This is “the Umbrella”. It’s a space in the school playground where pupils have fun and help each other learn.

And these five are the Umbrella Gang, who founded the Umbrella. They all have neurodiversity – from dyslexia to TS.

They’re finishing up at Primary School now, ready to start Secondary School in the new term.

See you all after the Summer Holidays.

Isn’t it awesome that we’re all attending the same secondary school?

See you in Year 7, folks!

Unfortunately, none of them expected how different things would be.

On the first day, it was FULL of older pupils. The Umbrella Gang hadn’t felt so small since Year 1.

Also, in secondary school all the subjects are split up into different classes.

Even though they were in the same school and year-group, the 5 friends were rarely in the same class.
But the new facilities, new friends and bigger rooms were all quite exciting!

Secondary school wasn’t “bad”. It was just... different. Intimidatingly so.

Worse still: Neurodiversity was not so well understood here like it had been at their previous school.

A smile is...

Why are you taking so long to find the right page, you dozy boy?!

I gotta be honest: I feel like my dyslexia is a problem in this school.

But that doesn’t mean there weren’t problems. For example, running the classes was a harder job for the teachers.

After their first few days in Secondary School, the five of them decided to meet in the playground.

So how are we finding it all?

Pretty cool, in a way.

But very different.

And quite hard.

Before we all got together and changed things, you mean.

My ADHD, too. It hasn’t been this tough since the early days of primary school.

Yeah, but how can we do that here? There isn’t even an “umbrella” space at this school.
Yeah, and the teachers here seem even busier than in primary school.

Some are even scary to approach. I doubt they’ll be interested in change.

Wait, that’s it!

Secondary School’s all about growing up. Grown-ups deal with their problems by themselves.

Yeah... act like the older kids!

I guess that will work... I think.

Still, it wouldn’t hurt to have a word with the head teacher.

True. Let’s see what changes we CAN make first.

If we want to change this school, we have to change ourselves first.

So they go and speak with the headteacher.

So a place dedicated to learning support would really help pupils like us.

The library isn’t private enough.

Okay. I’ll try and designate a special room for Learning Differences.

One space is all we need, and we’ll share it with other pupils who need it too.

But the school already has a library. Why not just use that?

We called it “The Umbrella” in Primary School.

This’ll be cool! A room is more “adult” than a space in the playground.

Gang, I think this could be the start of mastering Secondary School!

Hey, how did you get so good at maths? Were you top of the class in Primary?

The next day:
Of course! In the grown-up world, academia must make you popular.

With my maths knowledge, I'll be fitting-in and making friends in no time.

Oh yes! It's fascinating stuff you know. Have you heard of the theories behind trigonometry? Arithmetic's my personal favourite. They say you can understand the universe by...

Um... That's... Er...

Leg-it! While she's distracted by quantum physics!

*Waffle-Waffle. Blah-Blah*

We didn't ask for a history on mathematics.

Charlotte, meanwhile, is quite good at making friends...

What did she say to you after that?

Well, since it was a day when I'd forgotten to take my meds, I...

Wait, "Meds"?

What, are those like drugs? In school?!

Oh, I mean... just things I take to help me in class.

Arrgh, they think I'm talking about drugs! They don't know my meds are to keep me from getting stressed and forgetful in class.

Uh, I mean... they're NOTHING! I was just joking. I don't take anything.

I better not mention or even take them, if I want to fit in.
As for Marcus...

Marcus, I asked you to write the “Iron Age, Bronze Age and Stone Age” Not THAT!

Fair enough, Mr Bremner, but they thought it was quite funny.

What?! Detention!

Well I for one see that as insolence, Marcus!

Andy, meanwhile, has a maths teacher (Mrs Ward Kelly) who understands him, and a quiet classroom...

If you just move the number over there, it gives you the answer you're looking for.

Thanks, Mrs Kelly. I think I get it now.

But then...

What was that?

