Parents' Bulletin

11th September '26

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- Headteacher's Message
- Student Celebrations
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- Pastoral Spotlight
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'What a Start! Celebrating Our First Two Week'

Key Dates

Tuesday 15th September

- Year 11 1-2-1 Careers Interviews begin

Coming Up:

- BH6 Open Evening (for perspective students 27/28) – 24th Sept
- SEND Coffee morning (Y9 only) - 1st Oct
- Y11 & Y13 Information Evening (Exams) – 1st Oct
- Y9 Open Evening (for perspective students 27/28) - 15th Oct
- Inset Day (School closed to students) - 16th Oct
- Y10 & Y12 Information Evening (Exams) – 22nd Oct
- School closes for half term – 23rd October

Headteacher's Message

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We have now completed the first full week of the academic year, and I have to say that I have been incredibly impressed with how our students have returned. Students from all year groups have shown a positive attitude towards their learning, which is shown through a huge increase in the number of positive logs being issued by staff. Students in all year groups face different challenges, whether that be joining a new school, starting new courses or moving closer to examinations, but we are already seeing great resilience shown by many of our young people as they prepare to face these challenges head on.

Some parents/carers may have seen changes to KS4 teaching groups. This reflects a really positive move where we have been able to allocate additional subject specialist teachers and therefore reduce class sizes. We feel this will provide more focused, individualised learning for our students and support them in making accelerated progress.

You will hopefully have received a parent survey this week via email. I would encourage as many parents as possible to complete this to share your views and experiences. The information gathered from these surveys helps us continue to improve our practice and the experience our young people get at Biddulph High School. Also, remember that you contact the school directly if you want to ask questions, raise concerns or simply to chat about your child's wellbeing, achievement or progress. Form tutors are a great first point of contact and we would encourage you to get in touch with them in the first instance if needed.

Finally, I would like to make a correction from last week's bulletin. We shared the incredible success of one of student's (Jacob) but actually undersold how amazing his results actually were. Jacob achieved 7 garde 9 GCSEs, which reflects his hard work and commitment to his learning. We hope many of our current Year 11 students use this as a target and see what they can achieve if they put their minds to it.

I hope everyone has a great weekend and we look forward to another strong week at BHS next week.

Mr D Scott
Headteacher

Family Forum

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Click the image to sign up.

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Freddo Friday - Year 9

Mr Bailey-Rigby had the pleasure of presenting our first Freddos to students nominated by their form tutors! 🏆

Choosing this week's winners was no easy task. Year 9 have impressed us with their fantastic attitude, behaviour and enthusiasm during their first week at Biddulph High School. They have made such a positive start and already begun putting our CARE values into action: Community, Ambition, Respect and Excellence. 💙

A huge congratulations to this week's winners:

🌟 Charlie – 9SMO
🌟 Seth – 9DSA
🌟 Harry – 9GSP
🌟 Sophia – 9LPR
🌟 Harvey – 9RSC
🌟 Lexi – 9ALA

Could you be enjoying a Freddo next Friday? From showing kindness to giving your best in lessons, the little things can make a big impression. Keep up the brilliant work, Year 9!



Celebrations

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PE Update

The PE Department has made a fantastic start to the new academic year, with students settling quickly into lessons and showing excellent enthusiasm and engagement.

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to the department, Mr D. Sanders and Miss T. Lockett. Both have already made a positive start, and we look forward to the contribution they will make to PE and school sport throughout the year. Mr D Ackerley has taken on the role of Head of PE and Mr C Swift the role of assistant Head, whilst Miss C Rushton continues as Head of Year 10 and PE teacher.

Our extracurricular programme is already up and running, with Football, Netball, Rugby and Badminton available after school. We encourage students across all year groups to get involved, whether they want to represent the school, develop their skills or simply enjoy being active with friends.

Our House Sport programme will also begin shortly, with the first House Football and Netball competitions starting on 14th September. We would particularly encourage all Year 9 students to get involved, represent their House and make the most of the opportunities available.

Finally, the department would like to say a huge thank you to Mr D. Wain for his very generous donation of a washing machine and dryer. These will be extremely useful in allowing us to regularly wash spare PE kit and school team kits and are very much appreciated.

