

# Head's Weekly Newsletter Week 35



#### **Message from the Headteacher**

Mrs Ania Hildrey, Headteacher, headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends

Welcome to Term 6 and to today's issue of the Head's Weekly Newsletter.

I hope that everyone had a nice break last week – although by today, it seems a very distant memory! This is because this week has been VERY busy; apart from the ongoing examination for students completing accredited learning pathways, we had finally received a confirmation of all admissions for September, triggering intensive work on finalising class groupings for next year. Exciting!

Added to that is ongoing recruitment into key roles, as we add capacity to the frontline services and also find successors to the colleagues leaving us this summer. As soon as that is completed, we will be in a position to share the class groups and staff who will become Class Teams next year, with the students. I know we all anxiously await this clarity.

As soon as that is done, our transition work will truly begin, culminating in all leavers departing on Friday, 30 June, and all other students slowly preparing for Transition Week. Transition INSET day for the staff is on Friday, 7 July (that day, the school is closed to all students and SIs) and will be used for reorganising the site to be set up in a way that reflects next year's setup.

Then, on Monday, 10 July, we welcome all "next year's" students back to their new classes, with their new teams and with a fantastic timetable to teambuilding activities to ensure that, by the time we say goodbye for the summer on Friday, 14 July (please note early 1pm finish), every student feels at ease over the summer, knowing that their peers are now friends and being able to rest easy, with the introduction to their team done and dusted! Busy, busy, busy!

Meanwhile, we are "all engines go" with activities. This week, we have hosted German visitors from our partner school and I want to say huge thanks to Dr Mursic for coordinating their visit, as well as other staff supporting from the side-lines! More amazing events to come – please see next pages for Key Diary Dates!

Happy (sunny and hot!) weekend, everyone! Stay safe!

Mrs A Hildrey Headteacher

#### Contents

Head's foreword Key Diary Dates Next week's menu News Students of the week Exams 2023 Local offer

#### **School Year Calendar**

#### Term Dates for next academic year:

http://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Term-dates-2023-24.pdf



#### Term 6

5 June – students return

30 June – School Leavers' Date

7 July – Transition INSET 10-14 Transition Week Ends: 14 July 2023 at 1pm

17-18 July – INSET (worked in lieu as twilights throughout the year)

#### **Key Diary Dates for Term 6**

Date	Activity	Notes
Monday 12 June	Launch of Student Leaders 2023-34 elections	The process for applying to be Head Student will be shared with KS5 students
Tuesday 13 June	Morning only – Primary Sports Day <b>Plan A</b>	Families are welcome to come and watch their child complete on Sports Day.
	(Please note if the weather is bad on this day, we will make a decision to cancel early	Specific times will be issued via class teams nearer to the time
	that morning and post it on social media.  If this happens we	Please be advised that there will be no parking on school site and so, if travelling by car, please park in
	would move to "plan b day" – see below)	neighbouring streets (free of charge) and allow time for walking onto site and signing in
Wednesday 14 June	"Diversity in arts" day	Today all classes will be learning about how the world of art has been influenced by artists from a range of backgrounds
Thursday 15 June	Morning only – Primary Sports Day <b>PLAN B</b>	Families are welcome to come and watch their child complete on Sports Day. Specific times will be issued via class teams nearer to the time
•		watch their child complete or Day. Specific times will be is

I have always practised an 'open door' policy and so I really encourage you to take advantage of this – please contact me whenever issues arise – and whilst I have had to put a temporary stop to my open invitation for you to just come in to say 'hello', I continue to welcome direct communication via my personal email address: headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