Uhh, nothing! Must have been my chair.

Must cover up my Tourette's Syndrome tics! What will the teacher and class think of me?!

I-It was HIM, Mrs Kelly!

Huh? What do I do?!

Now, Andy...
But Josh seems to have it the hardest of all...

His teacher is notoriously not very understanding, and very strict!

"Conscience", boy! CONSCIENCE! Can you not pronounce simple words?!

"But sir, I have dys-

I won't hear any excuses, young man!

unless your mother has to feed you, you'll stop this sloppiness and try harder!

I'm so upset... But if I show it he'll call me a baby in front of everyone.

Hold it in, Josh. Just like one of the older kids would.

As for the new Umbrella space (or should I say "Special Unit") it feels less than ideal to the struggling friends.

It's just a storage space with a table.

Not really a place to be creative or have fun in, let alone study.

I miss The Umbrella. I miss our old school.

Later, during PE Class, Josh and Siena have a chance to catch up...

I'll have a word with him, Josh. At least we're in the same PE class.

Right class, Hockey Practice is beginning! Grab your sticks and let's go!

I'm finding English really tough, Siena. My teacher is SO hard on me it's ridiculous.

We can always chat things through here whenever school gets hard.

Yes, Mr Bourne.

I'm finding English really tough, Siena. My teacher is SO hard on me it's ridiculous.

We can always chat things through here whenever school gets hard.

Missed again?!

Sports are even more competitive in secondary school!

Darn my dyspraxia.

Save the ball, defence!

But you're my defence against the ball! Save ME!
As things progressed through the first month of secondary school, things didn’t get any better for the gang. Charlotte stopped taking her meds and fell behind in her coursework.

Marcus fell behind in his work too as he got even sillier to impress his classmates. So what’s the first thing we need to know in this picture?

That penguins don’t have teeth, Sir!

Siena wasn’t seeing much of Josh after all...

Sorry, I er... need to see the Nurse. I feel too sick for PE today.

In fact, the Umbrella Gang were seeing less of each other in general.

Eventually you could feel it in the air. The gang was drifting apart from each other.

But whenever they were asked about how they were finding school...

How was your day at school, honey?

How are you settling into secondary school life?

Come play football with us, Andy.

Hrm... Maybe I’ll give this week’s meet-up a miss.

...they would all give the answer they felt “older kids” would give.

How has starting a new school been for you?
A month later...

I’ll check how those five Year 7s are getting on with the Special Unit room I arranged for them.

Huh? They’re not here. I was sure they usually meet at this time.

Meanwhile, in PE...

*Sigh*

She’s not here again?

I’ll pass this one to Siena and let her score.

Fine! It’s not like anyone’s here for me anyway...

...in this stupid school!

That was class’, mate! Have some water.

I hear you’ve been ditching your English classes to do more PE.

Huh? Older Kids? They want to hang out with me?

Is that why you’re so good at sports for your age?

It’s... It’s mainly to avoid my English teacher.
But she hadn’t forgotten. That day, Siena finally plucked up her courage to speak with Josh’s notorious English teacher...

Excuse me, Mr Fry? I’m Siena...

Yes, I know you. Shouldn’t you be in PE right now?

If you will allow me, I’ve come to speak with you about Josh.

He struggles in class due to his dyslexia. English is one of his hardest subjects.

I’ve heard quite enough. Can’t you see I’m busy?

He needs support and encouragement, and...

But sir, you have to understand—

I think I understand how to teach my pupils better than a green Year 7 pupil, thank you!

Josh is simply neglecting his studies, as evidenced by the fact he hasn’t bothered turning up to his last three English classes!

Next time you want to tell a teacher of 20 years that he can’t discern what laziness is, I suggest you spend a year being a teacher yourself!

I’m... sorry to bother you, sir.
Meanwhile, Andy seemed to be having the best time at school out of all the gang. His maths teacher was patient and kind about his dyscalculia in maths.

