



Autism Acceptance Week

2nd – 8th April 2024

Celebrating Similarities, Differences and Being Unique

Communication and Autism Team



Autism Education Trust

OFFICIAL

What is Autism?



'Autism is not a disability, it's just a different ability.'

Birmingham pupil

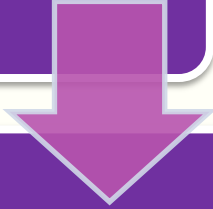
- **A**wesome
 - **U**nique
 - **T**alented
 - **I**nteresting
 - **S**pecial
 - **M**ysterious
- How everyone in the world is special and unique
 - How everyone in the world sees things differently
 - How everyone in the world experiences things differently
 - How autistic people may see and experience the world
 - Inspirational autistic people we know
 - What Birmingham pupils say about autism
 - Autism Acceptance Week and why it is important for us to know about it.

Autism - Strengths and Differences

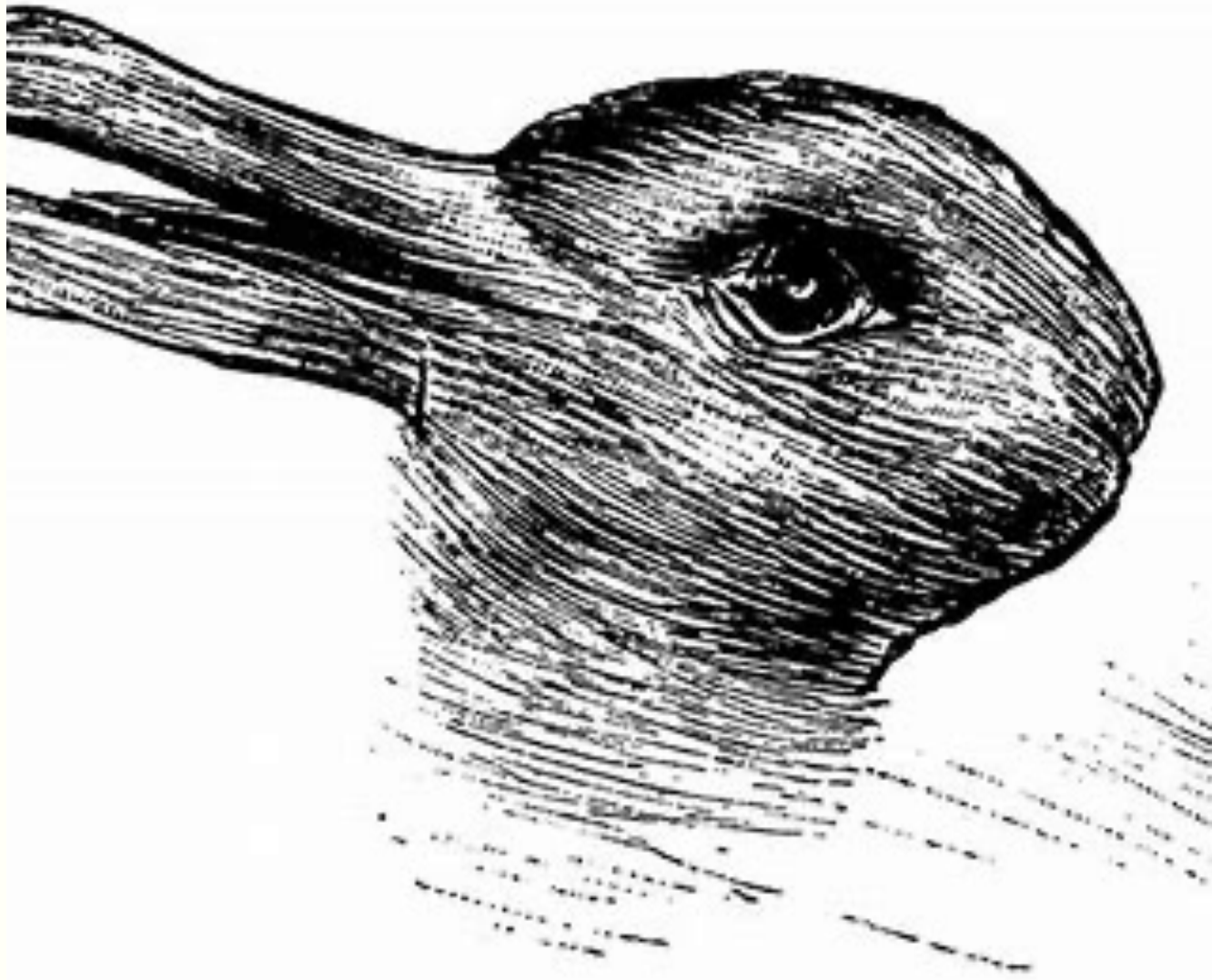
We are all unique



Our brains work in a different way



No two autistic people are the same



What
do you
see?

