

# THE GESHER GAZETTE

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[The Bridge](#)

13th January 2023

## Extra! Extra! Read all about it!!!

The second issue of The Bridge is finally here - Gesher's very own adult learning journal! It's a publication about educational practice for those involved in supporting the learning of young people, particularly those with special educational needs, and it's about sharing and spreading all the good stuff. Following on from our foundational first issue, this issue hosts a collection of articles under three sections: a section about how school can be different; one specifically about working with neurodiverse children; and a third which contains resources and materials for teachers and school staff. Included are pieces about Gesher's design process, how school can be a tough place for neurodiverse children, the role of therapy and therapeutic support, the importance of life skills and much, much more. Each issue contains curated content from our incredible Gesher staff cohort, SEND sector leaders and visionaries, parents, friends of Gesher and of course, students. There are too many people to mention who have generously contributed



by donating material or interviews for this issue - certainly too many to mention here. The Bridge is a rich resource for schools and teachers, community members, parents and friends of Gesher. It's a place for reflection, learning and continuous development of

schools and staff, and exists both as a physical journal - which you can order on the Gesher website or online at <https://gesherschool.com/the-bridge/>

We hope you find this issue as insightful and inspiring as we did making it!

### Kodesh Corner



We are pleased to have implemented a full Shacharit (morning prayer) service this past week during Tuesday - Thursday form times. Students from Keren and Gevurah have enjoyed being able to daven (pray) the whole service together and we look forward to welcoming students in lower year groups over the next few weeks. The service is followed by a short Daily Halacha (Jewish Law) about an upcoming Chag (festival) or certain Mitzvot.

### Gesher Team Update

Following on from the holidays, we wanted to share some team updates over the last few months! Last term we welcomed to the team Miss Madi (Y7 teacher) and Miss Kelseah (Y7 TA) as well as Mr Graham (School Business Manager).

We officially welcomed Mr Bradley (Head of Kodesh and Miss Isobel (SLT) to the team this term. We are also very excited as Toby (Therapy dog) will join us on Mondays again, having been missed by the students!

With new beginnings, we also have to say some goodbyes, and we wish Mr Alkesh all the best in his next endeavour.

We are also pleased to have re-introduced Al Netilat Yadayim (washing of the hands with the bracha) and Hamotzi (blessing of the bread) before lunchtimes across all the year groups. We hope to follow this up during the term by also re-introducing the first paragraph of Birkat Hamazon (Grace after meals).

### Therapy Corner

This term, we will be aiming for the entire Gesher staff team to become Mental Health Champions via the Place2Be training programme for schools. The course includes education around attachment theory and other psychological phenomena that impact on the presentation of our pupils, as well as guidance around strategies that can be used to support these. Further aspects of the course involve the promotion of wellbeing for both staff and students alike, something that is a foundational pillar of our approach at Gesher.

Place2Be provides a number of great resources not just for schools, but also parents and carers. Their website is a fantastic source for further information on a large range of behavioural and mental health topics: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>