She was understanding about his Tourette’s as well, thus so was the rest of her class.

Later, after maths class...

I mean: Very much so, thank you. *whistle*
I’m glad. Let me know if you get stuck on a question.

Haha – loser!

Yeah, well I’ll make it Mr. Carner’s business in 5 seconds if you don’t beat it.

Geez, sorry— we were only joking.

We were just leaving anyway.

What jerks. I heard Marcus was struggling with something similar.

‘wonder how he’s getting on now…’

Marcus’s school performance hasn’t been good, and he’s been running his teacher ragged.

That doesn’t sound like him. Marcus was in the top ten highest SATS scores in the country, and would never...
Hi Grandma!

His teacher.

Marcus?! Who's that chasing him?

Don't worry about them, Chelcee. Want to talk about it over lunch?

Not sure I'm in the mood.

Oh! Today's an "Umbrella-Lunchtime!"

I haven't been in ages. Why don't you come to The Umbrella with me? It was made for these sorts of problems.

Siena? Have you been crying?

Where is everyone?

But when they get there...

Sorry, I... I had a difficult conversation with Mr Fry today.

Oh Siena, I know he can be scary but I wouldn't judge teachers like Mr Fry too quickly.

Much harder than he needs to...

He reminded me that this school isn't nearly as open to neurodiversity as St Shelters.

He could just be stressed. I hear he works harder than most teachers.

But look at me. I was a bully when you first knew me. Yet here we are now as friends.

That's right, Chelcee!

That friendship was thanks to the Umbrella Gang, and it's about time we brought it back together!

I don't know about you, Siena, but I'll be here after school helping Chelcee with her maths.

Andy...

Just like you helped me.
Well count me in! The Gang will come back if we make a start.

Of course they will. It's the people that make it, not the place we meet.

Haha. I saw them leave 2 minutes ago. It's great to be passionate about something...

...but if you get too excited about it with people who're less keen on it, they'll likely just want to get away.

Talking with people rather than at them makes them feel more included.

I learnt that from acting for audiences on stage.

That's great advice, Char! But, um... are you okay? You don't look so good.

Ugh, it's my meds. I haven't been taking them and I've fallen behind on my coursework.

Well that won't do. Come to the umbrella and I'll help you catch up on some of your work.

Honestly, Sienna... that would be brilliant.

By the way, do you have any acting tips for looking too sick to do sports?

Oh, just curious.

Meanwhile, Andy runs into Marcus...

Sorry, Andy. I've got no time for umbrellas. I'm a 'legend' now.

Hey Marcus. Fancy coming to the umbrella?

That's what the older kids call me.

Acting this way just makes look kind of immature.
The older pupils encourage you because it’s fun for them to watch. So? At least it shifts bad attention from my ADHD & anxiety.

Even if they’re laughed AT me... ...I’d much rather be laughed at this way than the way I used to be laughed at.

But being this way because of your anxiety isn’t going to help you. Wouldn’t you rather just be yourself?

Well, I guess I feel completely myself when I’m on one of my online communities. I don’t have to pretend to be anyone there.

Really? Bring your laptop to the Umbrella and show me. I’ve always wanted to be part of a community.

Yeah, sure!

Show’s over! I’m off to hang out with my pal. I guess being popular doesn’t mean being respected after all.

As someone who used to hang out with bullies... ...I know that all too well.

By the end of the week, the Umbrella is full of fun and energy.

This is amazing! It feels like a different room!

I’ve missed you guys! Hey, anyone heard of Matthew Bourne’s ‘The Red Shoes’?

Mrs Kelly’s trying to arrange a school trip to see it at the royal ballet in Covent Garden.
It's so good to see you back to your normal self, Charlotte.

But what about Josh? Has anybody seen him lately?

Oh I did, just yesterday...

I know, right? Can't believe I neglected my meds for so long.

I've not seen him at football lately...

