taken small groups of students to the garden to gain invaluable work experience, develop skills and acquire knowledge of flowers and plants including how fruit and vegetables grow, and develop an appreciation of nature, wildlife and beauty.

The students are always at the heart of Cheryl's concerns and interests. She is kind, gentle and patient with them, and tries to understand the world from their point of view. She will be sorely missed by all her friends and colleagues at the Secondary School.

by Nick Wonham

I have known Cheryl for the 11 years she has worked at The Bridge and want to wish her all the best in the future. The students are going to really miss her, particularly those who have worked on gardening projects. Good luck Cheryl with all that you do in the future.

by Penny Barratt

Good luck Cheryl!



Parents' Group Inspired Me

Riffat Hussein, a Primary parent, found support for her ambitions through the Parents' Support Group; and took the time to tell us her story

I came into the Parents' Group around September, and I was feeling like my self-esteem was low, as it seemed for everyone else it was a new year and new start while I wasn't sure what to do with my career and my future.

Though that changed when I spoke to Mandy from the Parent's Group. I told her that since having my son Rayan, finding a career that will be flexible enough to accommodate my needs and his was difficult. I was interested in becoming a speech and language therapist and I had a degree from before having my son and back then I was more of a career orientated person. I tried to submit an application but didn't think I could go for the masters qualification, until I spoke to Mandy who gave me the confidence to go for it and believed in my experience. She gave me her time to discuss my options, ambitions and aspirations. I wanted to work abroad, possibly as a speech and language therapist in the middle east, and she really made me feel like I could do it.

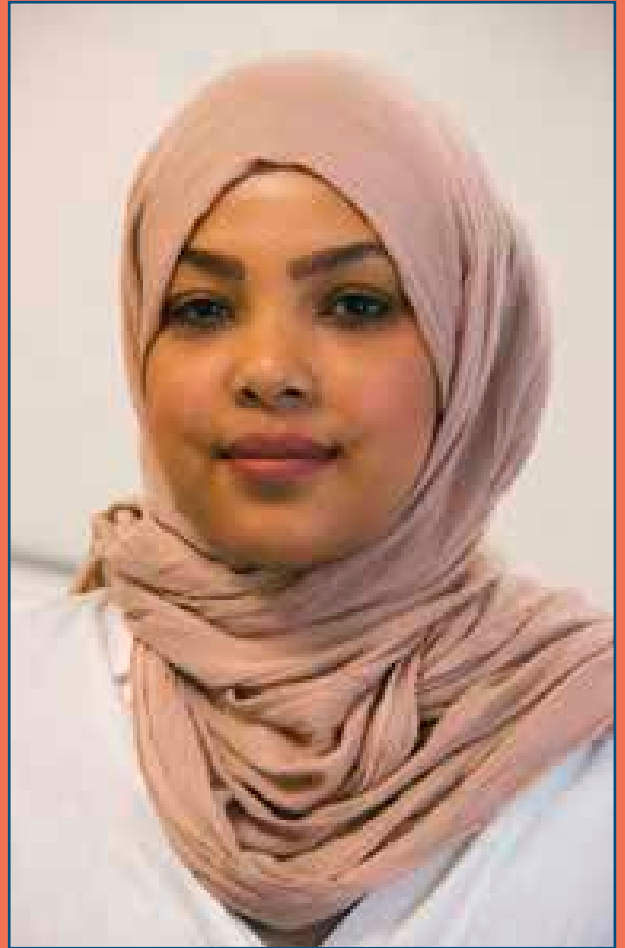
It's such a long application process of around six weeks, and even at times I wanted to give up but I remembered that conversation which motivated me to continue. Even if you feel like it might not work out, it's worth applying to take a chance. I was really lucky to get an interview as out of a thousand people who applied only 300 people were called for an interview, and City University were the only place in London that would do the masters in Speech and Language Therapy.

When I went to the interview they made us aware of how lucky we were to be there. I had a full hour interview and I was surprised at myself for how much I knew based on my experience with the Parents' Group, such as using visuals and loads of other tips I picked up from the group and the Speech and Language Therapists at The Bridge. I felt really confident talking about subject matters that weren't academically my domain.

I was lucky enough to be offered one of the 100 places and I think it was due to how much my experience had spoken to them despite maybe some other people having more academically relevant backgrounds. I think it really comes down to being in that parents room that morning. Had I not come to the parents group that day, I wouldn't have had the determination or the confidence to do the application, and it would have still been one of those things where you think I can always do it next year or another time. Having someone there who really believed in me, who said I could do this really made such a difference and I'm so grateful to Mandy and the Parents Group. I hope my experience would encourage any other parents who are considering their future or the their options.

