



# The Bridge London

## Winter 2018

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# Welcome

## Welcome

I seem to always write in my introduction to these newsletters that we have had a really busy term. This term is no exception. We have been very busy in all four schools. We have had Parent's Evenings and lots of training for staff. Different schools have run a range of events for parents as well.

This newsletter says hello to some of the new staff that have joined us and also says goodbye and thank you to those who have left. We are also celebrating some new equipment bought with money we have raised through fundraising. These include the climbing wall at The Bridge Secondary and outside play equipment at The ILS. We continue to fundraise so that we can buy more exciting resources for all the schools. The schools have also described some of the exciting things they have done this term. These include Hungerford's Year 4 visit to Cardfields, Year 6 visit to the Brecon Beacons, a range of other visits and a Rare Hair Day. The Bridge Secondary were visited by Emily Thornberry MP and The ILS by Sir Michael Parkinson. The Bridge Secondary took part in Shakespeare School's Festival performing 'As You Like It' and a Panathlon football coaching day.

As you can see it has been a very busy and exciting term! I would like to wish you all a great break and we look forward to being back at school on 7th January.



**Dr. Penny Barratt**  
**CEO & Executive Headteacher**

# Welcome Julian!

My name is Julian Matthews and I am really looking forward to taking up the role of Head of School for The Bridge Secondary in the new year.

I have spent the last 3 years working for TBAP Multi-Academy Trust as an Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for SEND and behaviour outreach. This was a very interesting time for the trust as we took on more schools and developed new systems to facilitate the inclusion of primary and secondary students with a range of special educational needs.

I have been fortunate to spend 2 days at The Bridge this term and I was immediately struck by the welcoming atmosphere, the commitment and dedication of the staff and the level of independence of the students.

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work in such an inspirational school and I hope to be able to add to the expertise of the staff and continue to develop outstanding opportunities for the young people in our care.

*Julian Matthews*



# Welcome Jody!



My name is Jody Tranter and I'm delighted to be joining Hungerford as the new Assistant Head for Inclusion & Behaviour.

My last job was Inclusion Manager at a smaller mainstream primary school in Brixton but I've worked in all sorts of schools, including 6 years at a specialist provision for children with SMEH (social, mental and emotional health) needs.

I've only been at Hungerford for a fortnight but I can already see what a special place it is, how much the adults who work in school care about the children here, and how involved the parents are in the children's education - I'm so impressed by how many parents drop off and collect their children every day!

This is an exciting time for the school under its new leadership and I'm thrilled to be able to contribute to the school Hungerford is, and the even better school it will become. I look forward to meeting those parents who I've not yet seen in the coming weeks and months.

*Jody Tranter*



# Farewell Adi!

To our valued friend & colleague Adi, for 8 years of complete dedication and commitment to our young people and staff.

Thank you so much for everything and enjoy the new venture – we will miss you!



# Farewell Cassie!



Sadly, Cassie Smart, an SNP who has worked with The Bridge School for 20 years, is leaving at the end of the term and I think it is safe to say that her presence across the MAT will be sorely missed. Cassie started out working over at the old Prebend Street site and then at the Primary site on Hungerford Road for many years before coming across to the Secondary site, and has worked with pretty much all of the children over the years.

In 2017 she decided to move across to The ILS and of course she has been absolutely amazing during the time she has spent here with us. Over the years that Cassie has been at The Bridge (and before that at The Rosemary School), she has had a huge impact on the lives of the students and their families - transformative impact. She ends her career at The Bridge as a completely trusted and absolutely invaluable member of any team lucky enough to have her. Of course she leaves a legacy, and that's the importance that she places on having a sense of fun when working with the students and being real with them. She will be missed 100%.