We look forward to building on this positive start and to another busy and successful year of PE and school sport at Biddulph High School.

Celebrations

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Social Sciences Students of the fortnight

Mrs Acton

Y10 Madison S-R
Y11 Ruby C
Y12 Vittoria
Y13 Tilly C



Miss Lakatos

Y10 - Maisy PB
Y11 - Annie B
Y12 - Bryony B
Y13 - Jasmine R

Ms Bowden

Y10 Emma J
Y12 Daniel E
Y13 Bella P
Gabriella N

Mrs Heath

Y10 Georgia R
Y11 Chrishania J
Y13 Alisha C

Celebrations

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MyFUTURES Launch Day

What a fantastic day for our Year 10 students as we officially launched MyFUTURES at Biddulph High School! The morning gave students the opportunity to meet employers and industry professionals, ask questions, discover different career pathways and begin thinking more deeply about where their own futures might take them.

We were delighted to welcome representatives linked to each of our six MyFUTURES pathways:

F. Ball & Co. Ltd – Engineering & Manufacturing

Tesco – Digital Technology, Business & Finance

Biddulph Kindergarten – Education & Early Years

Carson & Powell – Construction & Green Economy

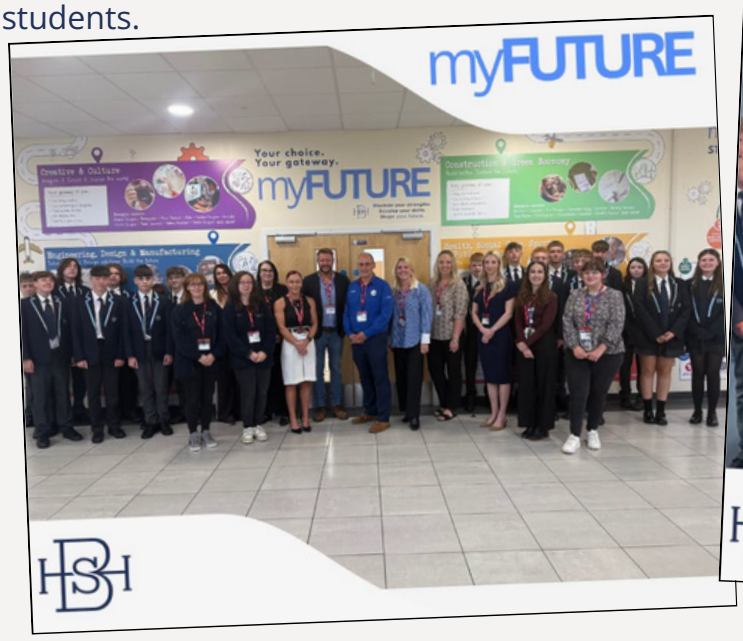
Citizens Advice North Staffordshire – Health, Social Care, Sport & Public Services

Staged – Creative & Culture

We were also incredibly grateful to Naomi Baxter from The Challenger Academy, Sarah Haydon from Biddulph Town Council and Alex Povey from Poveys Oatcakes for joining us — with a special thank you to Alex for providing an amazing 400 oatcakes for our students to enjoy as part of the breakfast!

Our Year 10 students were brilliant throughout the morning, showing curiosity, confidence and real Ambition as they spoke to our visitors about the opportunities available beyond school.

A huge thank you to every employer, organisation and individual who gave their time to support the launch. This is just the beginning of MyFUTURES, and we're really excited about what comes next for our students.