I know it can be hard having a child with special needs and at times it can feel like you're being held back from a lot, and I know it will still be hard being able to juggle things, but I'm so excited to be pursuing this for myself. I've had so much support from the school and I know I can have that support going forward from the teachers as well as Mandy and Penny.

I would also say if I can do this, then anyone can do this. If this story speaks to you I would encourage anyone to pursue what they want to do, knowing the support of the Parents' Group can be there if you need it.



**You can find out more about The Parents' Group
by contacting Mandy Stock at**

mandy.stock@thebridgelondon.co.uk

Secondary Win SEND Team of the Year

Over the course of the year the Bridge Secondary Team has been involved in many competitions and events including the Panathlon Multisport finals plate, Boccia competition and the South London Special league football competition, applying the physical and social skills that they have learnt during PE lessons.

Our students have demonstrated some great performances as individuals and as a team, won several medals and shown lots of enthusiasm of taking part in different competitions. They have developed skills, such as sportsmanship, friendship, teamwork and independence in community settings. Finally, their success has great impact across the school and it has encouraged new members that previously never participated in sports to join the team, which is actually their greatest achievement.

Well done to Kourtney, Dylan, Hannah, Eric, Matthew JP, Mohammed, Lameen, Alex, Eke, Mertcan, Yusra, Anthony, Matin, Yahya and Samy!



Dylan wins Athlete of The Year

Dylan is a strong team player and shows great desire to win. He always works hard in PE lessons and he has demonstrated significant improvement over the course of the 4 years being at the Bridge Secondary School.

He has helped his team to win a lot of the football games and medals in Multisport competitions this year, and he always encourages the younger team players by offering help and motivation. In general, he achieved well in a variety of sports this year demonstrating excellent leadership, sportsmanship and teamwork skills.

Well Done Secondary!

Canal Trip for Secondary Sixth Form

Some of our Sixth Form students had the opportunity to take part in a free canal boat trip! Despite the rainy weather, all our students and staff had a great time travelling on the boat called Angel II, which has been based at Angel, Islington since 1776. We had a chance to meet with a professional skipper and learn more about the fascinating world of our local canals.



New Library Open at Hungerford

Hungerford schoolchildren were joined by the Mayor of Islington Cllr Rakhia Ismail and children's author David Solomons to celebrate the opening of their refurbished library on Wednesday 26th June. Cllr Ismail and David cut the ribbon at the opening and the author also read some of his stories during a special assembly.

Parent Helen Burchett spearheaded the relaunch of the library, which was previously a classroom. She spent hours organising and cataloguing the books, as well as ordering furniture and rugs using money raised by the PTA.

The library is now a very welcoming place where children can go to read for pleasure. Every class will get access to the library through the week and for those who would like to, can borrow books to take home.

Yusuf, 7, who is in the school council, said he was looking forward to regularly using his new library.

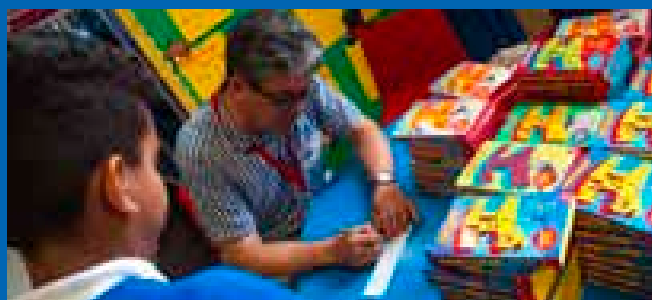
"Reading is important because you can get a good job and become a lawyer" he said.

Joshua, 7, agreed with him, adding: *"You can succeed if you read and you'll get know a lot about the world."*

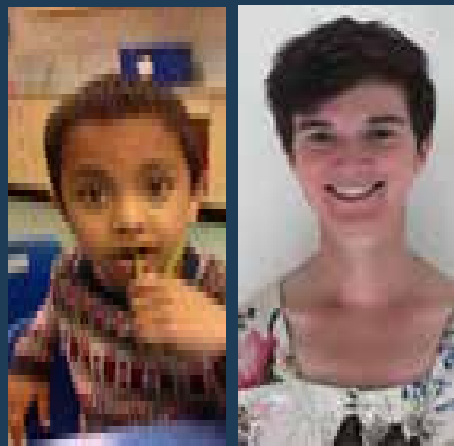
David Solomons kindly donated a set of his popular 'My Brother is a Superhero' books, which have joined the well-stocked fiction section. There is also a large non-fiction section which the children can use to support their topic work.

