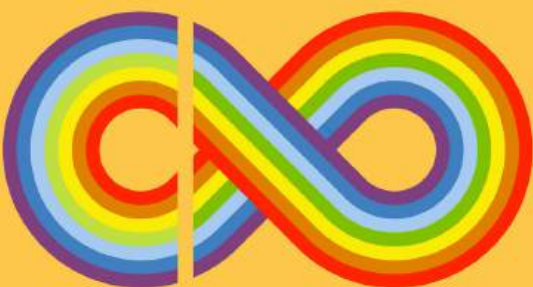


Autism Acceptance Week 2025

A guide to events for Croydon residents
during the week, and beyond

31st March - 6th April 2025

CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk



Part 1: Croydon-based
events
Part 2: Other activities

Autism Acceptance Week

Tuesday

2

ALL



WEEK

World Autism Awareness Day is on April 2nd every year

Autism Acceptance Week is the week around World Autism Awareness Day, which is always on the 2nd April each year.



This is our chance to celebrate our autistic residents, help other people to understand us better, and ensure that people see all of the things autistic people can do, not what we can't.

But we also won't ignore some of the more difficult realities for autistic people and their families, including events about what it's like to be an autistic person, and the link between eating disorders and autism.

The week will end on a positive note with a flag raising outside the Town Hall - please join us for this, and for the events during the week, if you can! They are open to everyone unless they specifically say otherwise so do join us!

Contact:

kevin.oakhill@croydon.gov.

uk

Autism Inclusion Lead

All activities we were aware of have been included in this brochure. This is not an endorsement by Croydon Council and they are not responsible for event content.

Autistic artists exhibition

Monday

to Friday

ALL



WEEK

On all week in the Central Library



Croydon's Autism Service (from the Cherry Hub) will be hosting an exhibition of art from autistic people at the Central Library, on the second floor.

It will run from Monday 31st March to Friday 4th April - why not pop in on the Friday if you haven't managed to already, as it's right next to where the flag raising event takes place!



The Central Library is inside the Town Hall, next to the Clock Tower cafe. Staff will be able to direct you to the exhibition stand.

What's it like being autistic? Online discussion, Q&A

Monday

31st



What's it like being autistic?

Online, [Join here on Teams!](#)

This session is a chance to hear from autistic residents, and listen to their experiences of being autistic in Croydon. What does it mean for them? What is more difficult than it is for other people?

There will be plenty of time for discussion, questions, and for participants to tell us their own experiences, in a safe online space, led by Kevin Oakhill, autistic local resident.



Parenting Autistic Kids

Monday

31st



Run by A Collective and Croydon Active Voices

Online, Teams: [Join us on Teams here!](#)

“Join us in conversation about parenting autistic kids and discovering our own neurodivergence along the way” - a collaboration from A Collective x Croydon Active Voices.





Monday Night Social Club

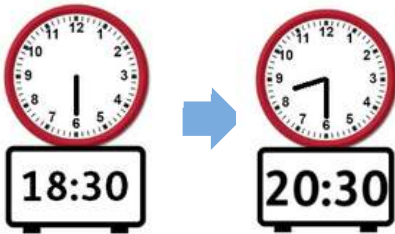
For adults with a learning disability

Autism Acceptance Week

Mar
2025

Monday

31



Join us to celebrate our autistic members! For adults with Learning Disabilities

88 Central Parade, New Addington, Croydon CR0 0JB.
Close to the tram

We are hosting a special party to celebrate Autism Acceptance Week! Come along wearing rainbow colours as our member, DJ Kel spins the tunes! There will also be arts and crafts, drinks and biscuits.