Curriculum: English

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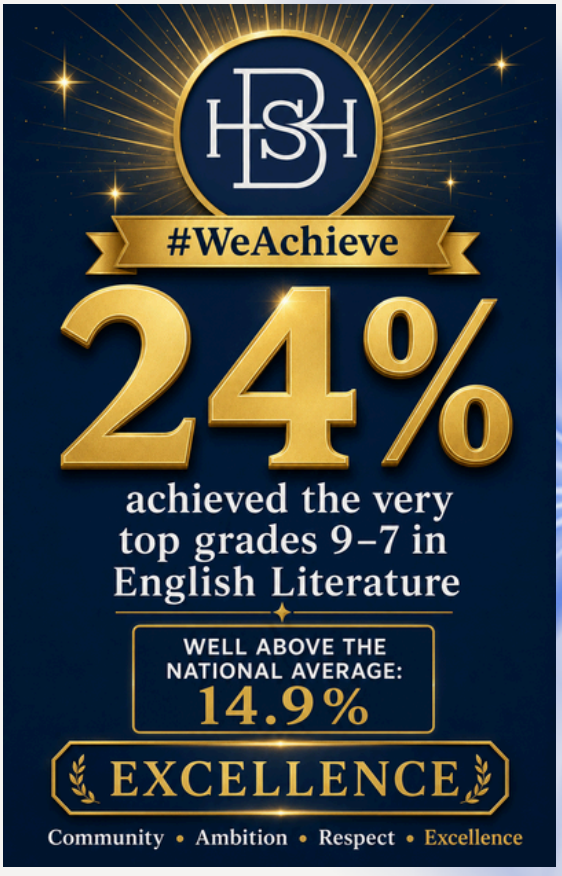
The English team are incredibly proud to celebrate our excellent GCSE English results. Our Year 11 students have worked exceptionally hard, showing resilience, determination and commitment throughout their GCSE journey, and their results are a wonderful reflection of their efforts.

An impressive 28.6% of students achieved grades 9–7, with 65% achieving grades 9–5 and an excellent 80.6% achieving grades 9–4. These results represent a fantastic achievement for the year group and are a testament to the hard work of our students and the dedication of our English staff.

We would like to congratulate every member of the Year 11 cohort on their achievements. We are immensely proud of them and wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education.

We are now looking forward to another exciting year with our current Year 11, and we are determined to build on this success. We can't wait to see what they achieve!





Pastoral: Year 9

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I have been incredibly impressed with the way our Year 9 students have settled into life at Biddulph High School during their first two weeks.

Starting a new school is a significant step, but our students have approached the challenge with maturity, enthusiasm and a really positive attitude. At present, not a single lesson removal has been reported for Year 9, which is a fantastic achievement and reflects the excellent standards students are showing in lessons.

Attendance is also currently an impressive 96.2%, demonstrating a strong commitment to making the most of every opportunity available to them.

It has been wonderful to see students growing in confidence, building new friendships and becoming increasingly familiar with our routines and expectations. There is already a real sense that Year 9 are becoming an important part of the Biddulph High School community.

They have made an excellent start, and I am very excited to see what they achieve this year.

Mr Bailey-Rigby,

Head of Year 9

Safeguarding

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Please find a safeguarding message from Ms Burgess, our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Introducing the 2026-27 safeguarding team at Biddulph High School



Ms L Burgess

Assistant Headteacher
Safeguarding and Inclusion Lead



Miss P Stasiowska

Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Assistant Head of Year Sixth Form



Miss E Casewell

RESET Lead
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mr N Black

Assistant Head of Year 9
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs G Baddeley

Pastoral Support
Head of Year 10
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs N Meredith Jones

Assistant Head of Year 11
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Potteries Educational Trust

Need Advice or Support?

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, relationships or online safety, please contact the school safeguarding team. We're here to help.

Notices and Reminders

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Current Vacancies

To find out more please visit our recruitment website
https://recruit.sampeople.co.uk/Jobboard/Trust/potterieseducationaltrust

Year 11 Careers Guidance Meetings

Year 11 1:1 Careers Meetings will begin from the week commencing 15th September. Each student will be allocated an individual appointment with Miss Campbell, which will be added to their timetable on Arbor.

Meetings will take place in the Careers Office, located next to Room 211.

These one-to-one guidance sessions are an important part of supporting students as they prepare for life after Year 11. They provide an opportunity to discuss post-16 options, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships and training opportunities, as well as future career aspirations. Students will receive personalised advice and guidance to help them make informed decisions about their next steps.

The meetings also allow students to ask questions, explore different pathways and identify any support they may need throughout the application process. We encourage all students to attend their appointment and make the most of this valuable opportunity to plan for a successful future.

