

SEN Signpost

Welcome to the 2023 Spring edition of Bexley's newsletter for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

This is a platform for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) to share your voice.

Edition 5 – Spring 2023

In this issue:

- A survey about what is going really well and what is not working well for you in your school classroom
- Bexley Pupil Forum – join the team!
- Thank you for your feedback on money matters and banking for young people
- Audio books and comics

Take part in our survey! Tell us about what you enjoy at school and what is not going well for you in your classroom education.

Read more about our classroom education survey in this newsletter.



Get involved in the Bexley Pupil Forum

Would you like to join a pupil forum for secondary school aged children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)?



Bexley Local Authority are providing an opportunity for pupils with SEND in Bexley secondary schools to be part of a team and have their voice heard!

- Represent your school or education setting to ensure your views are taken into consideration when planning and delivering SEND services across the local area
- Work together as a forum on specific tasks identified by the Bexley SEND Strategic Board
- Contribute to reviewing and developing the Bexley Local Offer website
- Provide content and direction for SEN Signpost

Speak to your teacher and let them know that you would like to be part of this exciting opportunity!

For more information contact:

Email: localoffer@bexley.gov.uk

Telephone: 0203 045 5677

Tell us your story, you are an inspiration!

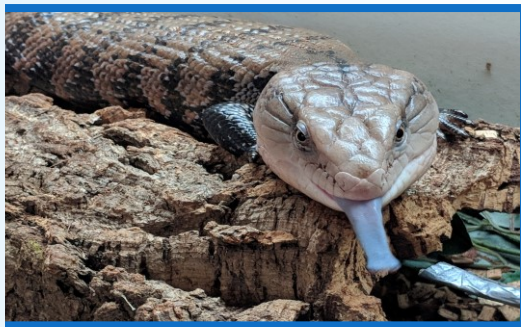
In this edition, we hear from Ben, an inspirational young man who has Dyslexia and Dyspraxia and would like to share his story in his own words...

Hi, my name is Ben and my passion is animals!

Ever since I was a kid, I have always loved animals. When I was younger it was the zoo animals I liked. I did a zoo keeper experience day when I was 12 and fed a rhino! As I got older reptiles became my passion.

They are like a kind of therapy in a way. Animals don't judge you when you have a special need or disability like me. I struggled at school, mainly due to my Dyslexia and Dyspraxia, but the animals gave me something to focus on.

During school holidays, I went to the clubs at Animal Days Out, now known as ADO Services in Welling. I got to learn about animals and earned some badges. I became a mentor and helped other children learn about animal care. I helped out at events as part of their summer community roadshow and loved it!



I left school and went onto college to study animal management. College was hard, especially during Covid, and there were times I felt like giving up. I have trouble with writing and needed extra help with my Dyslexia but I didn't give up on my goal.

Having my own as pets, taught me about responsibility and commitment. Looking after their vivarium's, feeding them and making sure they are healthy is really important.

At the moment I have a blue tongue skink called Rex. His viv takes up most of my bedroom! I also have 2 leopard geckos, a crested gecko and my latest edition is named Wasp. She is a tiny sand skink and spends most of her time buried in sand so I don't see much of her. My Mum says that is a bit like me, I'm mostly in my bedroom with my reptiles.

I am proud to say I left college with a Level 3 BTEC in animal management. The timing was perfect as ADO Therapy were advertising for an animal therapy assistant and I got the job! Being back at ADO is like being back at home with my 'animal family'. They understand that having Dyspraxia causes a lot of pain in my hands and legs and they have been really supportive. I love working there with the animals and in my role as a therapy assistant, I support young people who have different special needs like Autism and ADHD. My brother has Autism so I understand a bit more about it.

My advice to you is never give up on your dream. Don't let having a disability like Dyslexia or Dyspraxia stop you having future goals and following your dream career. Ask for help, accept the help and with support, you may surprise yourself at what you can achieve.

For more information about ADO Therapy Services, telephone: 0208 850 6778

Or visit the ADO website: <https://www.adotherapy.co.uk/ado-therapy>

Would you like to share your story?

We would love to hear from you, send us your inspirational story today!

Take part in our survey! Have your say about your classroom education

Bexley Local Authority are providing an opportunity for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to have your say about the help that you get in your classroom.

Tell us about how things are going for you in your classroom. You can tell us about the good things and the things that are not working so well if you want.

These are some examples we have already received from children:

"My teacher is lovely but the ticking clock in the classroom really distracts me"

"I would really like an indoor lunchtime club to do my homework"

"An audio book would help as I find too much text very confusing"

"I have been given a sensory box; it really helps me concentrate on my work"

Please answer the following questions:



Tell us about something that is **working really well** for you in your classroom?

Have you told your teacher what is working really well for you?



Tell us about something that is **not working very well** for you in your classroom?

Have you told your teacher what is not working well for you?

You can tell us your answers by telephone, email or send a letter. You can ask your parent or carer to help you do this.

Telephone: 0203 045 5677

Email: localoffer@bexley.gov.uk

By post: Bexley Local Offer, Civic Offices, 1st Floor, 2 Watling Street, Bexleyheath, DA6 7AT

If you would like to take part in our survey, please get in touch!

If things are not going well for you in your classroom, you can ask your teacher for help. Tell them what would help make things better for you.

You can tell your parent or carer that you would like more help in your classroom.

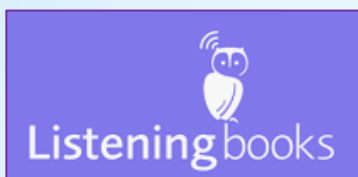
If your parent or carer would like more information about getting you extra help in your classroom, they can contact the Bexley Information, Advice and Support Service.

Telephone: 0203 045 5976 | Website: <https://www.bexleyiass.co.uk/>

Having difficulty reading a book or comic? Try listening to an audio book or audio comic instead!

Listening Books is an audiobook lending charity for those that find their illness, mental health, physical or learning disability affects their ability to read the printed word or hold a book.

Listening Books provides a postal and internet-based audiobook service with over 10,000 fantastic titles for you to enjoy and includes educational, fiction and non-fiction books.



Find out more about Listening Books and Comics:

- **Telephone:** 07729 278 461
- **Website:** [Local Offer | Listening Books](#)

Would you like to know more about money matters and how to open a bank account?



Thank you to the young people in Bexley who contributed to our new online guide to 'Money Matters for young people'.

The young people provided useful information about:

- what is a bank and how to open a bank account?
- what do local banks provide for those with a hearing or visual impairment

Find out more about 'Money Matters':
[Local Offer | Money Matters for Young People](#)

Get in touch if you would like to get involved!

Get involved in creating your newsletter, your way!

- ✓ Ask any questions you may have about your SEN related issues
- ✓ Learn more about who can support you if you need help
- ✓ Find out what is happening in Bexley
- ✓ Get involved with shaping SEN Services

Thank you to the children and young people from Bexley who have helped shape the design and content of SEN Signpost.



Contact Us:

Telephone: 0203 045 5677

Email: localoffer@bexley.gov.uk

Website: www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/Services/5408