



The Disability Rights UK newsletter co-edited with and for young people

Stay informed with news and information on your journey through education, training and work

### **Season's Greetings**



**Disability Rights is wishing all our readers Seasons Greetings and a wonderful Christmas!**

Photographs By Caroline McHardy



# Supporting Disabled Apprentices in the Workplace

In this webinar social entrepreneur Jamie Brett looked at how more support can be put in place for disabled apprentices whilst also removing the barriers that are potentially blocking their career path.

He talked about the issues of accessibility and the ideas of what employers can put in place to make sure they are getting the most out of the apprenticeship. This included a structured well laid out schedule of the day to day running in the job to even before they start the job briefing them on the companies values and what they look for in a new employee.

There's also the topic of people who are disabled feeling it is an obstacle to a job, Jamie spoke of how employers can make sure the job is accessible, and that it is important to make the adjustments before starting the apprenticeship such as work schedules to being more flexible and ensuring the best work environment. See the presentation here:



## Supporting Disabled Apprentices

### **The development of a meaningful pathway to employment for young people with SEND**

The Employment Pathway: 'Card & Design' was the initial Social Enterprise that ignited the idea to develop an inclusive supported employment pathway at Swiss Cottage School, running three Employment Pathways through their Post-16 offer: Card & Design, Event Hosts and Venture Café.

The Employment Pathway vision provides a meaningful and functional work experience and in-house supported internship pathway, for pupils aged 16-19. They also engage with the community, aiming to help local employers to successfully support people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) into employment.

The Employment Pathways give students the opportunity to trial in-housework experience and develop skills appropriate for the world of work.



### **How do you develop a meaningful pathway to employment for young people with SEND? - Special Needs Jungle**

# Finding the Racial Minority Voices in SEND

Extensive national research has found that disabled children and young people from ethnic backgrounds face stereotypes, assumptions and prejudice from wider society and communities.



There is also experience of insignificant uncaring institutions, negative discriminatory racial and cultural stereotypes, due to their racial background. Ethnicity effects on SEND identification are a complex subject with multiple competing interpretations.

In education, the response the SEND child receives could vary depending on the setting and the child's, and the teacher's, individual perceptions. Misunderstanding cultural differences can compound systemic racism, so having two protected characteristics (race and disability) rather than just one is a double-edged sword.

Different communities have different approaches The Government is planning new laws to ensure a legal duty of care on online companies to protect users from harm, including people targeted by abusive comments, threats, and harassment. There must be more transparency, and this is a huge issue for disabled people of colour.

If any of the issues in this post from the Special Needs Jungle struck a chord with you, **please get in touch via SNJ** or read more **Finding the racial minority voices in SEND - Special Needs Jungle**

## Talk To Me Campaign

The 'Talk To Me' campaign highlights the misunderstanding people with a learning disability face and the negative impact this can have on society.

As part of Mencap's 75th anniversary, the new survey has highlighted:

- Despite 1.5 million people in UK having a learning disability, two thirds of British people don't know what a learning disability is
- As well as a lack of understanding, shockingly, over six in 10 adults (64%) have witnessed someone be rude to or about a person with a learning disability at some point in their lifetime
- The survey also demonstrates that representation matters with two in five people in the UK (42%) having not seen someone with a learning disability in the media in the past year

To highlight the need for greater progression, understanding and inclusion of people with a learning disability, Mencap has also developed a set of tools and online resources which will help with people's lack of understanding of learning disability, including a pledge to stand up for the rights of people with a learning disability.



### **Pledge to speak up about learning disability | Mencap**

The full press release with a range of stats can be found **here** and the Talk To Me webpage with all the resources to help with people's lack of understanding of learning disability can be found here: **<https://mencap.org.uk/mencap75th>**

# Arthouse Unlimited

Arthouse Unlimited is a charity supporting adults with physical support and complex neuro-diverse needs by representing their artistic talents. They sell their artwork with all the money going back into the charity and on the website showcase each person's story and why they love to create.



A Gift of Light Candle



Check out their online shop and website here:

[Home - ARTHOUSE Unlimited](#)



Abundance of Love artwork with Danny O'Sullivan and Elanor Sinden



Simon Hammond with A Gift of Light Candle – A Warm Embrace



Jack Churchyard and Stephen Thomson Rumble Range 2



Stephen Thomson with Rumble mug



Abundance of Love original Artwork

The talented students from Daventry Hill School have produced some wonderful articles about their favourite Christmas films in the next few pages.