		Please be advised that there will be no parking on school site and so, if travelling by car, please park in neighbouring streets (free of charge) and allow time for walking onto site and signing in
Friday 16 June	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher) and coffee morning  Assembly times: 9.30 - 10 KS4 and 5 10.05 - 10.35 - Primary 10.40 - 11.10 - KS3  Coffee morning: 9.30 - 11am	We encourage families to attend where they are able. If there is any topic you would like to hear about or contribute to during the coffee mornings, please advise Dr Sara Mursic at Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk
Tuesday 20	Morning only –	Families are welcome to come and
June	Secondary Department Sports Day Plan A (please note if the weather is bad on this day we will make a decision to cancel early that morning and post it on social media. If this happens we would move to "plan b day" — see below)	watch their child complete on Sports Day. Specific times will be issued via class teams nearer to the time  Please be advised that there will be no parking on school site and so, if travelling by car, please park in neighbouring streets (free of charge) and allow time for walking onto site and signing in
Wednesday 21 June	If Sports Day on Monday, 19 June is cancelled, this will be the alternative <b>PLAN B</b> Secondary Sports Day (morning only)	Families are welcome to come and watch their child complete on Sports Day. Specific times will be issued via class teams nearer to the time  Please be advised that there will be no parking on school site and so, if travelling by car, please park in neighbouring streets (free of charge) and allow time for walking onto site and signing in
Wednesday 21 June	World Music Day	Students will be celebrating by listening to music from around the world and planning for our Musical Showcase Day on 6 July

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	Thursday 22 June	Annual Award Ceremony	All families are invited to join us on this special day
		9.30 – 10:20 KS3	Please note specific times for Primary Department, KS3 and KS4/5
		10:30 – 12:20 – KS4 and 5	Please be advised that there will be no parking on school site and so, if
		1:30-2:30 – Primary Department	travelling by car, please park in neighbouring streets (free of charge) and allow time for walking onto site and signing in
			Families of Primary Department children (only) are welcome to collect their children from school at the end of the Ceremony at 2:30pm – please inform Class Team and transport in advance
	Friday 23 June	NO ASSEMBLIES OR CO	OFFEE MORNING
f	Tuesday 27	Meet the Team	Your child's Class Team member for
	June	Zoom meetings 3.30pm	September 2023 will be leading a Zoom so that you can see their face,
			get to know them and ask any
			questions you may have. They will also share the plans for Transition Week with you.
f	Wednesday 28	Conclusion of Student	KS5 students will be made aware of
	June	Leader elections	the outcome
	Thursday 29	Leavers' Prom	A warm welcome will be extended to
	June	6-9pm	all Key Stage 4 and 5 students who
			wish to celebrate with any school
			leavers. We welcome you to enjoy some great food and dance the night
			away! Further details will be shared nearer
			the time
	Friday 30 June	Leavers' Assembly and Celebration Lunch	More details will follow nearer the time
ľ	Saturday 1	Summer Fair	Please come and join us for three
	July		hours of fun-filled activities. There will
	12pm – 3pm		be games to be played and prizes to
			be won! Please warmly invite you
			friends and family too.
			Any volunteers able to help organise
			the Summer Fair are welcome and should contact Mrs Keri Myers, our
			School Business Manager (SBM) via
		an 'open door' policy and so I re	abm@abbatalagaabaal oo ulk

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Tuesday 4 July	End of Year Fun Day	The students will enjoy a carousel of fun activities, including an giant inflatable obstacle course to celebrate all of their hard work over the past
Thursday 6 July	Musical Showcase Day	The Primary Department showcase will take place in the morning.
		Secondary Department showcase will take place in the afternoon.
		Individual students and some groups, including our school band will perform to the rest of school as we celebrate students' successes in music.
		We warmly welcome the families of the students who are performing to attend:
		9:30am-11am (max) – Primary 1pm – 2:30pm (max) - Secondary
		Parents of Secondary students are able to take their child home after their performance on that day (please inform Class Team and transport ahead of the day)
Friday 7 July	School closed – staff INSET day	
Monday 10 – Friday 14 July	Transition Week	All students will be in their new (next year's) classes and our new starters will join our school
		During this week there will be a timetable of planned activities, including a Wellbeing Day and Diversity Day.
		In order to be able to support your child with this change of routine, classes will share with you a full timetable during the "Meet the Team Zooms"
Friday 14 July 1pm	Last day of term 6	School closes for the summer at 1pm