Student Achievements

Well done, Year 9! An amazing first week back with no lesson removals across the year group. Thank you for your positive attitude, excellent behaviour and commitment to learning. A fantastic start to the year! 🎉

Miss Tracey

Extras

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Additional messages and news from the local community that we think you'll find interesting and informative.

Autism Awareness for Practitioners/School Staff

DATE	TIME	PRICE	LOCATION
06.10.26	12:00 - 13:30	FREE	MS Teams
06.10.26	15:00 - 16:30	FREE	MS Teams

EYFS Autism Awareness for Practitioners/School Staff

DATE	TIME	PRICE	LOCATION
05.10.26	13:30 - 15:00	FREE	MS Teams

Delivered by the Specialist Teaching Support Service
Autism Inclusion Team

Autism Awareness training FREE. 1.5hrs

Raising awareness and understanding of Autism; the key areas of difference; and strategies to implement good practice and create enabling environments. Appropriate for all staff.

Maximum of 3 attendees per setting.

Let us know if you have anything you'd like to share with our school community!

Extras

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Additional messages and news from the local community that we think you'll find interesting and informative.

FACE

September Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Facing Defiance	1 Sep 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	1 Sep 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	7 Sep 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	7 Sep 7pm
Introduction to OCD	8 Sep 10am
Decreasing Depression	8 Sep 7pm
What is ACT?	14 Sep 10am
Improving Family Communication	14 Sep 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	15 Sep 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	15 Sep 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 Sep 10am
Understanding Anger	21 Sep 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	22 Sep 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	22 Sep 7pm
FREE - Masking Awareness	**24 Sep 7-8pm**
Anxiety Explained	28 Sep 10am
School Anxiety	28 Sep 7pm

Family Hub Staffordshire

BEST START IN LIFE

Staffordshire County Council

ARE YOU IN NEED OF ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM?

WE CAN HELP!



At the Family Hub, we have a stock of **NON-NAMED** school uniform items available.

These include T-shirts, shirts, trousers and skirts.

GOOD QUALITY PRE-LOVED UNIFORMS available **FREE OF CHARGE** to families.

NEED SOMETHING?

We're here to help!

If you are in need of any school uniform items, please contact us:

01782 297970

familyhubadminmoorlands@staffordshire.gov.uk

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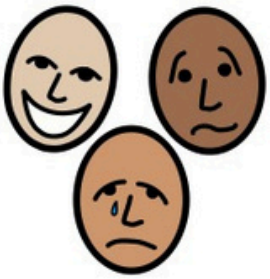
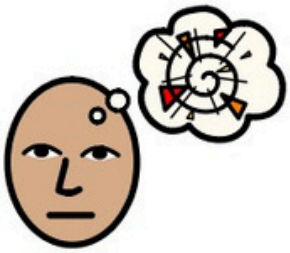
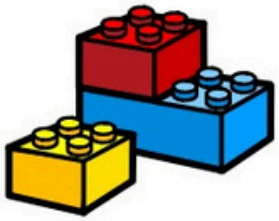
Staffordshire County Council

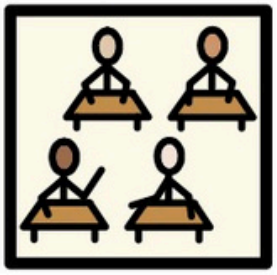




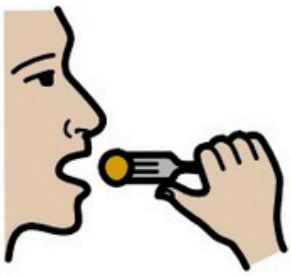




Staffordshire Autism Inclusion Team Training Offer

2026 - 2027






What we offer



Our 'In Setting' offer. Let us come to you and train your whole staff!

1.5 hour: FREE Autism Awareness training.

1 hour: £100 Individual Bitesize Courses on a range of themes .

Half-day: £300 Either our 'Theory into Practice' or a combination of our Bitesize Courses.

Full day: £500 A combination of our courses from our training offer to suit your setting's needs**.**

Our Online / Central offer, train with us in person or online

Bite Size Training

Twice a year AIT offers a season of Bite size training sessions, available for schools to book for **£15 per** person, maximum of three attendees per setting.

