



Autumn Newsletter

East SILC The Bridge

MESSAGES FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Message from the Executive Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,
As we come to the end of what has been a busy, rewarding, and inspiring autumn term at The Bridge, I want to express how proud I am of everything our learners have achieved. Their enthusiasm, determination and kindness have shone through in every area of school life, and it has been a joy to see them embrace each new opportunity with confidence and maturity.

Across the curriculum—from maths and English to Hair & Beauty, media, bushcraft, sport and community based learning—our learners have shown resilience, curiosity and a commitment to their personal development. They continue to represent East SILC with positivity and pride.

As we head into the Christmas break, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. Our strong partnership with families is vital to everything we do, and your encouragement makes a tremendous difference.

We wish all our families a peaceful and enjoyable holiday, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another exciting term ahead.
Warmest wishes,

Louise Quinn
Executive Principal

Message from the Head of School

As ever, it has been a busy and rewarding autumn term at The Bridge, with our learners taking part in a wide range of experiences that reflect the very best of our community. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm, determination and pride with which our young people have approached every opportunity. This term, several of our learners have taken part in work experience placements, gaining valuable insight into future employment pathways and developing essential skills for adulthood.

We have also celebrated the achievements of the learners who completed the Fire Service Youth Programme at Killingbeck Fire Station—a truly inspiring programme that has supported them to grow in confidence, teamwork and resilience. Anyone who attended the Pass Out Parade would certainly agree! Many of our young people have been developing their independence further through travel training, learning vital routes and strategies that will help them navigate their communities more safely and confidently. Their maturity and perseverance throughout this learning have been fantastic to see. Learners also took part in the SEND Takeover, engaging with employers and professionals to learn more about career options and next steps.

Our learners have made a wonderful contribution to enhancing the reputation of East SILC at The Bridge. Their positivity, kindness, and willingness to embrace new opportunities make us incredibly proud. We ended the term with truly memorable performances at our Winter Showcase, where every learner shone. Their confidence, creativity and hard work were clear to see, and it was a pleasure to celebrate their achievements as a community.

We wish all our families a peaceful and enjoyable break over the Christmas holidays, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another exciting term ahead.

The Bridge

Art & Crafts

Our learners have been exploring the fascinating world of painting techniques, taking inspiration from legendary artists such as Picasso and Van Gogh. Using acrylic paints, they experimented with mark-making to create unique and expressive pieces.

The creativity didn't stop there! Students attended a special workshop at 'Stitch-Up' in Meanwood, where they were introduced to the art of embroidery—a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills.

Now, our talented learners are putting their skills to work by supporting the Enterprise Group. They're busy crafting beautiful items to sell at the Compass House Christmas Market, we can't wait to see their amazing work on display!



Drama Spotlight

This term, our drama lessons have focused on the exciting world of Melodrama. Learners explored its key features, including stock characters, simplistic and predictable plots, exaggerated physical movements, and short, simple language.

The sessions were full of energy as students created over-the-top performances and worked with scripts to bring dramatic stories to life.

Now, the group has moved on to preparing for the Winter Showcase, where they will present a Melodrama alongside a short Christmas play. Our parents and carers are in for a treat.



Music

The music group has been working hard to prepare for the upcoming Christmas Showcase by learning to play as a backing band. This has involved practicing a range of songs that will feature during the event, including festive classics and popular hits. The group has focused on mastering "Jingle Bells" to bring a seasonal feel, as well as "Don't Look Back in Anger" by Oasis and "Last Christmas" by Wham. The sessions have helped the students develop their timing, coordination, and confidence in performing together as a cohesive unit.



Maths

This term Group 1 learners have focused on their money skills particularly recognising how different coins and notes make the same amount and making the same amount with the fewest number of coins. They have used a range of resources to practice this skill - using real money, word problem worksheets, quizzes and online games.