*Tom Andrews*

# Farewell Ryan!

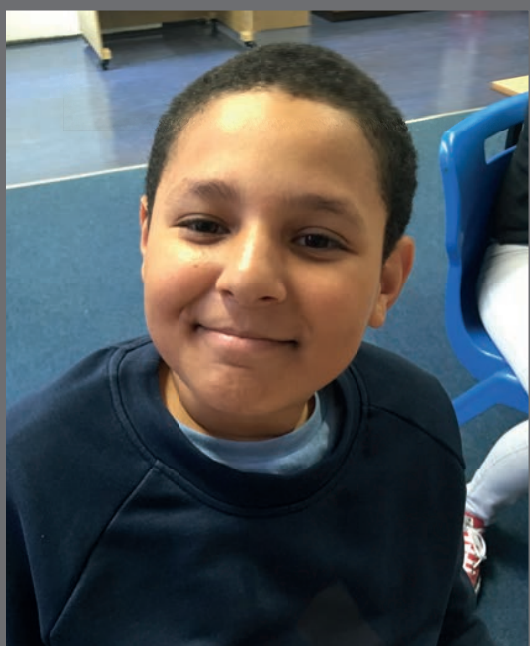


I have worked with Ryan for almost 20 years and it has been a pleasure watch him grow from a young teacher with a passion for making art accessible to his students with learning difficulties and autism, into a school leader where his passion for art now sits firmly alongside his commitment to making teaching and learning across the curriculum the best it can be for The Bridge students; we are all going to miss him. Ryan has brought the creative arts to life at The Bridge in lots of ways. First and foremost by enthusing the students by giving them opportunities to participate in art in ways that are meaningful to them both in the art room at school and at venues all around London. He has also worked with the other arts teachers to develop a Creative Arts curriculum that has brought cohesion to this important area of teaching and learning; an area that enables many of our students to find ways to express themselves and enjoy the world through music, dance, drama and visual arts. Ryan achieved and has maintained the Arts Mark Award for The Bridge School which was no mean feat! As a senior teacher Ryan has made a positive impact supporting teaching staff through coaching sessions. Ryan is a good listener, and on a day to day basis helps out wherever the need arises in a calm and confident way. Ryan, you have been an excellent art teacher, senior teacher, colleague and friend here at The Bridge, and I wish you very success in your new role and roles to come.

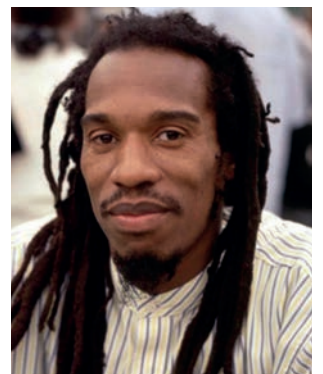
*Sally Paveley*

I believe that we can live without guns,  
Maybe the world will be more fun.  
I believe that children should be encouraged in life  
And teenagers should put down the knife.  
I believe all children should have the right to education,  
So that maybe later on in life,  
They could buy that expensive Dalmatian.  
I hope that everyone will be kind to find happiness in their heart,  
Because that is where it all starts.

by Jibril



*Inspired by  
**Benjamin Zephaniah**,  
Jibril who is in Year 6 at  
our Satellite School, wrote  
a poem describing how he  
feels about the world.*





# Climbing Wall



We are thrilled with the new traverse walls at our Secondary site, and thank The Cloudesley Foundation for their grant.

Recreational space within our purpose built school buildings are extremely limited, whilst a large number of our young people are tremendously energetic. They require a range of physical outlets to support their sensory, health and well-being needs.

Without the assistance and generous support of the Cloudesley Foundation, our young people would not now be cherishing a new safe space in which they:

- Challenge themselves
- Play both alone and collaboratively
- Grow, exercise and develop their movement and well being

# As You Like It!

On Tuesday 27th November, some students from the Sixth Form performed their version of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' at the Park Theatre in Finsbury Park. The play was part of the Shakespeare Schools festival which is countrywide. The students performed to around two hundred people and received huge praise for their performance, especially from Jeremy Corbyn, who was in the audience.





# Thank you Lord's Taverners

## Sir Michael Parkinson and The 100 Property Club!

We had a day to remember on 12th October as former Lord's Taverners President and broadcasting legend, Sir Michael Parkinson (pictured), came to see us to officially open our new sensory play equipment. This was made possible thanks to a £15,000 grant from the Lord's Taverners, the UK's leading youth cricket and disability sports charity.