I saw him getting a real shouting at from Mr Fry.

Something about missing his English classes, I think.

But the look he gave me... I just decided to let him be.

...since he started hanging out with that older group.

Later, as Josh comes home from school...

Siena, you're in the same PE class as him. What's he been like there?

Oh no! Looks like I forgot my PE kit again!

I'm really worried about Josh, now.

This Mr Fry thing must be really weighing on him.

I said, what should we do?

What should we do?

Hold on, gang. I have an idea!

See ya, Josh.

Gee, is that kid getting moodier lately?

Nah, leave him. It's part of what makes him cool.
Josh, your father and I want to have a word with you.

Save it. I wanna go to my room.

This is serious, young man!
We can’t have you slacking off your school work!

We got a call from school saying you’ve been missing your English classes.

Pff. Yeah, so?

Don’t speak to your mother like that, Josh!

This is no! First I get it in school and now at home! If you all think I’m so useless than just leave me alone!

Josh, honey? Where are you going?

Leave him be. He needs to calm down before he lets us talk to him.

Slacking off. Lazy. Not trying hard enough. It’s always the same.

Josh runs to an abandoned telephone box, close to the woods next to St. Shelters Primary School.
I never asked to find spelling and reading so difficult.

No matter the school, I'll always be treated like my dyslexia is my fault.

Mr. Fry?! Hello, I um... came to your house but your parents said you were out.

Your mother had an idea. She led me here.

The box should be abandoned. I hope it's not the police...

Huh?

How did you know where to find me?

Guess I can't hide anything from mum.

So the two of them have a chat...

I guess you came over to have a word with my parents about me missing class?

Actually, I came over to apologize.

That's right. I believe I've not treated you fairly. Not at all.

Say what?

It may surprise you, but I'm very passionate about teaching.

But I think it sometimes makes me take my role too seriously.

No. Or at least it isn't meant to be.

Is getting angry at kids for finding work difficult part of being passionate?

My bad tempers are a mixture of stress and my own experiences.
Your own experiences?

Yes indeed. I found schoolwork difficult too when I was a pupil.

I was regularly yelled at, punished, and humiliated by my teachers.

They even called me “stupid” or “lazy” in front of the whole class.

That’s how a lot of teachers treated their students in my day.

I believed what they said and thought it was my own fault.

So I worked as hard as I could so I would never be called lazy again.

That created my drive to work hard and always strive to work harder.

As a teacher, it caused me to expect the same from my own pupils...

I’ve heard about your Umbrella Gang. It sounds wonderful.

If only there had been an Umbrella for me when I was at school.

But if shouting and anger is doing the opposite of what I want for my pupils, something has to change.

That’s why I came looking for you today.

But... What changed your mind?

And how do you know about the Umbrella Gang?

You can come out now!

SURPRISE!

Everyone? WOW!
Chelcee here is my niece. She called me today and explained everything to me.

I am truly sorry, Josh. For everything.

Mum, can the gang stay for tea? Chelcee too?

Of course they can, if it’s okay with their parents.

Well, I better be going now.

Thanks for coming to speak with me, Mr Fry.

Not at all; it was the least I could do.

Actually, I was thinking could do with a Neurodiversity Week.

Great idea! We could open with a Talent Show!

Is there anything I can do to help with neurodiversity in the school?

Great idea! I could certainly provide you with an opportunity.

Mr Carner owes me a few favours for all my extra hours.

You bet we are!

But are you all up for the challenge of making it happen?
At Josh’s house, the gang felt fully reunited at last.

A toast to Neurodiversity Week!

I’ve got some great ideas for the talent show, guys!

And to the day when Chelcee became our friend and fellow member.

And to the gang being back together!

Next day, planning for Neurodiversity Week begins:

Yeah! And an assembly on how to get assessed.

We could make a pamphlet about digital support in classes.

Josh is spending more time helping others with their PE than hanging out with us.

That’s so… mature. Told you he was cool!