#### **Next Week's Menu**



## **Primary Lunch Menu**



Week Commencing 12/06/23

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal We provide a variety of seasonal hot and cold dishes for children to freely choose from	Homemade Chip shop Curry Sauce with Basmati Rice, Green Beans and Mango Chutney	Homemade Spanish Chicken served with Rice and Green Beans	All Day Breakfast with Sausage, Scrambled Egg, Wholemeal Toast, Mushrooms and Hash Brown	Meatball Sub Served with fresh Salad and Tortilla Chips	Homemade Battered Fish with Chips and Minted Mushy Peas
Alternative Jacket potatoes with tuna and other fillings available daily	Pesto Pasta	Roasted Pepper Tomato Quiche	Vegetarian Chilli	Homemade Macaroni Cheese	Veggie Curry with Rice
Homemade Soup	Chef Choice	Split Pea	Chinese Sweetcorn	Leek and Potato	Chef Choice
Starchy Food Various bread choices available	Homemade Pizza Base	Rice	Rice Wholemeal Toast Wholemeal Bread		Chips
Vegetables Salad Bar with Hummus	Carrots	Green Beans	Mushrooms	Tomatoes and Cucumber	Mushy Peas
Dessert Fresh fruit, selection of low-fat yoghurts	Fresh Fruit Salad	Tres Leches Cake	Fruit Scones with Jam or Cream	Apple Flapjacks	Cheese and Crackers
and homemade puddings available every lunch time	Mixed Yoghurts	Fresh Fruit	Yoghurts	Fresh Fruit	Mixed Flavour Yoghurts

#### Ask for daily chef specials

All our meat is sourced from local suppliers, we use free range eggs and organic flour where possible. All our fruit and vegetables are locally sourced where possible. Halal options available. Food For Thought is a not-for-profit school meals company owned by it's partner schools. Any surplus is reinvested in the company or returned to its member schools.

