



In the newsletter this month



National Autistic Society Professionals Conference 2027



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Webinar on 10th November 2026: Autism – Camouflaging and Masking



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News updates

British Dyslexia launching BDA Youth Voice



British Dyslexia are launching BDA Youth Voice - a new group for young people aged 12–30 with lived experience of dyslexia. They want young people to help shape their campaigns, resources and the way we talk about dyslexia. Register your interest: [BDA Youth Voice Project - interest](#).

Government Reforms to England's SEND System



The Government is planning significant reforms to England's SEND system, including the introduction of Individual Support Plans (ISPs) and National Inclusion Standards for mainstream schools. [Autism Charity](#) | [Ambitious about Autism](#) fear these reforms won't deliver meaningful change unless they are legally enforceable. Parents agree. Click the link to join their Absence Notes campaign and make your voice heard at this crucial time: [Absence Notes](#) | [Ambitious about Autism](#).

Six Ways to make the most of a Gap Year – The Careers Writers Association



Read and share this interesting article by [Careers Writers Association](#) to discover how to make the most of a Gap Year. You can read it here: [6 ways to Make the most of a Gap Year](#).

New Vocational GCSE's to replace Technical Awards



Vocational GCSE's are to sit alongside traditional GCSEs and replace existing Technical Awards, helping create pathways to A, V and T Levels, and employment, apprenticeships and university. **VGCE's** will be available in some subjects from as early as September 2029, as part of broader new technical pathways starting in September 2028. Read more here: [FE News | New Vocational GCSEs to Replace Technical Awards](#).

What are National Inclusion Standards and why do they matter?



The Government has proposed introducing National Inclusion Standards as part of its SEND reforms. National Inclusion Standards would set minimum expectations for how mainstream schools support children and young people with SEND. The aim is to make support more consistent, so families know what they should be able to expect, no matter where they live. But there is an important question at the heart of the debate: should these standards simply be guidance, or should schools be legally required to meet them? Read more about National Inclusion Standards here: [National Inclusion Standards Explained | SEND Reform Guide](#).

The National Autistic Society claims that Autism is inherited



[National Autistic Society](#) (NAS) has claimed definitively - for the first time - that autism is inherited. The organisation has shared its conclusions on its website this week, following a review of almost 100 pieces of high-quality evidence and research. It declared: "Autism is genetic, you're born autistic and you're autistic for life". The NAS said it had carried out the analysis in part following continued misinformation about the condition, and claims that it is caused by vaccines and pain killers. Read their article here: [Autism IS genetic the National Autistic Society has concluded | SENDsational Futures](#).

Thousands of Young Disabled People to be offered guaranteed jobs



Thousands of young disabled people and those with long-term health conditions are set to be offered a fast-tracked job under the government's Jobs Guarantee. Under the scheme, eligible young people on health benefits will be offered a guaranteed job on a voluntary basis from week 13 after their Work Capability Assessment. You can read the full report here: [Thousands of young disabled people to be offered guaranteed jobs - GOV.UK](#).

Upcoming Events

Webinar on Autism: Camouflaging & Masking: 10th November 2026



Attend this advanced webinar led by **Associate Professor Dr. Meng-Chuan Lai and** hosted by The Association for Child & Mental Health - Autism: Camouflaging and Masking (Impression Management) – Evidence and Clinical Implications: **Tuesday 10th November 2026, 3pm-5pm**. Camouflaging and masking (also known as Impression Management) in autism are increasingly recognised as critical topics in clinical practice, research, and public discourse. However, key conceptual, developmental, and clinical questions remain—particularly in relation to children and adolescents. Find out more and book: [Autism: Camouflaging and Masking \(Impression Management\) — Evidence and Clinical Implications](#).

Discover Creative Careers in November



November is 'Discover Creative Careers Month'! Whether you're interested in gaming, music, design, film, fashion, technology or something else, there are more ways into creative careers than ever before. Discover Creative Careers is bringing together young people, educators and industry across the UK to open doors, build connections and create new pathways into the creative industries. Find out more here: [Discover creative careers | The UK's home for creative careers](#).

Tomorrow's Engineers Week – 9th-13th November 2026



Whether you're an engineer, a STEM expert, an educator, or part of an engineering organisation, there are many ways to get involved with Tomorrow's Engineers Week. The campaign supports schools and teachers to inspire their students with exciting engineering and technology career activities. The theme for the 14th Tomorrow's Engineers Week has been announced as **Shape our Future**. It aims to show young people how engineering and technology tackles the real-world issues they care about. Through free hands-on activities, it will position STEM careers as inclusive, inspiring roles where students can directly shape future solutions. Find out how to get involved: [Get excited for Tomorrow's Engineers week!](#)

Winchester Creative Careers Fair – 11th November 2026 4pm-6pm



Organised by [Visit Winchester](#) and partners as part of [Discover Creative Careers Month](#) the event will bring together employers, freelancers, creative professionals and education providers to showcase the breadth of opportunities available across the creative industries and help young people better understand the pathways into them. Find out more and register your interest here: [Visit Winchester | Winchester Creative Careers Fair](#).

Recommended Websites & Resources

Autistic and OK Resources from Ambitious about Autism



The Autistic and OK toolkit is a free downloadable toolkit of resources which equips mainstream and specialist secondary schools to support the wellbeing of autistic pupils through a series of peer-led sessions which cover key mental health topics. You can access the resources here: [Autistic and OK | Download the Autistic and OK toolkit](#).