Great idea! Hold on, let me take my meds before History...

We could end-off the talent show with an awards ceremony.

You take medication?

You might have dyslexia, like me. It’s totally fine if you do.

Yeah, and? It’s as normal as taking an inhaler if you have asthma.

“Neurodiversity”? What’s that?

It’s just a term describing different learning types. Some can make types of work harder, like reading or concentration.

Really? I find reading and spelling harder than the rest of my class...

Already, N.D. Week is getting people thinking.

All about celebrating abilities? Sounds cool!

Where can I sign up? I wanna be in the talent show.

You seem to know quite a lot about technology, Marcus.

And it’ll open with a talent show? Great!

I wanna see the talent show!

Marcus volunteers to do the light & sound for the talent show.

Thanks! I want to work for GCHQ cracking secret codes when I grow up, or designing software for Microsoft.
I know a friend who manages stage theatre. He could lend me some coloured lights for the show.

That would be great! I can work them easily.

Siena, is there anything else you need me to help gather for Neurodiversity Week? Laptops, recorders...?

Mr Fry has been nothing but helpful and attentive since his talk with Josh.

Everyone used their talents to make it a success.

Josh and Andy used their sports skills and fitness to run stage management super efficiently.

Siena hosted the show with professionalism and grace.

When Neurodiversity Week finally arrived, it opened with the most AMAZING talent show the school had ever seen!

Charlotte opened the show with an outstanding performance of “Singin’ in the Rain”.

Chelcee created a super remix to the song, and Charlotte then performed it with her powerful stage presence.

And she did it to a special dance routine taught to her by the school’s resident dance teacher; Mr Taylor Walker.

As each talent performed, they were made even better by Marcus’ masterful lighting and DJing abilities.

The school’s resident light & sound pupils had never seen such a gifted Year 7 pupil with such a natural knack for technology.
After many performances, and many applauses...

...an awards ceremony was held in the spirit of Neurodiversity Week, hosted by the OBE Chair of Governors at the school – Mr Simon Weston.

Here’s the awards list, Mr Weston.

Our first prize is the “Talent Award”, which goes to...

Charlotte and Chelsee, for their remixed performance of Gene Kelly’s Singin’ in the Rain!

Thanks for your dance training, Mr Walker.

Not at all, Charlotte. You’re a natural.

Mr Bremner wins the “Funniest Teacher” award!

The “Kindest Teacher” award goes to Mrs Ward Kelly!

Head Boy, J Grange, wins the “Audience-Pick” award...

...for his “School-House-Rap” he wrote and performed.

And a special “Headteacher’s Award” to Mr Carner for his efforts in helping neurodiverse pupils in the school.

It also recognises his highly popular hip-hop lessons, he has given pupils in his spare time, to boost confidence.

And finally the winner of the “Most Supportive Teacher” award...

...presented by the Umbrella Gang themselves, goes to.......

...Mr FRy! Neurodiversity Week could never have happened without his incredible support!

Em... Th-Thank you, May I... say a few words?

Of course!

While, em...While preparing for the Talent Show and Neurodiversity Week...

...I decided to get myself assessed. It’s only felt appropriate.
It turns out I have ADHD. All these years, since I was a child.

Years ago, I would have been scared of this, and felt like something was wrong with me.

But this is not the case. It’s such a relief to know why I struggled with certain things all my life.

It explains why I felt I had to work so hard to compensate for them.

This talent show celebrates the unique skills we all have.

If we take the same approach with neurodiversity...

...then maybe we’ll see more pupils as proud, capable and confident as the ones we saw on stage today.

After the day of the Talent Show, Neurodiversity Week properly began.

The Umbrella became a hub for exploring all kinds of ideas and new ways of learning.

Everyone wanted to be part of it.

Guest speakers visited the school in the week, including a special visit from the English National Opera Company!

They talked about fun new ways of learning through using the arts.