Duck or
rabbit?

Seeing the World Differently

- Everyone has a different way of seeing the world



Truths and Myths about autism

Autism is :

An autistic person's brain can work differently, which helps them to see the world in a different way.

An autistic person can have many strengths and special interests.

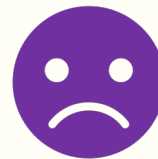


Autism is :

Not an illness.

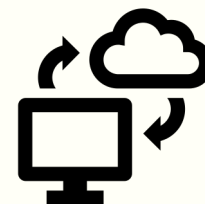
Something that means a person is lazy or that there is something wrong with them.

A 'thing that needs to be fixed'



Why are some people autistic?

No one knows exactly why some people have Autism. Some people think it has something to do with genetics passed down through families. It means a person's brain works in a different way from other people.



Like XBox and Playstations: they have their own way of doing things. One is not better than the other, they are just different.

Genius!



Some autistic people are described as ‘genius’ because they are especially gifted in an area, such as Maths, Science, Music or Technology.

These people are known as Autistic Savants.



Genius!



Most people are not 'genius' whether they have autism or not, but autistic people can learn so much about their special interest that they are very knowledgeable about it. Some people make it their career.

Jason Arday



- [Man who learnt to read at 18 becomes Cambridge University's youngest ever black professor - BBC News \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Research focus – race and racism
- Diagnosed with autism at the age of 3
- Did not speak until he was 11 years old
- Learnt to read and write at age 18
- Appointed Professor of Sociology of Education in March 2023 at Cambridge University

Elliott Garcia

- Autistic actor
- Voices Bruno the Break Car in the Thomas the Tank Engine TV series
- "It's great that they are representing autistic characters because I watch the Thomas & Friends series and for there to be an autistic character makes me feel very happy and excited."



Chloe Hayden



- Diagnosed autistic at age 13
- Plays Quinn Gallagher-Jones in Heartbreak High.
- Spreads autism awareness and acceptance.
- Criticised the Marvel Stadium for not allowing autistic concert goers at a Harry Styles concert to access a safe space. The stadium now has 2 sensory rooms and have retrained their staff.

Lee Chambers



- [Lee Chambers and Small Business Britain - Disabled Entrepreneurship – YouTube](#)
- Autistic entrepreneur
- Founder of PhenomGames, a video game distribution company
- Founder of Essentialise Workplace Wellbeing

Greta Thunberg



- Climate change activist.
- Has addressed world leaders about their responsibilities in relation to climate change.
- Has said that, “Being different is a gift...”
- Greta has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize every year from 2019 to 2023.

Alfie Bowen

- Wildlife photographer
- Photographs show an attention to detail
- Has an affinity with animals
- [Alfie Bowen](#)



What some of our autistic young people in Birmingham say about autism

If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism...

Everyone's brain works differently

No two people are the same

It's not a bad thing to worry about

What some of our autistic young people in Birmingham say about autism

Autism is being different to others.

I can be good at things that others find difficult.

If you have autism, you are not dumb.



What some of our autistic young people in Birmingham say about autism

I have a unique view of the world.

I have lots of special talents and interests that others may not have.

I have a unique view of the world – it's like my Superpower!

What some of our autistic young people in Birmingham say about autism

**Autism is not a disability.
It is a different ability.**



Autism Acceptance Week

- **2nd – 8th April 2024**
- **Why get involved?**
- Autistic people face discrimination and barriers across all sectors of society – in the health and social care systems, in education, in employment, and everywhere in between.
- It is crucial that autistic people, and their families and carers, can access tailored information, guidance and support to overcome those barriers, along with opportunities to explore their interests, develop skills and build friendships for fulfilled lives.
- National Autistic Society:
- **Join a Spectrum Colour Walk**
- Back for 2024! Join us in Birmingham
- *If you are taking part celebrate your participation by tweeting, tagging us @A2Education*
- *We would love to see how your school is marking this important week!*