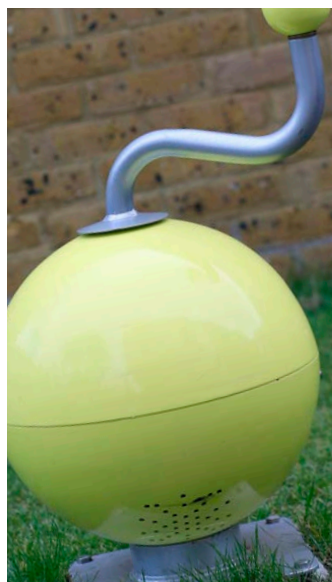
The play equipment, which includes a large swing, a trampoline and an interactive music and story ball, provides lots of fantastic learning opportunities for all our young people who need a tailored, individualised curriculum. We are thrilled that the Lord's Taverners were able to provide this grant for us as it will have such an impact on these young people and their learning and development.



Sir Michael Parkinson's comments were extremely heart-warming saying:

*"It's fantastic to have the opportunity to look around The ILS and see the facilities that we've provided, and see the part they play in the education of the children at The ILS. To watch the staff here dealing with problems that, I wouldn't know how to describe...never mind help with, is moving in the extreme."*

Happy Christmas to all our friends and families and Thank You again to the Taverners. We look forward to welcoming Sir Michael and his friends back to see how the students are using this wonderful new equipment.





# Thank you Emily!

The Bridge Secondary were visited by the Labour MP, Emily Thornberry, as part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Tree Project. The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) is a network of global forest conservation initiatives to mark Her Majesty's lifetime of service to the Commonwealth. Fifty thousand trees were donated to individuals and organisations across the UK to be planted, and we were lucky enough to be given one of them. Emily Thornberry had a tour of our school and presented us with a silver birch tree which our students helped her to plant. We look forward to watching it grow!

[www.queenscommonwealthcanopy.org](http://www.queenscommonwealthcanopy.org)



## Research at The Bridge London

September saw the start of the second and final year of the cycle of the current research strategy. This year we have begun to develop our Reflective Practice at The Bridge Primary as well as begin the second cycle of Learning Communities. This year The Bridge Primary, Secondary and The ILS are working across eight topic areas to evaluate, develop and refine practice. There is also a group who are working on further developing projects developed during last year's Learning Communities. Hungerford and The Bridge Satellites will also look to begin developing a Learning Community cycle.



Early November saw the Training Centre host a multi-disciplinary conference on Interoception, the sense of the internal state of the body, which among other things, plays an important role in helping to understand and regulate emotion. Speakers including leading academics, school-based practitioners and therapists presented theoretical, clinical and practical implications of the latest research around interoception, to an audience of teachers and parents from across the UK. Poppy Bonsor and Jessica Hegarty were invited to share the Fun with Food programme at The Bridge Primary that has built upon our earlier research on Sensory Snack Time.

Sharing our research is a core component of our Research Strategy, and as well as presenting the work, the programme has now been written up and was accepted for publication in the journal 'Frontiers in Education'. It has accumulated over 1,500 views and we hope it will enable other settings to implement similar types of support for their pupils.

As well as continuing to embed the foundation components of the Research Strategy we will continue to develop new projects as well as evaluate existing ones. A new Research and Development Committee will be launched in the new year to oversee and help shape our growing research culture. We hope that 2019 will see the Research Strategy continue to embed itself within the Trust and lead to more exciting developments in practice, innovations and even greater engagement with and in research, from everyone at The Bridge London.



# Learning is Fun at Hungerford



We have had a very exciting term so far. Year 4 have been on a residential trip to Cardfields in Essex



Year 6 have been on School Journey to the Brecon Beacons



We visited Pizza Express, The Oceania Exhibition, the cinema, a chocolate factory and even had a Rare Hair Day!