Mr Bourne set up an alternative sports group in PE for pupils who were less confident about sports.

This was great for Siena’s dyspraxia.

And she still got to see Josh every PE lesson.
Times tables & Arithmetic

Also in the week, pupils were allowed to share, study techniques of their own.

Mrs Kelly let Andy show his way of combining maths with football to the class.

14...21...28...35

And as for classes like Mr Fry’s...

Haha! Look, Sir! Josh can’t spell “tremendous”!

And what about you, Adam? Can you spell it?

Easy. It’s “t-r-e-m-...”

Incorrect. I asked you to spell “it”, which is spelt “I-T”.

And speaking of “I.T.”, we’re going to be introducing IT support into this classroom...

...to help some of the pupils who aren’t as good at writing, reading, or spelling as you are, Adam.

Would a laptop with spell-check be helpful, Josh?

Yes sir, thank you!

But what about after Neurodiversity Week had passed?

Well if you’d visited the school since, you might think it was still going on!
Marcus still likes joking around, but he's learnt about timing and listens carefully in class so he can use the right joke at the right time.

Yes Marcus? Thank you for waiting till we'd finished the topic.

His humour is now another talent that comes from the way his mind works.

Amazing for a boy who once hated being laughed at back in primary school.

Also since Neurodiversity Week, pupils are less frightened of being assessed.

Look! I've got dyslexia! Same as you!

Awesome, man! Let's get you to Mr Fry.

And believe it or not, Mr Fry has since become head of the ASN department:

We'll get you sorted out with some support.

What do you struggle with most...?

And the Umbrella? It became the most popular room in the school.

Think we'll need a bigger room for the Umbrella?

Maybe not. The whole school is becoming one big umbrella.

It is now a place where creativity thrives, and where pupils of all learning types help each other find a way of doing school that works best for them.
A word from Dr Tony Lloyd:

We want you all to encourage your schools to participate in Neurodiversity Celebration week in March and we want you all to shout from the rooftops about your ability and talents and to respectfully challenge those who tell you that you can’t achieve your goals simply because your brain works in a different way. So many of you have written to us to tell us that you are tired telling those around you that just because you are neurodiverse does not mean that you lack intelligence or ability – or even that you can’t have a successful career. So share this comic book with your friends, your parents and your teachers so we can shine a light on the many incredibly amazing things about you – and make sure that in those areas of school work that you find difficult, that you get the support you need”.

You can get your school to sign up to Neurodiversity Celebration week via this link www.Neurodiversity-Celebration-Week.com or the Neurodiversity Umbrella Project that runs from May to September every year by emailing info@adhdfoundation.org.uk.

Dr Tony Lloyd
CEO of the ADHD Foundation

Special Thanks to...

We would like to thank Comedian and Impressionist Rory Bremner – a patron of the Foundation, Patricia Ward Kelly also a patron of the foundation, and thanks also to Stephen Fry for agreeing to be the face of the character Mr Fry the teacher. Also to UK rap artist & chef Loyle Carner for your support for this series of educational comic books for neurodiverse children and young people with dyslexia, ADD, autism, Tourette’s, dyspraxia and dyscalculia. Thanks to Rapper J Grange who joins the cast of the Umbrella Gang and is now a Young Ambassador for the Foundation. A final word of thanks to the British Film Industry and to the English National Opera who will be working with us on the next volume of the comic book. We have a number of celebrities who will be joining the staff team or making an appearance in the next volume of ‘The adventures of the Umbrella Gang’ in May 2021.
ADHD Foundation Young Ambassadors:

Siena Castellon is an internationally recognised neurodiversity advocate who is autistic, dyslexic, dyspraxic, and has ADHD. She is the founder of Neurodiversity Celebration Week, an international campaign that encourages schools to flip the narrative from focusing on the challenges and drawbacks of being neurodivergent to focusing on their strengths and talents. In 2020, over 500,000 students from over 760 schools took part in Neurodiversity Celebration Week worldwide. Siena is also the bestselling author of “The Spectrum Girl’s Survival Guide: How To Grow Up Awesome and Autistic.”