To book please email:

autism.training@staffordshire.gov.uk

**** To avoid incurring cancellation charges, course cancellations must be made no later than 48 hours before the scheduled course start time ****

Autism Awareness training FREE. 1.5hrs

Raising awareness and understanding of Autism; the key areas of difference; and strategies to implement good practice and create enabling environments. Appropriate for all staff.

"It was really informative. I thought that all of the information resonated with the pupils that are in school with and without a diagnosis. The training gave good ideas about simple resources that could help the pupils manage the day in school. "

Theory Into Practice 3hrs

Explore key autism theories and consider how differences in thinking affect autistic children's emotional regulation and access to social and academic learning. Develop an understanding of effective inclusion practices, including practical ideas and strategies. Appropriate for all staff.



Our Bitesize Courses

Our affordable, expert-led, practical sessions, include takeaway resources.

Good for all:

- 20 Top Classroom Tips
- ADHD & Autism
- CPAT: Computerized Progressive Attentional Training
- Demand Avoidance
- Developing Self-Esteem
- Executive Function Skills
- Eating & Autism
- Girls & Autism
- Lego & Play Dough Interaction
- LGBTQ+
- Masking
- Reducing Barriers to Attendance (EBSA)
- Self-Harm
- Sensory Awareness
- Social Narratives & Comic Conversations
- Transitions, Autism & Dealing with Change
- Understanding Behaviour

For EY / KS1 / KS2

- Developing Attention in Early Years and KS1
- Early Years - Structure
- Emotion Regulation
- Engagement through Play in EY/KS1
- Strategies for Lunchtime Supervisors
- Storytelling using senses and scribing
- Structure for KS1 & 2
- SPRINT: Primary Interaction Curriculum

For KS3/4/5

- Helping Autistic Students Apply to University
- Structure for High Schools
- Transition to adulthood

98% of attendees rate our training as excellent!

To book please email: autism.training@staffordshire.gov.uk

Online / Central Session Dates Autumn 2026

DATE	SESSION TITLE	LOCATION	TIME
05.10.26	Understanding Behaviour for Autistic Pupils	MS Teams	10:30 – 11:45
06.10.26	Autism & Eating	MS Teams	15:00 – 16:00
06.10.26	Sensory Awareness	MS Teams	14:00 – 15:30
07.10.26	Autistic Masking	MS Teams	13:30 - 15:00
08.10.26	Transitions, Autism & Dealing with Change	MS Teams	10:00 – 11:30
08.10.26	Social Narratives & Comic Conversations	MS Teams	14:00 – 15:00
08.10.26	Demand Avoidance	MS Teams	14:00 – 15:30
08.10.26	Transition to adulthood	MS Teams	10:00 – 11:30
09.10.26	SPRINT: Primary Interaction Curriculum	MS Teams	10:00 – 11:00
09.10.26	Lego & Play Dough Interaction – in person session Stafford Family Hub: Families First at Faraday Road, Stafford, ST16 3NQ	Face to face	09:30 – 11:00
12.10.26	Engagement through Play in EY/KS1	MS Teams	15:30 – 17:00
12.10.26	Emotion Regulation & Autism – Primary Focus	MS Teams	12:00 – 13:30
13.10.26	ADHD & Autism	MS Teams	15:00 – 16:00
13.10.26	Autism and Executive Function	MS Teams	13:30 – 14:30
14.10.26	Girls & Autism	MS Teams	09:30 – 11:00
15.10.26	Self-Harm	MS Teams	15:30 – 16:30
15.10.26	Storytelling using senses and scribing – in person session Beaconsfield's Primary School, Ramson Avenue, Stafford, ST16 1ZY	Face to face	13:00 – 14:30
20.10.26	Developing Attention in Early Years and Key Stage 1	MS Teams	15:30 – 17:00
21.10.26	Structure for Autistic Pupils in KS1&2	MS Teams	10.00 – 11:00
21.10.26	Reducing Barriers to Education	MS Teams	14:00 – 15:30
22.10.26	Developing Self-Esteem for children with Autism	MS Teams	14:00 – 15:00
22.10.26	20 Top Classroom Tips	MS Teams	15:30 – 16:30
23.10.26	Strategies for Lunchtime Supervisors		11:00 – 12:00

Good for all:

20 Top Classroom Tips

What we cover:
The aim of this training is to explore a range of classroom strategies that can be used to support autistic children in the classroom environment. 20 strategies are discussed with ways of personalising these to meet the individual pupil.