GOOD FOOD CULTURE

## Ireland class























## Wales class





# Portugal class





# Spain class















## France class







# Canada class



# Italy class









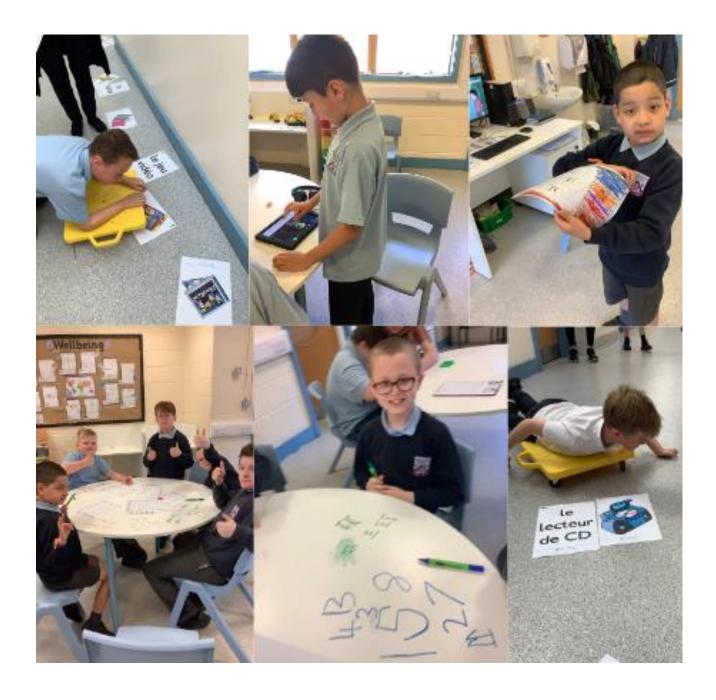








## **USA** class





# Brazil class



#### WORLD ENVIRONMENT











## Peru class













# Mozambique class





# Cape Verde class





# Madagascar class



## Botswana class

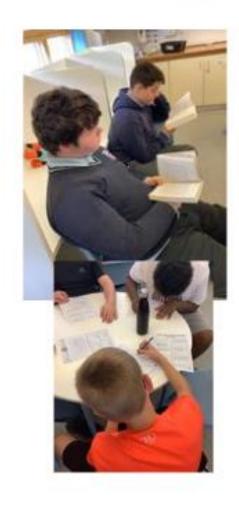




# Seychelles class











# Kenya class





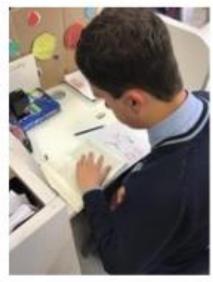






## Australia class

















## Samoa class





## New Zealand class





# Tasmania class













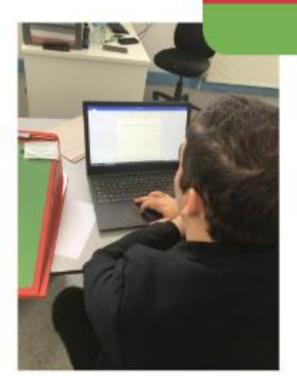






## Malawi class











# Fiji class

















# Papua New Guinea class





















# Christmas Island class









#### Our PBS Team have been featured in the latest issue of Education for **Everybody!**

SPECIAL SCHOOLS, COLLEGES & FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES

#### Abbot's Lea School launches an innovative Positive Behaviour Support service and support hub

One of the largest specialist schools in Liverpool has launched a brand new service delivered by its multidisciplinary team of Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) experts.

bbot's Lea School, Woolton, which delivers a highquality holistic education for students aged 3-19 living with Autism and other complex needs, has recruited a dedicated team of experts to run the bespoke provision.

The hub is designed to offer additional help to students who have become disengaged from education or require extra support with complex needs, including most challenging behaviours. In short, the innovative analytical and therapeutic team works alongside school staff to improve attendance, behaviour and through both, success of the young people with autism and complex learning and social, emotional and mental health needs.

The school proudly adopts a positive behaviour support philosophy, stating that:

- All behaviours happen for a reason
- There are four basic functions of behaviour
- Appropriate behaviour requires skills; we teach these skills
  - We never give up on

our students

As a result, rather than rewarding or punishing specific behaviours, the school seeks to understand the function of the behaviour and, by assessing the social and physical environment in which the behaviour happens, it uses this understanding to develop support that improves the quality of life for the person and those around them. In doing so, the school always keeps the student at the centre of its work with their views and those involved in their education and care (including family) central to the programme of support.

The PBS service and the support hub is headed up by the school's positive behaviour support leader, Claire Welch. Claire is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA), who has worked with children and adults with complex needs and challenging behaviour for the past 18 years, across a range of settings in the North West and North Wales.

Claire's vision for the

hub is to ensure that every child leaves school with the skills to lead a full and

meaningful life reducing the risk of crisis behaviours and possible intrusive support or incriminating social sanction.

Six positive behaviour support assistants have also joined the team and provide support to assess students' needs and support class teams in creating positive risktaking, skills' development and relationship-building, as identified in the functionbased analysis.

The hub is located on site of Abbot's Lea School and is split into two main functions: the first space supports students to reengage with education where they struggle to attend school, and the second space supports students with highly challenging behaviours when these lead to dysregulation and disengagement from their class-based programme of

Claire Welch said: "I was attracted to the role initially due to Abbots Lea School's ambition to be the best school specialist school in the world. Alongside this, having met the headteacher and the senior leadership team, I was excited at the prospect of being able to create a resource that provides bespoke support for the students with most complex needs who don't always get the help and understanding they

Headteacher of Abbot's Lea School, Mrs Ania Hildrey, said: "Our school

never gives up on students. We aim to operate a nonexclusion policy and yet, over time, like many other schools, we have found ourselves in a place where "nothing worked" for some of the most complex of our youngsters.

"Rather than give up, we have worked hard to come up with an innovative solution. Having piloted, over the past two years, a nurture provision approach, we learnt a lot. Some of the strategies used worked well and many did not add value at all. This led to a refined project: a truly multi-disciplinary approach that blends various schools of thought and methods of working to best support the ever-growing complexity of our population.

"The creation of our PBS service and the support hub has already transformed lives of some of our students and we have only just begun. Furthermore, the insertion of new expertise into the staff team has reinvigorated us all - after all, if teachers stop learning, the learning stalls, too!

"We understand that all behaviours happen for a reason, and we have taken it upon ourselves to delve deeper into what the most challenging behaviours might mean, so that we can find the right solution for each individual young person in our care, and ensure they have access to the best education and. more importantly, life's opportunities, possible."