Contact Liz
for more
information



liz@croydonmencap.org.uk

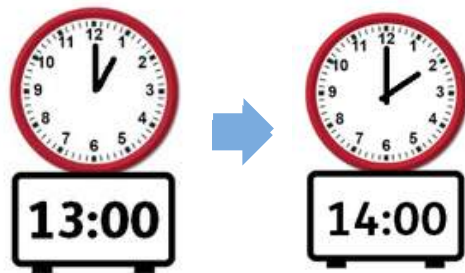


07718 494 636

Minecraft Art Exhibition

Tuesday

1st



How an autistic resident created an art gallery within the game Minecraft

Online via Zoom - link on page 11

Pillow Palace - an A Collective event

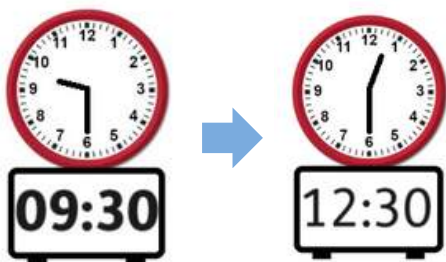
Hear about Bea and Jill's virtual art exhibition in Minecraft created with autistic young artists.



Introduction to Autism course

Wednesday

2nd



Run by The Autism Service, for Croydon Council staff

In person at Bernard Weatherill House - staff can sign up [here](#).

Croydon Council staff can sign up using the online booking system, for this half day course introducing staff to working with autistic residents, run by Maria Esteban.



What's new for autistic residents?

Wednesday

2nd



15:00



16:00

Find out about new services & developments to help our autistic residents!

Online, [click here to join via MS Teams](#)



We ran a similar session last year, but there's so much that's new! From crisis support to mental health, come and find out what's new - or tell us what you / your organisation is doing for autistic people in Croydon! A relaxed talk with lots of time for discussions and questions.

Wednesday

2nd

Chill, chat, create!



20:00



22:00

Join others online for a relaxed evening discussion while crafting - run by A Collective

Online via Zoom - link on page 11



Informal 'Chill Chat Create' - join A Collective in a low duress creative/craft session - work on a project of your own or sign up for a free collage/zine resource pack.

Activities from Bright Futures 4 All

Thursday

3rd

ALL



WEEK

Bright Futures 4 All SEND after school club

During term-time, Bright Futures 4 All are running an after-school club. It's run by young adults with SEND, at Heavers Farm School near Selhurst / South Norwood and takes place from 3:00-5:30 on Thursdays.

HOMESCHOOLING HUB

Tailored Learning, Bright Futures!

Location: Heavers Farm School, 58 Dinsdale Gardens, London SE25 6LT

Days: 3 days a week

Available: Small groups and 1-to-1 sessions



Secondary Age (max 12 children)

For those struggling with anxiety, or SEN-children needing smaller groups



Sensory Fun Zones!

Cakes and Conversation

Run by SEND young adults!

Thursdays – 3pm to 5.30pm

SEND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Unlocking Potential, Building Brighter Futures!

Location: Heavers Farm School, 58 Dinsdale Gardens, London SE25 6LT

Date: Thursdays Open at 3pm. Close: 5.30pm (Term Time only)

Who: For SEND students in Ks2 (Year 4-6) & Ks3 (Year 7)

Ofsted

THE PHOENIX WAY

CROYDON fund for global children

0207 062 7123 / 07835 878283

admin1@brightfutures4all.com

brightfutures4all.com

Karen Bryson

@BF4Allteaching

@brightfutures4all

Thursday

3rd

Autism & Eating Disorders discussion



Find out more about the links between autism & eating disorders from experts by experience

Online, [click here to join via MS Teams](#)



There is a considerable crossover between autistic people, and those with eating disorders. This session will cover topics that may be difficult for some but will be a valuable way to learn more about how to support autistic people with challenges around food. Run by Catherine Clifton & SWLSG Eating Disorders group.

Friday

4th

What can we do to help autistic residents?



A discussion mainly aimed at staff working with autistic residents - but we'd love to hear from autistic people and families too!