Groups 2, 3 and 4 are working at different levels in Functional Skills Math's, but all have focused this term on learning about "numbers and the number system; they have followed the math's specification tailored to the level they are working towards to help them understand that numbers are everywhere in and understanding numbers gives you confidence in everyday life.

Production

In production we have been concentrating on making props and stage design for our Winter Showcase. Below is some of the learners hard at work, practicing their craft skills.



The Bridge

Sailing

This term, all learners successfully completed their Entry Level Sailability Award, with several going on to achieve their Bronze Award. Others made excellent progress and have laid strong foundations to begin working towards their Silver Award in the summer term. Sailing during the winter months brought a wide range of challenges. Learners experienced everything from torrential rain and extreme winds to glorious sunshine—and even a day with no wind at all, where the boats had to be paddled around the island! Despite these unpredictable conditions, learners showed outstanding resilience, determination and teamwork throughout every session. A huge well done to everyone involved. We are extremely proud of the progress made.



ASDA Futures Programme

This term we joined an exciting new programme launched by ASDA, involving 13 other schools across the city, with a shared focus on designing and developing a sustainable product. Although we have only completed two sessions so far, our learners have made an excellent start.

As part of the programme, learners also explore employability skills, develop these skills through hands-on activities, and discover more about the wide range of career opportunities available within ASDA. This real-world insight has been hugely valuable and motivating.

Across the sessions, learners have already shown impressive teamwork, communication, problem-solving and creativity. Their confidence has grown noticeably too, especially when presenting their ideas in front of others—something they approached with maturity and enthusiasm.



Travel Training

Here at The Bridge, we've had a very productive term with Travel Training.

We had 2 students Brendan and Alfie pass with flying colours before the October break. They now come to college every day independently with confidence and a smile on their face.

Up next are Jason and Shafi who are well on their way to passing by Christmas. As going out of your comfort zone can be very daunting, the learners have shown real resilience and confidence while training and should be very proud of themselves.



Football Tournament

Earlier in November, we went to South SILC, Future Steps Hub, to participate in a football tournament against other SILC's around the region. The team performed excellently and achieved fourth place out of 12 teams, which is a fantastic result. Everyone enjoyed themselves and represented the SILC incredibly well.



English and Maths in the Community

In English and Maths in the community, we have been focussing on putting the skills we learn in the class room into practice. Below are pictures from our journeys around Leeds and our trips to the Library. In the Library we are practicing our independence, looking for, choosing and borrowing books.



The Bridge

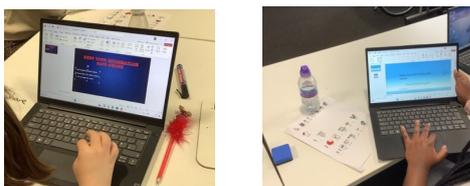
Hair & Beauty Highlights

This term in Hair & Beauty, learners have been combining practical skills with career preparation. In the classroom, they explored job adverts, identified their own skills and qualities, and developed an understanding of how to apply for roles and what to expect during the interview process. On the practical side, students have been perfecting their technique in giving a professional facial. They've enjoyed both providing treatments and receiving them from peers, building confidence and gaining hands-on experience of the work of a beautician.



Media

In media lessons, we have been learning how to keep our personal information safe online. We talked about making strong passwords that are hard to guess and not using things like your name or birthday. We also learned how to check if a website is safe by looking for a padlock symbol and "https" in the address. Other tips include not sharing too much on social media, being careful when using public Wi-Fi, and turning on extra security like two-step login. These steps help keep our information private and protect us from hackers.



SEND Takeover

The SEND takeover involves young people from specialist provisions and schools in Leeds taking over the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board every November as part of the National Takeover Challenge. This year, our learners raised issues regarding transportation to and from school and how it affect their educational growth. They did wonderfully well presenting this work in a room filled with people who they don't know and have not met before.