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## **Student of the Week**

#### **Student of the Week**

Class	Student	Reason why
		Key Stage 1
Ireland	Seth	For having a great week in Ireland class!
Wales	Addley	For using the communication board to ask for drink and for writing ABC
		Key Stage 2
Canada	Jamal	For an excellent attitude towards his work, organisation skills and completing everything asked of him. Well done!
Italy	Jan	For working hard every day in phonics.
Portugal	Dominic	For fantastic listening and using his voice to ask for a sensory break!
France	India	For making good choices
Spain	Ansel	For fantastic engagement in all activities.
USA	Mikey	For working hard in maths and completing his work independently!
		Key Stage 3
Brazil	Matthew	For overcoming fears and being brave when out in the public!
Peru	Jakob	For being settled and on task all week.
Mozambique	Immy	For having a fantastic first weeks back and giving 110% in all of his work.
Botswana	Isaac	For producing a fantastic standard of work in English as the class wrote about MacBeth. Well Done Isaac!
Madagascar	Imogen	For having an amazing week back in school.
Kenya	Alfie	For making a great effort in all lessons for his first week back after half term.
Seychelles	Achille	For being expressive throughout the week and completing brilliant work.
Cape Verde	Charlie	For understanding when friends are asking for space and expecting that this helps form a friendship

## **Student of the Week**

		Key Stage 4
Australia	Lexie	For always being a fantastic member of our class, being caring towards other students and for trying your best during your GSCE English Language exam!
Tasmania	Rebecca	For putting excellent effort in lessons this week, trying her best in maths and answering questions in lessons.
Samoa	Kyle	For being noticed around school being extremely polite and following golden rule number 4
New Zealand	Isobella	For having a very positive first week back in school and giving her best effort to completing all of her work.
		Key Stage 5
Malawi	Liam	For always following the golden rules and being amazing at his work experience.
Christmas Island	Alife	For making positive decisions about his future independently and working hard to complete work inside the classroom.
Fiji	Mai	For excellent group work and helping others.
PNG	Ciaran	For fantastic effort getting involved in lessons this week.

#### **Exams 2023**

Saturday	ay	Frid	day	Thurs	sday	Wedn	day	Tues	day	Mond	Sunday
	2		1								
	n Break	Half Term	Break	Half Term							
	9		8		7		6		5		4
		GCSE B paper 2	s paper 1	Level 2 Ce Further Math (AM		GCSE paper 2			paper 1	GCSE E Language (AM	
	16		15		14		13		12		11
		GCSE P paper 2			(AM) glish as a	GCSE paper : GCSE En Second Lan		GCSE Ch paper 2	paper 2	GCSE E Language (AN	
	23		22		21		20		19		18
					ns paper 2	Level 2 C Further Mat (Al					
	30		29		28		27		26		25

#### **Young Person's Advisory Service Liverpool**





#### ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL



9 June 2023

**Dear Families** 

#### Ref: Sports Day - Tuesday 13 June 2023, 10am

We are delighted to confirm that, based on the weather forecast at present, we should be able to safely assume that we will have no rain/strong winds, and so, we will be able to hold our annual Sports Day on Tueday, 13 June 2023, starting at 10am and finishing at 11:30am.

Should last-minute changes occur, we will update you via Parentmail and on school website and social media sites. If the weather is not conducive for running Sports Day we have reserved an additional date for Thursday, 15 June at 10am.

As previously advised, please be aware that, unfortunately, there is no parking on site for families and we ask that you use the side streets surrounding the school to park if you are driving, allowing sufficient time to enter the site, which will be open for you from 9:45am.

When you arrive at school, there will be signing in desk by the gate operated by our staff. Once signed in, you will be directed to the area marked out by cones, and there will be some seating/chairs available. You may wish to consider bringing an umbrella to have some personal shade. We also recommend plenty of cool water and sun cream!

We ask that on that day you send your child to school with a sun hat, extra water bottle and apply sun cream at home prior to departure for school.

We kindly ask, for safeguarding reasons, that you do not take photos or videos during the event.

The event will take place on the field and the students will be sat in their class groups supported by their class team.

There will be a number of different activities for the students to take part in:

- Running races
- 2) Spoon and beanbag race
- Obstacle race
- Sack race
- 5) Skipping race

When the event has finished, the students will go back to class to carry on with their usual day in school. Families will be asked to sign out as they leave the event.