Youth Employment Toolkit from Youth Futures Foundation



Explore the updated and expanded Youth Employment toolkit from the Youth Futures Foundation. The new edition offers accessible and usable insights on common youth employment interventions and their components to help support decision-makers improve the lives of young people. Access the toolkit here: [Youth Employment Toolkit - Youth Futures Foundation](#).

New Animation from The National Autistic Society



The National Autistic Society have produced a new animation answering the question, [What is autism?](#). Click the link to watch the short film and read the links to understand more about Autism.

Dyslexic Thinking Navigator Tool



The **Dyslexic Thinking Navigator** is a free, 10-minute assessment tool created by the charity [Made By Dyslexia](#) in partnership with recruitment firm [Randstad Enterprise](#). You can access the tool here: [Dyslexic thinking navigator | Randstad Enterprise](#).

Springpod Virtual RAF Work Experience



A new Career Simulation with the **Royal Air Force (RAF)** is now live! Springpod are excited to launch the all-new Air Traffic and Weapons Controller Career Simulation - giving young people the opportunity to explore this unique career and experience the kinds of tasks involved in the role. Explore all the RAF's experiences here: [RAF Virtual Work Experience | Explore Careers & Build Skills](#).

Video from ACAMH Learn: The Teen Brain on Tourettes Syndrome



In the latest episode of Inside the Teen Brain, Jane Gilmour talks to Rayne Huggins about being diagnosed with Tourette syndrome. Drawing on personal lived experience, Rayne shares an honest first-hand perspective on the pros and cons of receiving a diagnosis, exploring questions around identity, self-understanding and belonging. [The Teen Brain: Tourettes Syndrome](#).

Into Film New Course for Educators and Resources for Students



Get learners talking, thinking and exploring through games with this new course for educators and resource for your learners. **The Level Up Oracy** course allows educators to build confidence teaching with games through ready-to-use frameworks supporting discussions, encourage analysis and media literacy skills. The **Talking About Games** resource (Primary, Secondary & Next Level) teaches learners to discuss ideas, viewpoints and media messages through games and games video trailers. From encouraging learners to share opinions to critical-thinking around games-analysis. Find out more: [Into Film](#).

Apprenticeships, Internships and Opportunities

Ways into Work Supported Internships (Route to Recruit)



Route to Recruit supports young people aged 16–24 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who experience barriers to moving into employment. The programme combines real workplace experience, learning and tailored support, helping interns develop practical skills, confidence and the experience they need to progress towards paid employment. Find out more: [Support For Your Journey To Employment - Ways into Work](#).

The NFTS (National Film & Television School) Academy is back!



For budding filmmakers aged 16-19, applications are now open for the second year of the NFTS FREE residential filmmaking course, based at the National Film & Television School. Supported by The Walt Disney Company, make short films with top industry professionals at a world-class film school. You will also get the chance to go behind the scenes on a tour of the legendary Pinewood Studios, home to James Bond, Star Wars, and Spider-Man: Brand New Day! Find out all you need to know and apply: [NFTS Academy | NFTS](#).

Change 100 – Paid Internships for Disabled Students and Graduates



Change 100 is open for new applications. Change 100 is an internship programme that connects talented individuals with inclusive employers. It also offers personal development and mentoring. It is open to students in their final year and recent graduates who will be or have been awarded a first or upper second degree and who consider themselves to be disabled as defined in the Equality Act 2010. The candidates must have the right to work in the UK for the period of the internship. Find out more: [Change 100 applicants](#) | [Ingeus UK](#).

Applications for the ScreenSkills Trainee Finder 2027-28 now open



[ScreenSkills](#) Trainee finder provides 'set ready' training to talented individuals who can then apply for placements on UK productions which pay into the ScreenSkills funds. Applications for the Trainee Finder 2027-28 are now open. Find out more and apply: [Trainee Finder - ScreenSkills](#).

For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Department

A Careers Adviser's Guide to supporting SEND and Disabled Young People



If you are a Careers Adviser supporting a young person with SEND/ASN/ALN, this latest UCAS blog article can help you prepare them for building new networks and finding their community in higher education: [A careers adviser's guide to supporting SEND and disabled young people](#) | [UCAS](#).

Expert Academic Panel on Neurodiversity: Final Report and Recommendations



The Expert Academic Panel on Neurodiversity Report was published on 2nd October 2026. You can read the full report here: [Expert Academic Panel on Neurodiversity: Final Report and Recommendations - GOV.UK](#). You can also read The National Autistic Society's response to this report: [Our response to the Expert Academic Panel on Neurodiversity Report](#).

Interesting Article 'Listening to the Childminder' from SENDsational Futures



This is an interesting article from SENDsational Futures about how the early years can be an important part of your child's future and how the childminder's important role is often overlooked: [Listening to the childminder](#) | [SENDsational Futures](#).

National Autistic Society Annual Professionals' Conference – March 2027



Save the date – the National Autistic Society Annual Professionals' Conference is returning in March 2027! Bringing together expert speakers, the latest thinking and practical insights, the conference will support professionals working with autistic people to develop their knowledge and practice. Register your interest now to be among the first to hear about the programme, keynote speakers and ticket information: [Annual Professionals' Conference 2027](#).

Get in touch

FutureSmart Essentials for schools



FutureSmart Careers offers a range of well-loved packages for schools but can also tailor a plan to fit schools' needs exactly. Our FutureSmart Essentials package includes:

- Suite of downloadable resources
- 9-5 careers advice helpline
- Monthly newsletters with news, events and opportunities

Contact us



For all other enquiries, please contact our team at enquiries@futuresmartcareers.co.uk or give us a call on Tel: 0330 311 9509

We'd love to hear from you!