## Muppets Christmas Carol

By Catherine



My favourite Christmas movie is Muppets Christmas Carol. This is because it very family friendly and some of the characters are really funny. It can make you laugh at times. One of my favourite characters is Marley and Marley because they are business partners with Ebenezer Scrooge.

Plot:

Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by three ghosts. The first ghost is of Christmas past, then the ghost of Christmas Present and finally The Ghost of Christmas Future. They visit Scrooge to get him into the Christmas spirit because he hates Christmas.



Why did I enjoy this?

It is my favourite film because I watch it every year with my family. It has become a bit of a tradition. The Muppets Christmas Carol came out on 11th December 1992.

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## Santa Claus The Movie

By Dinouk



I like Santa with the two reindeers because it has him with a night sky where it has river water and dark. It released in 29 November 1985. The woodcutter named Claus delivers hand-carved toys to children of his village each Christmas. His reindeers are called Donner and Blitzen.

He is a very kind man. This is the story of Patch the elf who runs away to New York because work was too hard, and Patch worked a for toy company run by a not very nice man. Santa Claus travels to New York to bring back Patch to the North Pole. Watching the film makes me feel happy.

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## The polar express

By Kyle

The film is about a young boy who boards a train on a journey to the North Pole and along the way he meets several people who make his journey more special.



The film was released in theatre's December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 (UK). My favourite character is the conductor because he is an all-around great character.

I don't have a favourite Christmas movie, but I guess I'll maybe say that my favourite Christmas movie is Klaus.

I watched the movie back in 2019 (the year it released) on Netflix and it was pretty good. The movie is 2D animated movie, but it's been drawn and shaded to look like it's 3D animation. The movie was also animated by some people who helped work on some Disney animated movies like Hercules, The Lion King and The Hunchback of Notre Dame.

The movie is about Jesper, the lazy spoiled son of a royal postmaster general. He underperforms at his job as a postman, so his father sends him to an island town to post 6000 letters within a year. The island town has two clans that sometimes fight.

While looking for people to post letters, he meets Klaus, a woodsman who makes wooden toys. Jesper is terrified of Klaus because of his imposing appearance, so he flees and leaves behind a drawing he found from one of the town's children. The drawing is of a sad person, who is supposed to be the child who created the drawing, looking out a window in his home with a sad expression.

Klaus forces Jesper to lead him to the grey house depicted in the drawing and then makes him secretly deliver a toy to the child inside.

I enjoyed the movie. I like it for its animation, story and voice acting.

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## Batman Arkham Origins Review

By Chayse

I do not have a favourite Christmas movie, but I have a favourite Christmas game.

Batman Arkham Origins which was released on 25th October 2013. The plot of the game is that on the night of Christmas Eve, Batman must survive eight assassins, hired by the criminal mob boss The Black Mask to kill The Batman on that one night. Along the way he must solve mysteries by other foes.

My Favourite Character is Batman, the reason he is my favourite character in the game is because it shows Batman near the end of his 2<sup>nd</sup> year early on in his career, meaning we see him as a lone vigilante learning to trust others.

I enjoy this game because it's a lot of fun. The story is good, although the plot twist is not a surprise, but it was built up well, leaving the player at the end of the game with a good feeling.

Along with the fact I still play the game to this day showing why it's a lot of fun.



Have you seen The Christmas Chronicles? A great film to watch over the festive season with the family. The film released in November 2018.

My favourite character is Santa Claus because I like the way he acts. He is calm and kind to the children. The movie is about two children home alone. They want to make sure that Santa is real, so they set a camera and some bells as an alarm when he comes down the chimney.

Somehow, they end up in Santa's Sleigh and then the adventure begins. The best bit about the film was when it shows Santa because he acts hard, he can be brilliant through the movie to make the movie look good.

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## My Favourite Christmas Movie

By Paige

My favourite Christmas movie is The Grinch. It's about a village of green people called the Who's. They have to deal with The Grinch who hates Christmas, but nobody really knows why. Can a little girl find out the secret?



