

# Special Education Needs & Disability



MARICOURT  
CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL  
& SIXTH FORM CENTRE

## Spring 2021 - NEWSLETTER

### MARICOURT NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

Dear parents/carers

I am sure you are all relieved, as we are, to have our students back at school. As a parent, I know how hard home schooling can be and how much pressure you felt to get things done and to get your child through a certain amount of work each day with the fear that they will fall behind or that they will miss big chunks of their education. Please rest assured they are back now and we are working hard to address any gaps in learning as part of our renewed Recovery Curriculum offer. Juggling work, home and being in lockdown has been difficult for us all, but for some of our students (and families) struggling with social communication difficulties it has been more traumatic. Therefore, I have decided to focus this term's newsletter on supporting such students and their families. I hope you find the information useful.

Many Thanks

Jo Cowans (SENCD Co)

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – SEND parent /carer forum (email [byrnec@maricourt.net](mailto:byrnec@maricourt.net) if you want an invite)
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April - Year 8 parents evening and SEND review
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June Year 7 parents evening & SEND review

### Autism

- Autism Awareness week aims to shine a light on autism - to increase awareness about people and especially children who have autism and deliver information on how important it is to detect an early diagnosis
- The National Autistic Society are a great resource to use and they have put together a forum page. On the forum people can raise questions or concerns and get help and support from other families and professionals. You can even offer support on other people's threads. Sometimes it is good to talk and with a forum you do not have to worry about face to face interaction or even revealing your name. You can access the forum by clicking on this link

<https://community.autism.org.uk/?Redirected=true>

### CELEBRATION TIME!



*Against the Odds: In The Jungle*  
Megan has written and published a book during lockdown. One of her dreams was to publish a book and the year she provided her the time to set herself a goal and achieve one of her dreams. During the three months of lockdown Megan wrote this story. Megan hopes to continue writing about other people's dreams of becoming a vet and a teacher.

Five unlikely school friends head off on a geography field trip to the Amazon Rainforest. They have the most amazing week, exploring all of nature, and are set to go home when one of them is nowhere to be found. What comes next is an adventure, full of twists and turns. The friends have to quickly uncover their own individual strengths, but also realise that without each other they would never survive, especially somewhere as unpredictable as the Amazon Rainforest.

Our Year 7 student Megan Cawthron, has written and published a book during lockdown.

Megan has been attending the employability SEND programme during her time at Maricourt this has inspired her and given her the resilience to keep going. She has also set up a lockdown business. Above is the blurb about the book. I have also provided the link for anyone who wishes to support her. It is only £4.

. Against The Odds: In The Jungle  
[https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B08N9DLKWW/ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_cp\\_api\\_fabc\\_SAR3JM7Z3SQNGJMJAGQ](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B08N9DLKWW/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_api_fabc_SAR3JM7Z3SQNGJMJAGQ)



# AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH -4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

Sefton SEN & Inclusion Service

Social Communication Team



## Parent/Carers Workshops

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

1.30-2.30pm

Transition Y6- 7 and supporting autistic young people

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

1.30-2.30pm

Get to know Sefton Inclusion Service professionals:  
The role of Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCO)  
and Inclusion Consultants

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

1.30-2.30pm

Get to know Sefton Inclusion Service professionals:  
The role of the Educational Psychologist



## FREE AUTISM ACCEPTANCE WEEK EVENTS

For young people: What is autism? -  
Saturday 3rd April 6-7pm

We are running a 1 hour session for  
autistic young people, which aims to  
explain to them what autism is and  
share some useful support  
strategies. Book on here:

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www.maricourt.org



For young people: What is autism?  
eventbrite.co.uk

## Autism Education Trust

Free Preparing for Adulthood Training Sessions

Relevant for students in Y11 & Y13

We would like to let you know about a free online  
training delivered by Preparing for Adulthood on the 25th  
of March.

The training consists of two sessions, Self Employment  
and Supporting Innovation: Organisational Adaptation &  
Influence. Both sessions are likely to be of interest to  
anyone suTo find out more and to sign up please visit:

<https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/events/self-employment-and-organisational-adaptations.htm>



## Pre-diagnosis and pathways support (Liverpool & Sefton) 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May

6pm – 8pm This webinar will be delivered by Tracy Bowyer, founder of The Isabella Trust - This course covers:

Current autism pathway for Liverpool and Sefton /Brief introduction to some characteristics of Autism /Brief

introduction to sensory differences