

# Bespoke Additional Needs Activities

At The Switch, we're passionate about making careers education accessible for every student. This year, we introduced two exciting programmes: Slime School for primary students and Skills Workshops for secondary students. These initiatives are designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and equip students with the skills they need for the future. It's all about opening doors and creating opportunities for every young mind.

## Project Reach

19

Volunteers

2

Schools

51

Pupils

6

Workshops

100%

of teachers strongly agreed that activities were accessible and appropriate to the needs of the students



**Megan Hunter**  
CEO at The Switch

*"This year we have taken a significant step in piloting activities for our students with additional needs, so that nobody gets left behind. We are particularly proud of our work with these students over the past year, as their talents and passion for work often go unexplored and they are routinely locked out of the workplace. We will be continuing to grow our programme this upcoming academic year following the strong results from 2025-26. Watch this space!"*

# Slime School

Slime School, delivered to KS2 pupils with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health needs and SEND, explored the world of entrepreneurship. Students designed their own slime brand and crafted their unique products. The grand finale? Presenting to volunteer "investors" and showcasing their creativity and newfound skills. This programme empowers young minds with entrepreneurial know-how, financial literacy, and boosts communication and confidence. Because every child deserves a chance to shine.

4

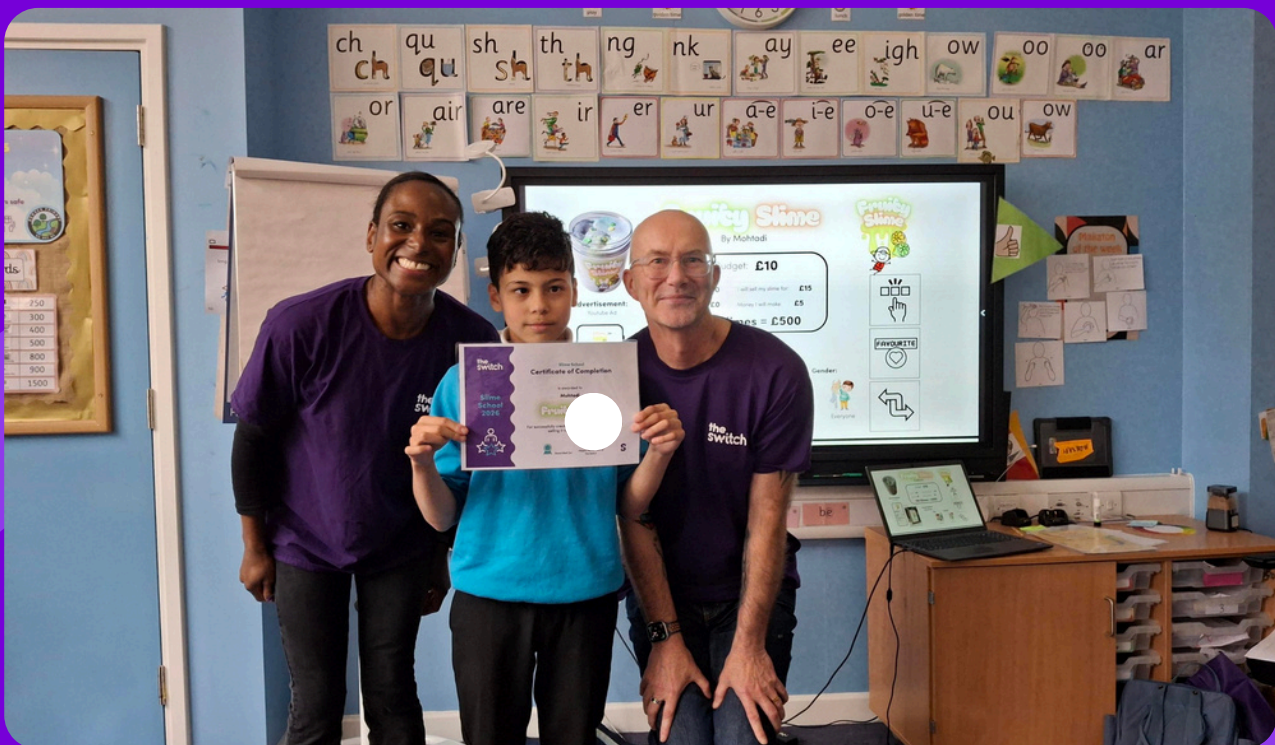
Workshops

8

Pupils

2

Volunteers



100%

of students enjoyed Slime School, felt that they learnt something new and would like to do the programme again.

