

SEND

Weekly Newsletter

27 March 2019



Issue 33

Pop-up shop is finalist in business awards

The sen.se Sational shop project continues next month when the Yeovil branch opens. It was a big success in Taunton - now the project has now been chosen as a finalist in the Somerset Education Business Partnership Awards 2019.

The latest branch run by young people with stock created by pupils from special schools across the county has its official opening on 12pm on Wednesday, 3 April in the Quedam Centre. The ribbon will be cut by David Woan, President of Yeovil's Chamber of Commerce.

The pop-up shop is a finalist in the Careers Inspiration in Education award at a ceremony next month in Bridgwater.

The project is led by Special Educational Needs. Somerset Expertise (sen.se), with the support of charity Young Somerset. Sen.se is a partnership between special schools and specialist provision within Somerset.

The shop gives young people valuable work experience and skills for life.

Products for sale include: Beautiful limited edition paintings, homemade preserves, handmade bags, cards and upcycled furniture.

The Somerset Education Business Partnership Awards are on 24 April.



Short break Bristol trip

The Short Breaks Team is running a coach trip this Easter from Yeovil and Taunton to Gympanzees – a fully inclusive leisure facility near Bristol.

The day is for children and young people of all ages.

As one parent said: “There is a difference between your children being tolerated and celebrated, but here it is so clear they are celebrated.

Short Breaks are offering the trip for £12 per child to include 3 hours exclusive use at the centre and coach travel and £5 for adults to cover the coach.

Call the office on 01823 358117 if you would like to book a place.



World Autism Awareness Week - four areas of difference

It's World Autism Awareness Week next week - 1-7 April - so what does being on the Autistic spectrum mean?

Every child and young person on the spectrum will have a range of abilities and needs within each of these areas:

1. Social understanding:

Differences in understanding social behaviour and the feelings of others which informs the development of friendships and relationships.

2. Differences in perceiving sensory information:



Hypo (low sensitivity), hyper (high sensitivity), touch, sight, hearing, smell, taste, vestibular inner ear (balance), proprioceptive (body awareness)

3. Interests and information processing:

Differences in perception, planning, understanding concepts, generalising, predicting, managing transitions, passions for interests and ability to absorb auditory or spoken information.

4. Communication:



Differences in understanding and expressing communication and language, with skills ranging from individuals who are highly articulate, to others who may be non-verbal. Good language skills may mask a deep level of misunderstanding.



These four areas of difference create high levels of stress and anxiety, and this can have a profound impact on an individual's performance and behaviour. For more information contact JDennisMinns@somerset.gov.uk

New building will support journey into adulthood

Pupils and staff at Selworthy school are celebrating after a project to revamp an empty building and turn it into a new 6th form centre was launched. Developer Willmott Dixon is carrying out the work at no cost and suppliers have provided the materials as a donation. It's all part of a commitment to give something back to the community.

The new centre will have a common room, changing places WC, classrooms, café and a flat to enable students to prepare for independent living.

The new facility complements Willmott Dixon's development of the new £9million Hazelbrook Campus at the school which will create another 100 places for pupils with a range of Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

