

PAL Leader Refreshers Workshop

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Hello!

Finn Topson

Team Lead –Disability Support

fpt22@bath.ac.uk

A scenic view of the University of Bath campus, featuring a large green lawn, a pond in the foreground, and modern university buildings in the background under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue rectangular box.

The Disability Service at The University of Bath

We provide specialist advice through studies, including liaising with departments to recommend study adjustments (e.g. exam arrangements) and applying for specialist support and equipment.

We are based out of the Student Services Centre in 4West along with Wellbeing, Money Advice and Counselling & Mental Health.

What is autism?

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Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how people perceive the world and interact with others

National Autistic Society

“ Autistic people see, hear
and feel the world
differently to other people.
If you are autistic, you are
autistic for life ... autism
cannot be ‘cured’

National Autistic Society

<http://interactingwithautism.com/section/understanding/voices>

- Autism is not a learning disability or mental health problem, although there are increased rates in people with ASD
- Asperger syndrome is an autism spectrum condition – essentially describes 'high functioning' end of autism spectrum

Top Tips (1/2)

Sensory details

Be aware of surroundings and ASK if the environment is ok –e.g. are these lights bright enough? Can everyone hear me ok?

Group work

Can be challenging for those with ASC due to communication difficulties. Be considerate of this and don't make assumptions about *why* students are struggling with group work

Back up verbal instructions with written ones

Visual supports such as flowcharts, mind maps etc may be useful.

Top Tips (2/2)

Language

Use clear, unambiguous language – avoid metaphor, irony and sarcasm

Don't assume

That people will know what you are thinking/intimating.
Explain clearly and write information down when possible

Structure

Structure is hugely helpful. Consistency of approach and predictability are important.

More info available: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/supporting-students-with-autistic-spectrum-conditions/attachments/supporting-students-with-autistic-spectrum-conditions.pdf>

Thanks

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