

Autism / Neurodiversity Talks with Professor Sue Fletcher -Watson and Team

Selkirk High School in partnership with the **Harris Trust** are delighted to host a mini-series of talks, with Q&A sessions, focused on the mental health and wellbeing of autistic young people in secondary school. The series has been put together for SHS by Professor Sue Fletcher-Watson, a developmental psychologist and Director of the Salvesen Mindroom Research Centre at the University of Edinburgh.

Sue and other expert speakers will present on:

Thursday 11th March - An introduction to the concept of neurodiversity and its relevance for autism and mental health,

Thursday 18th March - Mental health in autistic young people: experiences and influential factors,

Thursday 25th March - Supporting autistic young people through peer networks,

Sessions will take place via a Zoom Webinar, starting at 4.30pm and lasting 45 minutes.

Each session will feature a short talk and a chance for questions from the audience through the chat facility. Sessions will include autistic people as speakers and / or answering audience questions. The focus will be on providing an up to date and progressive model for understanding autism and delivering support to enable autistic young people to thrive.

The talks, but not the Q&A, will be recorded and made available on the SMRC website for anyone unable to attend in person.

LINK to EVENTBRITE booking page

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/autism-neurodiversity-talks-with-prof-fletcher-watson-and-team-tickets-141877099223>

The following people will feature either as speakers or contributing to the Q&A sessions:

Monique Botha is an autistic autism researcher, and a Research Fellow at University of Stirling. Monique's research focuses on neurodiversity, mental health, wellbeing, and minority stress.

Catherine Crompton is a researcher in Psychiatry at the University of Edinburgh. Her research explores the diverse ways that neurodivergent people communicate, and she is particularly interested in how peer support might benefit neurodivergent people.

Sue Fletcher-Watson is Professor of Developmental Psychology at University of Edinburgh and an expert in neurodiversity-informed autism research and evidence-based practice.

Sonny Hallett is a trainee counsellor, and current mental health advisor to AMASE (Autistic Mutual Aid Society Edinburgh). They have run two community-led research projects: one on autistic people's access to mental health support, and another on autistic people's experiences of counselling. They are interested in autistic identity, diversity, accommodations, and connection, and exploring how their own autistic identity intersects with the other parts of themselves. They also like to spend a lot of time out in the woods looking for fungi and bugs.

Natalie Jenkins is a researcher at the University of Edinburgh with a focus on traumatic brain injury and dementia. She has autism and has developed resources for supporting autistic staff and students in higher education.

Fergus Murray is a science teacher, writer and current chair of AMASE (the Autistic Mutual Aid Society Edinburgh). Formally identified as autistic at the age of thirty-one, they write about autistic experiences and psychological theories of autism, take a lot of photos of nature and do a bit of programming for fun.



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



Salvesen Mindroom Research Centre
research · learning · development