Miss Stephens is very happy about the new library, which is all part of the schools drive to raise literacy standards, and the whole school is incredibly grateful for the amazing efforts of Helen for seeing the project through from beginning to end.

Helen Burchett (below) has put in so much fantastic work to make this possible!



Healthy Eating Project at Primary



by Poppy Bonsor

At the Bridge Primary site, pupils and parents have been learning about Healthy Eating.

We have collected the heights and weights of all pupils. Pupils have been learning how to use the electronic scales chair and how to measure each other's heights. We have also started Fun with Food lessons, where pupils are learning to touch, smell, taste and eat new foods through a program of systematic desensitisation to foods.

Parents were invited to two sessions; one lead by Jamie, our resident Development Psychologist, on the reasons why children with autism can have issues around food and eating. The second session focused on diet and nutrition which was run by our Dieticians, Clair and Alex.

This term we are learning more about exercise and looking forward to sports day!

Well done our Vitality Runners!

Our staff go the whole 10k for our Charity! Fantastic effort!

The late bank holiday in May saw three runners undertake the challenge of running and fundraising for The Bridge Charity, by taking part in the Vitality London 10,000. Julian Matthews (Head of Secondary), Sam White (Partnerships and Communications Manager) and Tom Linton-Smith (Friend of The Bridge London Trust) ran the route from Green Park to Bank and back again, sporting their The Bridge Charity t-shirts to help raise awareness of our Charity's work.

The money raised will go towards helping the Trust achieve one of our exciting Fundraising projects across the schools. A massive Thank You to all those supporters that have donated so generously, taking us to within 5% of our target presently. Wholehearted praise and gratitude goes to these three for their dedication, endurance and effort in making this such a success. There is still time to push beyond their target, so if you would like to help raise even more money for our Charity, then you can! Visit their page by searching for 'Team Bridge London' on **Virgin Money Giving** to donate. If you have any ideas or ambitions for your own fundraising activities or events to support **The Bridge Charity** we would love to support you.

Email fundraising@thebridgelondon.co.uk with your ideas or for more information.



Hip Hooray For The Panto Dame!

A massive thank you to The Toy Project in Archway for arranging, and MONAT for sponsoring, an amazing interactive storytelling session at our Primary site with The Panto Dame reading and performing Jack and The Beanstalk.

We had a day full of sessions so each class could enjoy the storytelling, and they were all as enthusiastic as the last. The Primary children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as did our teachers!



Islington Boat Club and The Satellite Provision



Many thanks to the Islington Boat Club for inviting us to kayaking sessions this term. As always, the pupils (and staff) really benefited from the experience and have increased their confidence in and around the water. Read about their experiences in their own words below.

Read our
Satellite Ships Log!

Fawaz

On Thursday's we leave the school at 9:30 and walk to the bus stop, to catch the 274 bus. Then we get off at Angel. Walking along, everybody is hyper and chatting all the way to the boat club. Once we get there we listen to our kayaking instructors – Danny and Sabrina. Then we take our bags and coats off. Next we grab our kayaking gear life jackets and paddles.

After we go to the wet, wobbly jetty and we climb into the kayaks on the canal. Over the weeks we have learnt to paddle forwards and backwards. Also, we have used double kayaks for longer journeys and had to work closely as partners. We learnt to turn the boats 360° by paddling forwards and backwards on opposite sides. When a narrow boat comes we move to the side of the canal so that we stay safe.

Sometimes it makes me feel cold, but is enjoyable to row the boats and work with partners. However, when it is hot I like to row as fast as I can and the wind hits my face I feel free. After the lesson, we change out of our wet clothes and are all ready to eat. As we are starving!

Benedicte

Kayaking is fun. As I like to control the boat by myself. I can now move the boat backwards. I feel confident in the boats. At the end I am really ready for lunch.

Isaiah

Kayaking is awesome. I have learnt to paddle a single boat and turn it around. Kayaking makes me feel great because we exercise, play games in the boats and we go through tunnels. In the double kayaks we can do teamwork to get to move quickly.

Zeid

Kayaking is fabulous because we can use different types of equipment. When we are paddling it is fun, but we all get really tired. Sometimes we even have races.

Loui

Kayaking is good quality fun. I like being in the single boats. Over the weeks, I have learnt to paddle the boats. I enjoyed the capsize test as I got to go under the water and get very wet.

Rebecca

I like kayaking because it is fun. I was working with Lori in a double boat. I have learnt to paddle right and left. I can now turn the boat all the way round. It makes me feel good and I like to put my hands into the water.