Fire Service

Fire Service has been a recurring venture within the SILC for years and this year was another great success. Our learners explored a variety of physical tasks and theory-based learning, when brought together; captures the essence of the fire service duties. These tasks included rolling out the fire hoses, understanding how to connect them, learning how to access a fire hydrant, road safety, and understanding all the equipment on a fire engine. One of our more daring ventures involved scaling the fire tower, on a cold and extremely wet day, our group made it all the way to the top in what was equally brilliant as it was terrifying. By the end of the allotted 10 weeks, the learners had to bring all their knowledge together in the pass out parade. This involved performing all their duties including the roll call, rolling out hoses, putting out a (pretend) fire and then bringing all the equipment back onto the fire engine. Plenty of parents and fire station officials were in attendance, we were all in agreement at how excellently they all handled themselves.



Bushcraft

Bushcraft is a new venture our learners have started this year, having the opportunity to engage with a variety of activities, revolving around understanding different aspects of the natural world, as well as practical outdoor skills. The selection of activities is helping to aid our group with preparation for their DofE expedition during the summer term. Lighting fires was our first big objective and our learners managed to conjure flames as easy as breathing. We started with small cotton bud fires all the way up to big campfires, understanding their uses and the important safety aspects. All the learners were excellently mature and focused on the instructions they were given



Exceptional Education for Exceptional Lives

The Bridge

Work Experience

At The Bridge a lot of our learners have been doing work experience. Jamie Clarke has started his work placement at the Co op in Oakwood, he is really enjoying working there on Thursday mornings. Also, Reece Lawn has started his work placement with Oliver Pearson IT technician, he is working on Tuesday afternoons at Roger Cannon.



Shop Cook Eat

This term the learners have had a strong focus on recognising hazards within the kitchen and focussing on how we can recognise them and work together to mitigate them working together as part of a team cook a meal. We then moved on to nutrition and recognising how we can analyse the content of a meal and adapt it to be healthier by using the principle of the NHS Eatwell Guide. The learners have done a fantastic job and now are confidently choosing recipes and where necessary adapting them to build healthy meal plans!



RSE

This term in RSE, learners have been exploring important topics that help them understand what safe, respectful and positive relationships look like. Lessons have focused on recognising healthy and unhealthy relationships, understanding personal boundaries, learning about consent, and practising how to keep themselves safe both in person and online. All learners have shown fantastic engagement throughout the term. They have taken part in meaningful discussions and demonstrated real maturity and openness when exploring these sensitive and relevant topics. It has been encouraging to see them reflect, ask questions and support one another during our sessions.

Enterprise

This term learners have been participating in an enterprise project to plan and make Christmas craft items to sell from a stall at Kirkgate Market as part of the Compass House pop up shop work experience project. All learners had a part in making the enterprise project a success, from the initial planning and making through to packing and selling the items.



Functional skills

The learners have been working extremely hard this term with a focus on increasing their knowledge for the reading skills paper for Functional Skills English. We tackled some tricky content over the last 12 months including differentiating fact from fiction, analysing language features and recognising the purpose of a text.





Important Dates

Please make sure you make a note of these important dates in your diary

Friday 19th December
Monday 5th January
Break Up Half Term
Return To School

Friday 13th February
Monday 23rd February
Break up Half Term
Return To School

Thursday 2nd April
Monday 20th April
Easter Holidays
Return To School

Monday 4th May
Bank Holiday

Friday 22nd May
Monday 1st June
Break Up Half Term
Return To School

Friday 17th July
Summer Holidays



NURSING CONTACT INFORMATION

We would like to ensure that you have the Inclusion Nursing Service Contact details, should you need to contact a member of the team during the holiday.

Jacquie Beattie

East SILC Lead Nurse

0113 2492431 or

0795 129 0212

Lisa Grimes

0796 039 1238

If you cannot contact a member of the Inclusion Nursing Service, please contact Susan Carr Team Leader 0113 2738644 or the service Coordinator.

Leeds Community Healthcare 
NHS Trust