## The Bridge Secondary Panathlon Football Coaching & Competition Day

The Bridge School attended Panathlon Coaching and Competition Day at Power League Barnet with two age groups, U13 and U16, on Thursday 18th October. It was an exciting day for some of our students because they had the opportunity to join our school team for the first time. They enjoyed some coaching sessions with skills and friendly games, alongside the competition. Well done to Daniel S., Sakariya, Tyrese, Ege, Ryan K., Bobby, Matthew J.P., Kourtney, Mertcan, Yusra, Dylan, Jessiah! Thanks also to the staff that supported!





# Mrs H and the Sing-A-Long!

Mrs H and the Sing-a-long Band came to The Bridge Primary School for another visit in December. It can only be described as mayhem... but so much fun!! If you haven't heard of the band before, the Sing-a-long Band is a group of incredible musicians each with their own independent careers, who run regular free participatory music events for children. In Islington they have weekly sessions in Exmouth Market and they often appear at festivals and events both in London and wider afield.



## Updates from Penny Barratt

### Teaching and Learning Group

Twice a term the Teaching and Learning Group meet. This is a meeting of all the Heads of School, the Assistant Heads and the lead therapists from all four schools. At these meetings we discuss things that apply to all of our schools, share ideas and learn from each other.

At the moment we are doing some exciting work on developing our approach to teaching and learning. Each of the schools has written a teaching and learning plan for their own school, but they are being supported by the other schools to put this into practice.

It's great to work together on this, learn together and support each other.

## The Bridge London Trust and Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)

Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) is an approach to behaviour which we are using in all of our schools. We are working with a PBS coach from the Netherlands. In each school we have a PBS team of 4-5 people who oversee the PBS work at the school. This in-school team receive training each term and then write an action plan for what they hope to achieve that term. They meet regularly and have regular times to discuss PBS with all staff.

We will keep you updated on what we are doing with PBS in future newsletters.

# Learning Environments at Hungerford School and The Bridge School

Stephen Heppell is an English educator who specialises in the development of learning environments. He has worked internationally with Olympic teams, schools, universities and businesses to maximise the environments for learning. The Bridge School and Hungerford School are part of a network of ten schools who together commissioned him to come to Islington to visit our schools and give us his thoughts on how we could improve our learning environments.

On 28th September, Stephen spoke to the school staff at the Islington Assembly Rooms. Before this he had visited the school and taken photos of areas where we could make improvements. His presentation used photographs to illustrate specific things on our site, but also environments that have been created in other learning institutions around the world. When he walked around our schools he considered the lighting, temperature, using ICT for learning, and other ways of encouraging learning by changing the environment. The talk left us inspired and motivated so we have started to improve our environment by assigning project teams to different areas of the school to enhance what we currently have in place. One of the ideas was to improve the levels of oxygen in our school by adding more plants so we had 'bring a plant to school week'. Let's see what else the project teams come up with!

Every space is a learning opportunity, see below!



## New friends arrive at The Bridge!

We have been learning to program!

Bee Bots move by children pressing the arrows on top

Children move the Bee Bots around the room

We used floor maps to take the Bee Bots on different journeys

We used props to disguise the Bee Bots, including hats and sunglasses, adding to the fun. Some children have now been designing their own floor maps, creating individual stories for their Bee Bots.





## Key Dates for your Diary

### SPRING TERM 2019

Monday 7 January 2019 – Friday 5 April 2019

Monday 7th January 2019

Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February 2019

Monday 25th February 2019

Friday 5th April 2019

Monday 8th April - Monday 22nd April 2019

Friday 19th April 2019

Monday 22nd April 2019

Children return to school

Half Term

Children return to school

Last day of term for children

Easter Break

Good Friday (School is closed)

Easter Monday (School is closed)

### SUMMER TERM 2019

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 – Friday 19th July 2019

Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Monday 6th May 2019

Tuesday 7th May 2019

Monday 27th May 2019

Monday 27th May 2019 – Friday 31 May 2019

Monday 3rd June 2019

Friday 19th July 2019

Children return to school

May Bank Holiday (School is closed)

Children return to school

Spring Bank Holiday (School is closed)

Half Term

Children return to school

Last day of term for children

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

INSET Day

INSET Day

The Bridge London

[www.thebridgelondon.co.uk](http://www.thebridgelondon.co.uk)