Muhammad

I have learnt to work with a partner to paddle a double boat forwards and backwards. We have seen bird's nests, weeds and lots of different boats. Each week we are getting a little bit faster. It makes me feel excited and happy. This week we knocked into Vicky's boat and she nearly fell in the water. It made me laugh.

Secondary School Journey



School Journey happened a month earlier than usual this year; in May rather than June, however the weather was kind to us and we had warm sunny weather for all the outdoor activities which the staff going often enjoy as much as the students.

Our first activity on Monday afternoon was exploring and playing games in the maze. Then on Tuesday we had canoeing and circus skills. On Tuesday evening we went to a restaurant, which was many of the student's favourite activity!

On Wednesday morning we took part in rock climbing. Several of the students who had been on School Journey before, now climbed noticeably higher than they had previously. Raft Building in the afternoon was great fun, with the two teams splashing each other so much they found it difficult to concentrate on the games. Four people ended up in the water, one of them on purpose, the other three by accident, including one of the centre's instructors.

On Thursday morning we had the King Swing, which for many of the students (and staff) is the greatest challenge of the week. It's like a normal swing, but ten times bigger and you need to be harnessed in for safety. A couple of the students managed to complete their swings from the highest point!

On Thursday afternoon we had Archery. We were split into three teams, one of which, 'Team Arsenal', just contained students, and after all our games this was the team that won! As always School Journey is a joy as it gives the students the opportunity to reach their potential when faced with challenging activities which they might otherwise never have the chance to participate in.

Many thanks to all the staff who supported the students during the week from school, and thanks also to the brilliant Frontier Centre and their fantastic instructors.

by Nick Wonham

Satellite Provision Visit Science Museum

Explorer class recently enjoyed a trip to the Science Museum in Central London, spending time in the Wonderlab. They found being hands-on with the scientific phenomena really engaging, particularly the 'Flowing Mist' in the Matter Zone!

Once back in school, we reflected on our science experience and created our own recounts of the trip.

The Story of Our Trip | Written by Jibril

Chapter 1: so here we are, we walk down North Hill to the tube station and get on the tube to South Kensington.

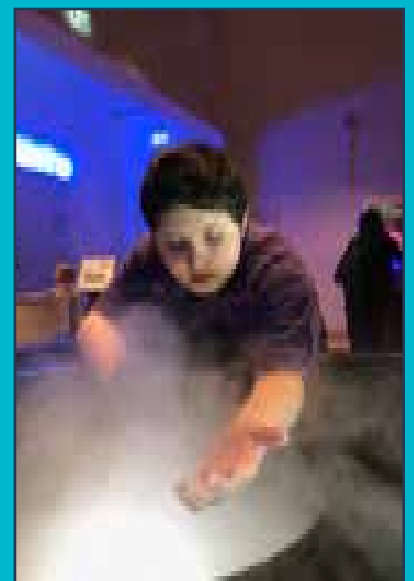
Chapter 2: The Science Museum, we entered throughout the school entrance. When we got inside we had snack and walked around the building until The Wonderlab session.

Chapter 3: The Wonderlab. We had to leave our bags behind to enter. When we got in, we had the time of our life in there.

Chapter 4: Going back. We exited the building and caught the tube back to school. We walk up North Hill to get back.

Enjoy List: Things I enjoyed, Heat Camera and the Spinning thing.

THE END



The Story of Our Trip | Illustrated by Neil

Neil from Explorer class also took the time to draw and write this fantastic comic strip about our trip.



Key Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2019

Monday 2 September 2019 - Thursday 19 December 2019

Monday 2 September 2019

Tuesday 3 September 2019

Monday 21 October - Friday 25 October 2019

Monday 28 October 2019

Thursday 19 December 2019

INSET Day (School is closed to children)

Children return to school

Half Term

Children return to school

Last day of term for children

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6 January 2020 - Friday 3 April 2020

Monday 6 January 2020

Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February 2020

Monday 24 February 2020

Monday 6 April 2020 – Friday 17 April 2020

Friday 10 April 2020

Monday 13 April 2020

Children return to school

Half term

Children return to school

Easter Holidays

Good Friday (School is closed)

Easter Monday (School is closed)

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20 April 2020 - Tuesday 21 July 2020

Monday 20 April 2020

Friday 8 May 2020

Monday 25 May 2020

Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May 2020

Monday 1 June 2020

Friday 17 July 2020

Monday 20 July 2020

Tuesday 21 July 2020

Children return to school

May Bank holiday (School is closed)

Spring Bank holiday (School is closed)

Half term

Children return to school

Last day of term for children

INSET Day (School is closed to children)

INSET Day (School is closed to children)

Please check our website for the latest information on INSET Days



www.thebridgelondon.co.uk