Online, [click here to join via MS Teams](#)

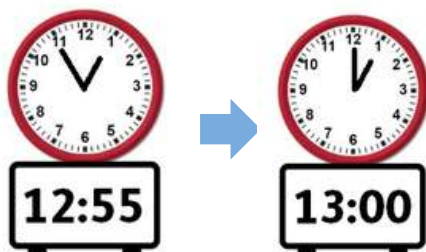


What can we do, without spending lots of money, to make things easier for our autistic residents? Hear what others are doing, tell us what you are doing to help, or let us know what we should be doing!

Flag Raising

Friday

4th



Come to our Autism Acceptance Flag Raising Ceremony

Outside Town Hall, Katherine Street,
CR0 1NX

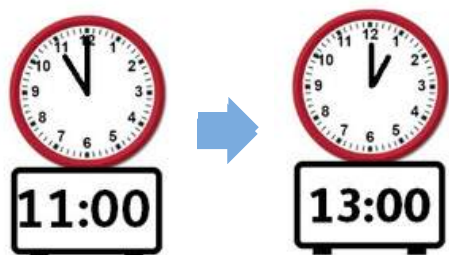


Come and celebrate the end of Autism Acceptance Week with us! The Worshipful, the Civic Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Kola Agboola will be in attendance, as will members of the local community and Autism Partnership Board.

Saturday

5th

Walk 'n' talk in Lloyd Park



Relaxed walk and chat session with A Collective

At Lloyd Park - meet at the cafe at
11am



“Meet the A Collective team, find out our plans, connect with other autistic residents, and let us know what you would like to see in terms of Creative Health and Wellbeing for autistic people in the borough.”

What's on throughout April

April

6th-30th

A Collective are running more events throughout April and beyond, you can see the complete schedule here and find out more by scanning the QR code with your phone!

Autism Acceptance 2025

A Collective Events Schedule



Booking links / more info on our website: <https://bit.ly/ACollectiveApril2025>

Date	Time	Location	Description
Mon 31 st	1pm – 2pm	Online – open to all	A Collective X Croydon Active Voices collab: join us in conversation about parenting autistic kids and discovering our own neurodivergence along the way
Tue 1 st	1pm – 2pm	Online – open to all	Pillow Palace: hear about Bea and Jill's virtual art exhibition in Minecraft created with autistic young artists
Weds 2 nd	8pm – 10pm	Online – for autistic adults 18+ only – no diagnosis required	Informal 'Chill Chat Create': join A Collective in a low duress creative/craft session – work on a project of your own or sign up for a free collage/zine resource pack
Fri 4 th	8pm – 10pm	Online – for autistic adults 18+ only – no diagnosis required	Informal 'Chill Chat Create': join A Collective in a low duress creative/craft session – work on a project of your own or sign up for a free collage/zine resource pack
Sat 5 th	11am – 1pm	Lloyd Park – for autistic people and families of all ages	Walk 'n' Talk: meet A Collective, find out our plans, connect with other autistic residents, let us know what you would like to see in terms of Creative Health and Wellbeing for autistic people in the borough
Sun 13 th	12pm – 4pm	Turf Projects – for autistic young adults w/o LD, age 16-30	Youth Hub: workshop on access and inclusion: what's your (platonic and/or professional) love language? Make your own access rider, learn about access conflict and compromise; registered members only
Weds 16 th	11am – 1pm	Coombe Wood – for autistic people and families, kids 10+	Wander, Ponder, Haiku, Repeat: join Jill from A Collective and Zak from Autistic Youth Hub in a collaborative poetry workshop, no experience needed
Tue 22 nd	12pm – 1pm	Online – open to all	Autistic Community Hub: new magazine-style website and online community for Croydon and surrounds: project overview and soft launch event
	8pm – 9pm	Online – for autistic adults 18+ only – no diagnosis required	Autistic Community Hub: new magazine-style website and online community for Croydon and surrounds: project overview and soft launch event
Sun 27 th	12pm – 4pm	Turf Projects – for autistic young adults w/o LD, age 16-30	Youth Hub Open House: come and meet the Youth Hub team, optional creative activities – no need to be a registered member, just drop by
Tue 29 th	1pm – 1.30pm	Online – open to all	LABEL: join Jill from A Collective for the soft launch of a participatory arts project exploring how the definition and ownership of our autistic identities evolves over time
	8pm – 8.30pm	Online – for autistic adults 18+ only – no diagnosis required	LABEL: join Jill from A Collective for the soft launch of a participatory arts project exploring how the definition and ownership of our autistic identities evolves over time