We are excited about the upcoming event and hope that all will enjoy taking part and displaying the skills they have learnt this year in PE.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Hildrey Headteacher



#### ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL



9 June 2023

**Dear Families** 

Ref: Sports Day - Tuesday, 20 June 2023, 10am - 12 noon

We are delighted to confirm that, based on the weather forecast at present, we should be able to safely assume that we will have no rain/strong winds, and so, we will be able to hold our annual Sports Day on Tuesday, 20 June 2023, starting at 10am and finishing at noon.

Should last-minute changes occur, we will update you via Parentmail and on school website and social media sites. If the weather is not conducive for running Sports Day we have reserved an additional date for Wednesday, 21 June at 10am.

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We ask that on that day you send your child to school with a sun hat, extra water bottle and apply sun cream at home prior to departure for school. We kindly ask, for safeguarding reasons, that you do not take photos or videos during the event.

The event will take place on the field and the students will be sat in their class groups supported by their class team. The activities will be as follows:

- 1) 50m sprints
- 2) Standing long jump
- 3) Shot Putt
- 4) Welly throw
- 5) Obstacle race
- Three legged race
- 7) Long distance run
- 8) Domes and dishes challenge

When the event has finished, the students will go back to class to carry on with their usual day in school. Families will be asked to sign out as they leave the event.

We are excited about the upcoming event and hope that all will enjoy taking part and displaying the skills they have learnt this year in PE.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Hildrey Headteacher



#### ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL



8 June 2023

**Dear Families** 

#### Ref: Safety Net - Be Online Aware

The Brain Charity has launched a new programme called SafetyNet and its aim is to educate adults and children with a neurological condition and their parents/carers.

Alistair Barfield is an autistic adult working with The Brain Charity as a Media Literacy trainer, and will be hosting free training sessions.

The sessions cover several topics including staying safe online, common scams to look out for, the issues surrounding fake news and ways in which neurodivergent people may be particularly vulnerable online.

Keeping autistic people safe online is Alistair's passion, as an autistic person himself, he understands the pitfalls and vulnerabilities when interacting with people online.

The sessions are fun and interactive using technology to engage and demonstrate the difficulties with staying safe online. They can be delivered anywhere in the Merseyside region at a time and date to suit, the sessions can even be held in The Brain Charities Centre and are flexible and can be tailored to specific needs.

There is a special session taking place at The Brain Charity Centre on Norton Street L3 8LR on Thursday, 13th July 17:00-18:30 that is dedicated just to parents of neurodivergent children and teenagers.

The link to sign up has gone live and is available to book right now https://www.thebraincharity.org.uk/event/safetynet-for-parents/?\_event\_occurrence\_id=2949

If you have any questions about their courses please call The Brain Charity on 0151 298 2999

Yours sincerely

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Miss L McComasky PA to Headteacher and Clerk to Governors



BE ONLINE AWARE
with The Brain Charity's SafetyNet course



Beaconsfield Road Woolton Liverpool L25 6EE United Kingdom T: +44 (0)151 428 1161 E: reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk W: www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk







# **BE ONLINE AWARE**

#### with The Brain Charity's SafetyNet course

Free media literacy and digital awareness training covering:

Fake news and how to spot it

Online safety, fraud and scam awareness

Conspiracy theories and misinformation

Finding reliable online news

The basics of Google Documents, printing and email

Using the internet to save money

Improving online confidence

Safe use of social media

Free for anyone who has a neurological condition or cares for someone who does. We provide devices to use – just bring yourself!





Email safetynet@thebraincharity.org.uk or call 0151 298 2999 and ask for Suzanne or Ali.













Time: 12pm - 7pm





# Local Offer LIVE 2023

# Wednesday 5th July

Are you a parent/carer of a child/young person with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities? Are you a Professional working with families with SEND?

Come along and visit the Local Offer LIVE and see many services from Health, Local Authority, support groups, activity groups and 3rd Sector Organisations in one marketplace





#### LOCATION:

Liverpool Guild of Students The University of Liverpool 160 Mount Pleasant Liverpool L3 5TR