ADHD & Autism

What we cover:
To develop an understanding of Autism and ADHD; including diagnostic criteria and characteristics. To be able to recognise the similarities and differences between the co-occurring conditions. To learn strategies to support children with either or both conditions. Focus on difference not deficit.

CPAT: Computerised Progressive Attention Training

What we cover:
Find out more about CPAT, a free attention training app designed by international researchers to help school-aged children develop and improve their basic attention skills. The session covers awareness of attention skills for autistic children, how the app can be used to build these, and how to download and use the app.

Demand Avoidance

What we cover: This course aims to help schools to understand and support pupils who have an Autism diagnosis and obsessively resist demands. It may have been found that the recommended strategies for pupils with Autism are not working for these pupils and we will explore some reasons and alternatives.

Developing Self-Esteem for Autistic children

What we cover:
The aim of this training is to help you to explore the ways that you can develop the self-esteem of KS 1 and 2 pupils with ASC in your setting. The package will provide information on what low self-esteem looks like and suggest strategies to help raise it.

Eating & Autism

What we cover:
This course has been developed to explore the challenges Autistic young people might face with eating. It will develop knowledge of the 3 key areas of difference, linked to the Autism diagnosis, and the specific issues facing autistic individuals and food/eating. Various support strategies will also be explored.

"The training was well explained and linked to examples. We were able to ask questions and learn ideas to support children we currently work with who as yet are undiagnosed/on the pathway."

To book please email: autism.training@staffordshire.gov.uk

Good for all:

Girls and Autism

What we cover:
The aim of this training is for delegates to have an increased awareness of the presentation of Autism in girls. It aims to develop their understanding of 'masking' and the impact this may have on the student's mental health and to give an overview of strategies that may support with their learning and emotional wellbeing.

Lego & Play-Doh Interaction

What we cover:
The session is a practical introduction and overview of two social interaction programmes suitable for children across key stages 1,2 and 3. Delegates will be given a detailed explanation of each programme and the resources to support their delivery and will have the opportunity to try the programmes themselves.

Executive Functioning Skills and Autism

What we cover:

This session aims to develop your understanding of executive functioning skills, and awareness of the impact of differences in executive functioning skills on learning for autistic pupils. We will explore ways executive functioning skills can be promoted in the classroom to empower our pupils to utilise strategies that are positive for their learning. We will consider how to plan for reasonable adjustments that support executive functioning skills.

Masking

What we cover:

Autistic masking, also known as camouflaging, refers to the strategies that individuals on the autism spectrum use to fly under the radar and fit into a neurotypical world. This training aims to equip attendees with a comprehensive understanding of autistic masking, its impacts, and strategies to support children in a healthy and effective manner.

Reducing Barriers to Attendance

What we cover:
A session looking at why autistic pupils can struggle to attend and manage the school environment, and what strategies can be put in place to support them.

Self-Harm

What we cover:
This course has been developed to support primary and secondary mainstream staff in understanding self-harm. The training explores common triggers, signs that a pupil may be self-harming and effective strategies/interventions to use in the classroom.

Good for all:

Sensory Awareness

What we cover: An introduction to how sensory differences can impact autistic learners. It explores how sensory differences may present in a school / setting and considers strategies which may help pupils to regulate. It is an opportunity to reflect on your environment and consider how to make reasonable adjustments to support pupils.

Social Narratives & Comic Conversations

What we cover:
A guide to understanding and writing a social narrative and Comic conversation. This can be a useful resource when encouraging a student to be open to new experiences which may be making the student anxious. A Comic Conversation can offer a student time to process and reflect on a situation that they might have had difficulty understanding. It will also give the adult an insight into the student's way of thinking.

Transitions, Autism & Dealing with Change

What we cover:
Delegates will be guided in considering the range of transitions that young people experience during their academic career and we will help them understand how autism can impact on individuals' experiences of these transitions. Participants can then contemplate approaches that address autistic pupils' differences and with support reflect on their learning.
This training is useful for all educators, but strategies are most successful when implemented as a whole school approach.