For more info and Zoom links to join all A Collective events, click [here](https://bit.ly/ACollectiveApril2025).

April

6th-30th

What's on throughout April - 2

Bright Futures 4 All are also running regular events throughout the month and year.

You can find out more and contact them using the details below, or scan the QR code using your phone to go straight to their website. Apart from the Holiday Club, these run during school term-times only.



The poster features a central circular image of diverse children in a classroom setting, some reading books and others interacting. The background is a warm orange color. At the top left is the Bright Futures 4 All logo, which consists of a stylized white figure inside a red and yellow circle, with the text 'BRIGHT FUTURES 4 ALL' around it. To the right of the logo is the text 'BRIGHT FUTURES 4 ALL' in large, bold, white letters. Below the logo is the text 'HOMESCHOOLING HUB' and a description of the program. To the right of the central image is a QR code and the text 'Join Us' and 'visit our website today'. Below the QR code is the text 'Call now! 07835 878283'. At the bottom left is the address 'Heavers Farm School | 58 Dinsdale Garden, SE25 6LT CROYDON AREA'. At the bottom center is a red banner with the text 'Inclusive Learning Environment For Your Child's Growth And Success'. At the bottom right is the word 'CROYDON' in large, bold, purple letters.

BRIGHT FUTURES 4 ALL

Join Us

visit our website today

Call now!
07835 878283

HOMESCHOOLING HUB

Tailored learning in a structured & nurturing space Small groups & 1-to-1
Funded places available

SEND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Sensory fun zone
Run by SEND young adults
Cakes & Conversions
Funded places available

HOLIDAY CLUB

Free For FSM Students
Arts & Sports
Science Fun
Lunch provided
Funded places available

Heavers Farm School | 58 Dinsdale Garden, SE25 6LT CROYDON AREA

Inclusive Learning Environment For Your Child's Growth And Success

CROYDON

Events and Resources from national organisations that anyone can access

The National Autistic Society is running a webinar about supporting autistic people in the workplace later this month, on April 15th. You can sign up [here](#).

They have also created a series of free resources for schools and employers [here](#).

The Autism Education Trust has created new resources for teachers and parents for AAW. You can find them [here](#).

Ambitious about Autism have a new campaign called Small Changes, Big Difference. They explain common autistic traits and reactions, including stimming, burnout, masking and much more. Resources are tailored for schools, employers and for use in everyday life, and can be found [here](#).

Their youth network has also created resources including videos, blogs, etc about dating, sex and relationships, by and for autistic teenagers and young adults, available [here](#).

Beyond Autism run monthly lunch and learn sessions online. Their April session is on the 24th, and about transition from early years into school. You can find the full schedule, and book a place, [here](#).

Events and Resources from national organisations that anyone can access - 2

CRAE - the Centre for Research in Autism Education, part of University College London - also run monthly events, of a more academic / research-based nature. This month's event is called "Supporting non-speaking autistic people's flourishing using collaborative cognitive science", and you can find out more about all their events [here](#).

And finally - if you want to get involved next year, or join one of our groups and help the next generations of autistic people to live better lives, please contact Kevin Oakhill, Autism Inclusion Lead. Kevin is an autistic local resident, who lives in Croydon, and will be at many of these events, or you can contact him on kevin.oakhill@croydon.gov.uk .

