

Abbot's Lea School

10 May 2019

Is your school committed to research and development to improve outcomes for autistic children? Join Abbot's Lea School's Alliance! See page 3.

Traded Services Newsletter 1

Welcome to our first ever ALS Traded Services Newsletter. In this issue you will find details of upcoming training courses for school based staff, feedback from previous workshops and contact details for key staff. You will also find a section on Autism research updates and current initiatives.

Abbot's Lea School is an outstanding special school that provides the highest quality of education for students aged 3-19 living with Autism and a range of associated communication, interaction, sensory and learning difficulties.

We are a large school, with a current cohort of 253 students, and we have a clear vision to become an International Centre of Excellence in Autism Education, Research and Development.

In January, we officially launched our outreach support and traded services for organisations with an interest in Autism.

Our traded offer provides schools, and other educational organisations, with an opportunity to purchase a number of high quality, professional, value-for-money, services. These are currently available through 'pay as you go' purchases.

Our Autism training courses are designed to support all practitioners working directly with students on the autism spectrum to develop their practice.

Other services include Safeguarding, Finance and We also provide training to support families, and other schools are able to book places for their families to attend these workshops. Please get in touch with us to see how we can provide tailored support to your setting.

Upcoming workshops:

Workshops for Professionals:

'Introduction to Autism'	'Girls and Autism'
4 June 2019 09:30-12:00	4 June 12:30-15:00
12 June 2019 12:30-15:00	12 June 09:30-12:00
20 June 09:30-12:00	20 June 12:30-15:00

Workshops for Families:

'Introduction to Autism'	'Girls and Autism'
6 June 2019 10:00-14:00	11 June 10:00-14:00

As the demand for places grows higher, more events will be organised and advertised via the school website: abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Places cost £60 each. Price includes resources, certificate of attendance and light refreshments.

Email tradedservices@abbotsleaschool.co.uk to book your place or to send any queries about training.

You can also keep up to date by following ALS Traded Services on Facebook and Twitter.

F: @ALSTradedServices

T: @AlsTraded

Feedback from previous training

What was the best part of the session?

“The trainer was very informative and a great ambassador for the condition and corrected misconceptions.”

- *Autism and Transport Training, LCC Transport: 8 February 2019*

“Both of the ladies and their passion and knowledge, which has refocused my understanding of Autism.”

- *Autism Training, Merchant Taylors' School: 19 March 2019*

“Sharing anecdotes which makes the ‘wordy bits’ easily relatable. Personal stories are great.”

- *Autism Training, Stanley Special School: 17 April 2019*



Merseyside SLD Inset training: Girls and Autism, co-delivered with students and families at Abbot's Lea School.

ALS Research Focus Group

Here at Abbot's Lea School, we are committed to creating an International Centre of Autism Research, Education and Development. We have been receiving interest from centres of excellence and international schools in recognition of our commitment to innovative practice, and so I am incredibly excited that we were able to bring together dedicated students, staff and Governing Body members, families and researchers at our launch event on 2 April.

The group will drive forward Autism research initiatives at Abbot's Lea School, and ultimately shape a research agenda that reflects the priorities of our school community. What is it that matters most to our students, their families and the staff that work tirelessly to provide the best specialist education?

The agenda allowed the group to share experiences, perspectives and to identify areas of unknown. What must we find out to improve provision and practice? The first session looked at improving practice and understanding around employability, and the second session explored the existing provision for girls at Abbot's Lea School and the community.

It was also an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the partnerships that exist between our school and other large organisations such as Regenda Homes and Liverpool John Moore's University. We thank them for their ongoing support.

From me, a huge thank you to all those that attended. I am looking forward to working together more in the future to achieve greater impact.



ALSA (Abbot's Lea School's Alliance)

Are you interested in joining our alliance of schools committed to improving outcomes for autistic children? The new alliance of schools will benefit from free training and resources from Abbot's Lea School by engaging with Autism research projects. To find out more information contact Micah: micah.grimshaw@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Our offer

Services are available for all types of educational settings including local authority maintained schools, academies, colleges and independent schools. Some services will be designed exclusively for specific types of institution, for example universities delivering specific teacher training programmes. There are also services available to businesses looking to enhance their operations to become more Autism friendly.



We can offer:

- Bespoke training for professionals and/or families
- Advisory services for creating Autism friendly environments
- Advisory services for improving whole school behaviour
- HR advisory services
- IT and Business Support services
- 1:1 mentoring support for Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher / Senior Leader
- Leadership development support

Our traded services team will create a support package based on the needs of each organisation and ensure that all training and support is outcomes-driven with an initial assessment of your service and an agreed action plan.

Contact: tradedservices@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Key contact details:

Head of Autism Research and Development, Micah Grimshaw: micah.grimshaw@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

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