I suffered from being bullied, misunderstood, discriminated against and even excluded from learning at school. Having ADHD isn’t something that has gone away, it is something that I became more aware of, learned how to deal with and turned into a strength. Golf has proved to be the vehicle by which my ADHD became a strength. It kept me occupied and equally challenged on a daily basis, and although I had a fair mixture of good and bad days, I loved the individual challenge so much, that I kept coming back to the golf course for more. Golf is my future. It’s the vehicle I can use to achieve all of my goals and dream.

Josh Grenville-Wood

I was diagnosed with ADHD when I was in primary school and I was inspired by the famous creative people who spoke openly about their ADHD – especially the singers and actors. This inspired me because I loved drama at school and I pursued my passion for singing, dancing and acting. I have now appeared in a number of TV commercials and theatre plays and aspire to a career as a professional actor and performer. I am now studying drama at the Famous Paul McCartney School – The Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. Like Josh, Marcus, Siena and Andy, I want to be a voice for other young people who have ADHD like me – or dyslexia, autism, Tourette’s and dyspraxia. I wont let anyone tell me that I am ‘low ability’ or wont succeed in life.

Charlotte Downson

I am autistic and have Tourette’s Syndrome. After struggling a lot in education, I have made it my life goal to make sure as many neurodivergent young people as possible avoid the struggles previous generations have faced. Currently, I work full time as an advocate for SEND young people at a local authority and I am co-chair of the North West SEND Young People’s Co Production Network. I also run Spectrum Gaming, a community for autistic young people so they can connect with each other through their shared passion of gaming.

Andy Smith

I’m Marcus, I’m 13 years old, I have an Assistance dog called Cocoa and computers are my thing. I am the youngest Ambassador and member of the “Umbrella Gang”. I live with ADHD, ASD, PDA, but I don’t let this define me, I am bright, articulate, have a great sense of humour and push the boundary’s despite anxiety, limited self esteem and confidence which has been affected by people in my life who didn’t understand ADHD/ASD and should have known better. I have managed to turn my Autism, ADHD and Mental Health issues into something really positive to help others and have helped myself along the way. I am really happy and proud to be part of “Umbrella Gang”.

[Awards Marcus have won include “Young Achiever of the Year” for the National Neurodiversity Awards, “Genius Within”, 2019.]
This is the story of five neurodiverse friends and the transition to their first year of secondary school. They are all proud of their neurodiversity and together have found ways to thrive in primary school, despite the obstacles neurodiversity can have in a school environment. But what will it be like in secondary school? Will the classes be bigger? Will the teachers be strict? Even though moving up to secondary school can be very exciting, it can also be quite scary...

--------

The ADHD Foundation Neurodiversity Charity collaborates with many agencies in the UK to promote a more positive attitude toward young people with dyslexia, ADHD, autism, dyscalculia, Tourette’s, tics and dyspraxia. We want all children and young people to achieve their potential in education. We want to encourage all schools to celebrate neurodiversity and challenge the often negative and stigmatising stereotypes that can result in many children and young people feeling bullied or excluded. (www.adhdfoundation.org.uk).

Helpful Videos on Neurodiversity:

**Autism**
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=RbwRrVw-CRo

**ADHD**
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xMWtGozn5jU

**Dyslexia**
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=11r7CFIK2sc

**ADHD & Medication**
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1jCeSCo9rsM

**Tourette’s Syndrome (TS)**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TMIJLME4Tl

**Hyperactivity**
https://youtu.be/klPGZs0UCQc

This comic was written and edited by Rossie Stone, and produced by Dekko Comics Ltd - a company that turns school curriculum subjects into fun comic strip stories as an alternative/additional way to learn. To find out more, visit www.dekkocomics.com