



Dear supporter,

It's been another busy start to the new academic year, and we're excited to share with you some of the things that we've been working on.

In this month's newsletter you can learn more about our brand-new strategy, take a look at our resources co-created with the Youth Network and find out how we've been celebrating Black History Month. We also have some exciting new opportunities for autistic young people.

## **Time for Ambition: Our new three-year strategy**

This autumn, we launched a new strategy to guide our work over the next three years.

Due to a perfect storm of COVID-19, lack of funding and an ongoing lack of understanding, there's never been a more critical time to stand with autistic young people, champion their rights and create opportunities.

Our founding purpose is to provide autistic children and young people with an excellent education. But our strategy also recognises the need for support in all areas of life, including education, health and wellbeing, employment, citizenship and family and relationships.

[Download our strategy](#)

## **Young people create post-diagnosis resources**

Our Youth Network has created a series of videos and blogs talking openly about what it felt like to be diagnosed with autism as children, teenagers or young adults.

They decided to embark on the project to tackle the lack of peer-led advice and support available to young people going through the autism diagnosis process. They hope sharing their experiences will help others feel less alone.

**[Check out the videos and blogs](#)**

## **Celebrating Black History Month**

Across our settings, we've been celebrating Black History Month. Pupils at TreeHouse School have been creating art inspired by British artist Yinka Shonibare CBE and his use of bright patterns and colours. History classes at The Rise School have been dedicating lessons to the forgotten history of significant Black people around the world and their impact on life as we know it. In music class, pupils have had lots of fun learning new rhythms on the African drums.

Learners at Ambitious College have been cooking delicious meals, learning about cultural music and dancing, and getting sensory with some fantastic pieces from countries in Africa.

## **Run for Team Ambitious in the London Marathon 2022**

Team Ambitious took part in the Virgin Money London Marathon, with 22 runners at the event and six that ran virtually. Some of our runners were from our corporate partners — Marsh McLennan and TalkTalk. We'd like to give a special mention to Digby Walker who took part with six other runners dressed as Colin the Caterpillar and broke the Guinness World Record! Thank you to everyone who supported our runners.

We have charity places for TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) London Marathon 2022, which is taking place on Sunday 2 October. If you would like to run for Team Ambitious, apply today.

### **[Run for Team Ambitious in 2022](#)**

## **Work experience opportunities: deadline 31 October**

Are you an autistic job seeker or know someone who is? Our well-established Employ Autism programme offers autistic people aged 18 years and older the chance to showcase their skills and attributes in the workplace.

We currently have some fantastic paid work experience opportunities with Arriva, Capgemini, and SAP for autistic job seekers. Please share with your networks and anyone who may be interested.

Applicants for our placements in London and surrounding counties are supported by our expert and friendly team throughout the process. For placements located outside of London, we are working with local careers and employability professionals to provide support and guidance for applicants.

**[Apply today.](#)**

## **Are you autistic and LGBTQ+? We want to hear from you!**

If you're autistic, aged 14 - 25 and identify as LGBTQ+, we'd like your help producing information for other autistic young people.

In response to feedback from many of you, we're developing information and resources focused on the experiences of autistic LGBTQ+ young people. We've already started gathering feedback and ideas from autistic young people, and now we want to work with you to produce this content. There are many ways you can get involved, from featuring in a video, writing a blog, or helping us test the resources we produce.

### **Tell us you're interested**

Thank you for your continuing support of our work. Because of this, we continue to put autistic children and young people at the heart of everything that we do.

Best wishes,  
Team Ambitious