

THE SPRINGFIELDS  
ACADEMY

# NEURODIVERSITY NETWORK



Understanding, including and  
accepting all neurotypes

OCTOBER

7TH

4-6PM

The Springfields  
Academy

Curzon Street, Calne, Wiltshire,  
SN11 0DS.



- Parking available on-site.
- Light refreshments provided.
- Neurodivergent and Neurotypical individuals welcome. Book your place [here](#).

Featuring keynote speakers:

Fae Burrell- Superior Perceptual Capacity:  
How Autistic People Process More  
Information

Connor Cameron- From Zero GCSEs to PhD:  
An Autistic Autism Researcher's Journey  
Through the Education System.

Sarah Hickinbotham: Dyslexia - What's True,  
What's New and What To Do

This event is free to attend as part of our commitment to  
celebrating neurodiversity. Book your place here, scan the  
QR code or email: [community@springfieldsacademy.org](mailto:community@springfieldsacademy.org)



### Featuring keynote speakers:

#### Superior Perceptual Capacity: How Autistic People Process More Information with Fae Burrell, Research Assistant at the Centre for Research in Autism and Education (CRAE), UCL.

The theory of superior perceptual capacity highlights how autistic individuals process more sensory information than neurotypical peers. This heightened perceptual experience influences every aspect of life, from classroom learning to finding calm and comfort at home. Understanding and accommodating for superior perceptual capacity in autistic people can support long-term wellbeing and assist classroom learning. I will talk about research evidencing the theory and lived experiences to better understand exactly what superior perceptual capacity looks like in autistic people day-to-day.



About Fae Burrell: I am an autistic autism researcher who is autistic about autism! I studied Psychology at the University of Bath and undertook a professional placement year at CRAE, UCL. Here I came to learn of my own neurodivergence - ironically whilst conducting research on the late diagnosis of autism in women. Having graduated, I'm now a full time Research Assistant at CRAE. We are currently researching how to make GCSE exam papers more equitable for neurodivergent students, see more [here](#). Let's connect via [LinkedIn](#), I'm always keen to talk about [research](#)!

#### From Zero GCSEs to PhD: An Autistic Autism Researcher's Journey Through the Education System with Connor Cameron, SWDTP ESRC-funded PhD student at the University of Bath, Department of Psychology, Centre for Applied Autism Research.

77% of autistic students leave school without passing their English and Maths GCSEs. I belong to that statistic. In fact, I left school with zero GCSEs. Just a little over 10 years later, I graduated with a Distinction in my Master's from the University of Bath and, shortly after, secured prestigious funding to undertake a PhD at the same institution. But how did I do this? Well, I will speak honestly about the abuse I experienced at school, while also reflecting on how college helped me to find meaning in life and, in turn, how I used that meaning to create a life for myself.

About Connor Cameron: I am an autistic PhD student at the University of Bath, Department of Psychology, Centre for Applied Autism Research (CAAR). My PhD title is 'A multi-perspective exploration of autistic victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual offences: Identifying vulnerabilities to sexual abuse and experiences accessing justice.' I completed my BSc in Psychology at the University of Kent, I then worked as a Learning Support Assistant in an additional needs department at a mainstream college for an academic year. Subsequently, I completed an MSc in Applied Clinical Psychology at the University of Bath from 2023 to 2024. Alongside my PhD, I also work as a Research Assistant for the University of Bath on the 'Autism in Court' project, which investigates how courtroom proceedings, special measures, autism disclosure, and legal training shape autistic individuals' experiences of justice, their ability to give best evidence, and how jurors and judges perceive them. I have been on this project for one year. I have also worked as a Freelance Researcher for Ambitious about Autism, where I was commissioned to conduct a policy literature review focusing on autism training for teachers and the use of SEN units in mainstream schools. Ambitious about Autism then used this literature review to inform their case for improved teacher training that better supports the understanding and inclusion of autistic children and young people in mainstream schools in front of the Department for Education. Let's connect via [LinkedIn](#); I am always happy to talk and offer my insight and expertise.



Featuring keynote speakers:

Dyslexia - What's True, What's New and What To Do with Sarah Hickinbotham, dyslexia assessor and owner of Adult Dyslexia Services

Dyslexia has been a hot topic of late, but can you believe everything you read? This session will challenge common misconceptions, explore the latest research (including the new definition!), and share some practical strategies for success.

Sarah Hickinbotham is an education reporter-turned-award winning teacher and a graduate of the Teach First Leadership Development Programme. A qualified secondary SENDCo, she has specialised in dyslexia assessment and teaching and supports young people and adults in a variety of settings - from all through schools to the Military. Sarah also works closely with businesses and organisations to deliver awareness workshops and to help them enable their employees to flourish. You can find out more via her website - [www.adultdyslexiaservices.co.uk](http://www.adultdyslexiaservices.co.uk).



Book your place [here](#).