Understanding Behaviour for Autistic Pupils

What we cover:
The training will introduce you to the different functions of behaviour and tools to help you monitor and reflect on incidents and triggers, allowing for proactive planning. The package will provide templates and examples to take away and use back in your settings. A resource booklet with useful de-escalation strategies will also be provided.
This training is useful for all school staff, but strategies are most successful when implemented as a whole school approach.

"It was really informative. I thought that all of the information resonated with the pupils that are in school with and without a diagnosis. The training gave good ideas about simple resources that could help the pupils manage the day in school."

To book please email: autism.training@staffordshire.gov.uk

For EY / KS1 / KS2

Engagement through Play in EY/KS1

What we cover:
How can play help to support learning for children with communication and interaction needs / autism?

- Play provides opportunities to interact.
- Play supports language development.
- Play increases engagement.

Join us if you would like to find out more and discover practical ideas to use with your pupils.

Emotion Regulation & Autism: Primary

What we cover:
This training will help to raise your awareness and understanding of emotional regulation and how this impacts primary school children with a diagnosis of Autism.
We will discuss a range of proactive strategies that can be used to support emotional regulation and look at ways of implementing a social and emotional curriculum to help children with Autism develop their understanding of, and their ability to manage, emotions.

Early Years - Structure

What we cover:
This course will develop your understanding of how the visual and physical environment in an Early Years setting can impact on a child's learning.

Strategies for Lunchtime Supervisors

What we cover:
This course has been developed to support Lunchtime Supervisors in understanding how to support pupils with a diagnosis of Autism during un-structured times of the school day.

SPRINT – Primary Interaction Curriculum

What we cover
This session is designed to provide delegates with a clear and practical understanding of the SPRINT framework. Participants will learn how to set meaningful, individualised targets aimed at enhancing pupils' social understanding and communication skills. It will cover how to apply the framework effectively and equip you with strategies to support pupil development. The session will also guide you in planning, recording, and evaluating progress with confidence and accuracy.

Storytelling using Senses & Scribing

What we cover:
This session is about making storytelling, engaging and accessible to autistic children. We will explore using senses to support storytelling in a memorable way, through 'Sensory Stories'. We will also model how story scribing and acting can help to give story writing purpose and pleasure. This will be an interactive session where you will be part of the storytelling.

Developing Attention in Early Years and Key Stage 1

What we cover: This course aims to explore a variety of strategies to seek and maintain attention of young autistic learners. We will discuss the importance of the adult role when trying to capture attention and explain reasons it can be difficult to gain attention. If you have children in your setting / school that require support to listen, attend and respond, the strategies discussed in this training may help to connect with them and support them to engage in interactions and learning.

Structure for Autistic Pupils in KS1 & 2

What we cover: The Aim of this training is to help you to explore ways that you can add structure in KS 1 & 2 to support individuals with Autism, that would enable them to access the environment and to become more independent learners.

For KS3/4/5

Helping Autistic Students Apply to University

What we cover:
Autistic students may need more guidance applying for university. This short session explores why they may struggle and ways that you can help.

Structure for Autistic Pupils in High School

What we cover:
The aim of this training is to help you to explore ways that you can add structure in High school to support individuals with ASC, that would enable them to access the environment and to become more independent learners.

Transition to Adulthood
What we cover:
The options after year 11 and year 13 can sometimes be confusing. There are many different routes and pathways that young people can take, and choices must be carefully made. Preparing for adulthood should be considered as part of their education to support young people into adulthood with paid employment, good health, independent living and friends, relationships, and community inclusion. This short course explores these 4 areas and how educational settings can promote and embed these principles into their individual learning plans and EHC Plan targets.

"Handouts were useful and were sent in advance, clear PowerPoint with videos and examples. The certificate of completion is valuable for our trainee TAs for their portfolios."

"I thought it was very informative, it's helped me to feel more confident in identifying behaviours of children with autism and what steps that we can take as a setting to better support those needs."

To book please email: autism.training@staffordshire.gov.uk