Who plays The Grinch? The actor who plays The Grinch is Jim Carrey he was born on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1962, he is a Canadian American actor, comedian, writer, and producer. What is the Grinch about? The Grinch and his loyal dog Max live a solitary existence inside a cave on Mount crumpet. His main source of aggravation comes during Christmastime when his neighbours in Whoville celebrate.

The Grinch was released on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2000 in the United Kingdom. The film is still popular today with all ages and sequels and remakes have been made recently.

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## MY favourite Christmas Film

By Emily



My favourite Christmas film is Home Alone. I liked it because it was really funny. How crazy is it that they left their youngest boy at home alone? It came out on 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1990 and it was a massive box office hit full of Christmas Spirit.

The plot is about a young boy that got left behind. Burglars were trying to get in and Kevin, who is the main character comes up with all sorts of plans to protect his family home.

My favourite character is Kevin because he was very brave. He is funny and has clever ways to defend him and his house. My favourite bit is when the burglar fell down the icy steps, it really made me chuckle.

It has lots of funny bits and is a great film for the whole family.

# Disabled Apprentice Network

Disability Rights UK has set up the Disabled Apprentice Network to support the Department for Education to improve the diversity and accessibility of Apprenticeships.

Young Disabled apprentices have joined the Network to champion improvements to apprenticeships for Disabled people and share their experiences, give advice on key issues, suggest solutions and support the development of practical resources and toolkits. The Network meets monthly for one hour.

You can still join us. Please contact [rabia.lemahieu@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:rabia.lemahieu@disabilityrightsuk.org)

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/how-we-can-help/special-projects/disabled-apprentice-network>

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## For your diaries

The Big Assembly is a nationally recognised LIVE broadcast that takes place during **National Apprenticeship Week**. It provides schools, parents & students with practical, fun & relevant information about apprenticeships.

The 2021 Big Assembly broadcast reached 60,000 people - a large portion of which are young people at the start of their journeys into further education or employment.

The **Disabled Apprentice Network** will be joining the panel of the Big Assembly in 2022. Watch this space!

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## Free conference

### Get Ahead: Post-16 options for Disabled young people

Annual DR UK /DSU free conference for Disabled young people, careers and enterprise advisers, coaches, teachers, mentors, employers, Training providers, family carers and others working with Disabled young people.

This online event aims to:

- Provide information and relevant resources for Disabled young people to make informed choices on their post-16 journey.
- Share best practice on strategies and techniques that support Disabled young people in work, training, and education.

Register for the conference [here](#)



# Upcoming Events December

- 10th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day - **Christmas Jumper Day 2021 | Save the Children UK**
- 17th Dec -Wear A Christmas Hat Day-In aid of Brain Tumour Research. **Wear A Christmas Hat Day | Brain Tumour Research**
- 17th Dec - Panto Day! **Celebrate Panto**
- 21st Dec 2021-National Robin Day - An annual nationwide event raising awareness of small birds and other wildlife in winter and how you can help them through this tough time of year. **National Robin Day, Charity Awareness Day Appeal, United Kingdom**
- 21st Dec 2021-Winter Begins-The winter solstice represents the beginning of the astronomical winter and is the shortest day - the day with the least daylight.
- 24th Dec 2021-Christmas Eve- Looking forward to Christmas. **What Do I Put In A Christmas Eve Box?**
- 25th Dec 2021-Christmas Day
- 31 December - New Year's Eve



## Get Ahead Survey

**Please spare a few minutes to do our survey!**

We want our magazine and newsletter to reflect what you are most interested in and created a short survey to determine what we write about in the future.



Please let us know and complete our **Survey**

The responses are anonymous, and the survey will only take a few minutes to complete.

Want to contact us directly with your thoughts? Please email [getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)



# Advice and Information for Disabled people in education, apprenticeships, traineeships, or Supported Internships is available from the DR UK Student Helpline

- Opening hours: 11am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Telephone: 0330 995 0414
- Email: [students@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:students@disabilityrightsuk.org)



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## Contact Us

 Email: [getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

 Twitter: [@GetAheadDRUK](https://twitter.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 Instagram: [@GetAheadDRUK](https://www.instagram.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 Videos: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 [Get Ahead webpage](#)

 [DR UK website](#)

## We like to hear from you!

Give us your feedback and contact:

[Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

For a text-only and large-print version of the Get Ahead newsletter:

email: [getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

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## Disability Rights UK

We are Disabled people leading change, and the voice of young Disabled people has to be central to that change.