72%

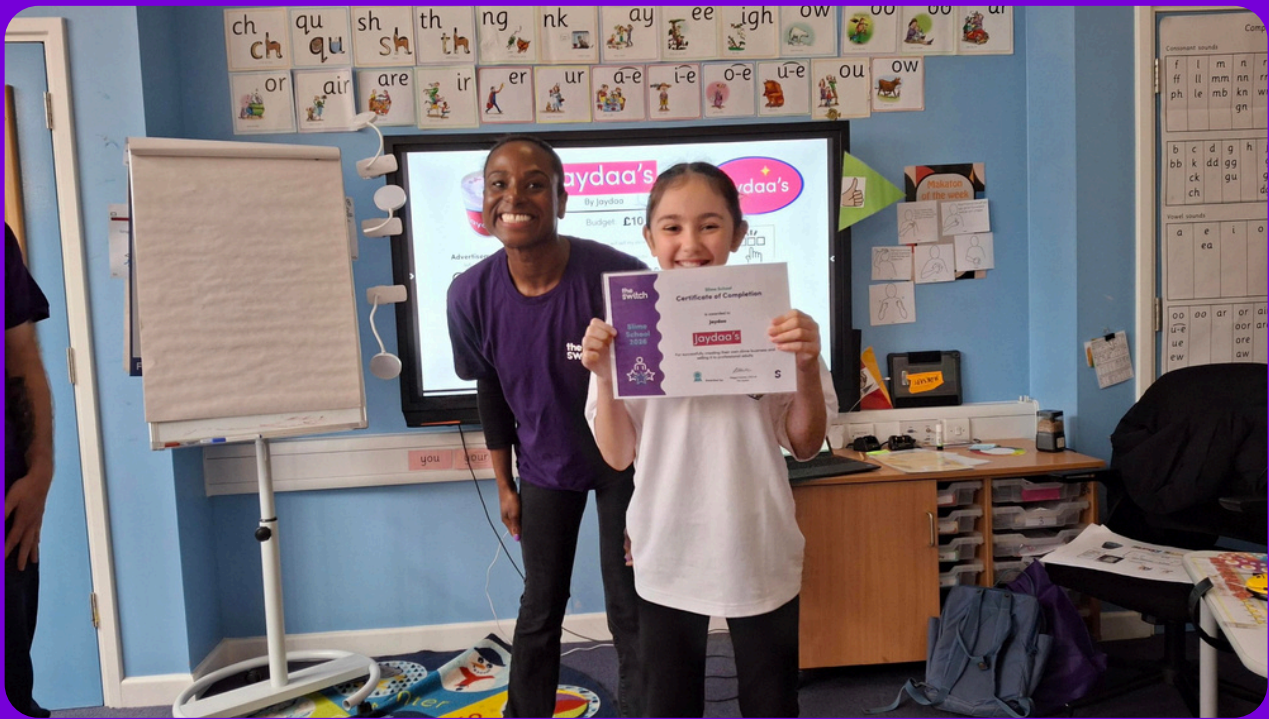
Increase in students saying yes to "I can use money without the help of adults"

98%

students saying yes to "I feel happy when I go to school"

74%

students saying yes to "I am happy to show my work to people I don't know"



"I observed lots of positive engagement and impact on the students, the programme was purposeful"

**Classroom Teacher**  
Bowden Primary

"The programme is pitched at the perfect level. The Switch was fantastic"

**Classroom Teacher**  
Bowden Primary

"I think The Switch is fantastic at making the pupils feel comfortable enough to participate. I really enjoyed watching them bring the best out in our students in all areas. Great workshop!"

**Classroom Teacher**  
Bowden Primary

## Teacher Feedback

As a result of BEE, teachers told us...

**100%**

Slime School improved the students' confidence, communication skills and soft skills.

**100%**

Slime School positively impacted the student's self-esteem and independence

**100%**

The students' understanding of budgeting and money concepts increased

**100%**

The programme was tailored to the needs of their students

**100%**

of teachers would recommend this programme to future students

# Skills workshops

At Phoenix School, KS3 students gained valuable insight into the world of careers through our Skills Workshops. Tailored for autistic learners, these sessions focus on developing essential soft skills. Over two engaging in-school workshops, students collect employability skills that prepare them for the future, using their Skills Passports. The experience ends with a workplace visit, where they met professionals, explore various roles, and accessed environments previously out of reach.

2

Workshops

43

Pupils

17

Volunteers



100%

of students enjoyed the Skills Workshops, felt that they learnt something new and would like to do the programme again.

80%

felt that they had learnt about a new job role through the programme

93%

enjoyed being part of Skills Workshops

87%

felt that they learnt something new from the volunteers

"The best part of Skills Workshops was getting to explore all the skills"

**KS3 Student**  
Phoenix School

"My favourite parts were talking with the lawyers, the tour and the view!"

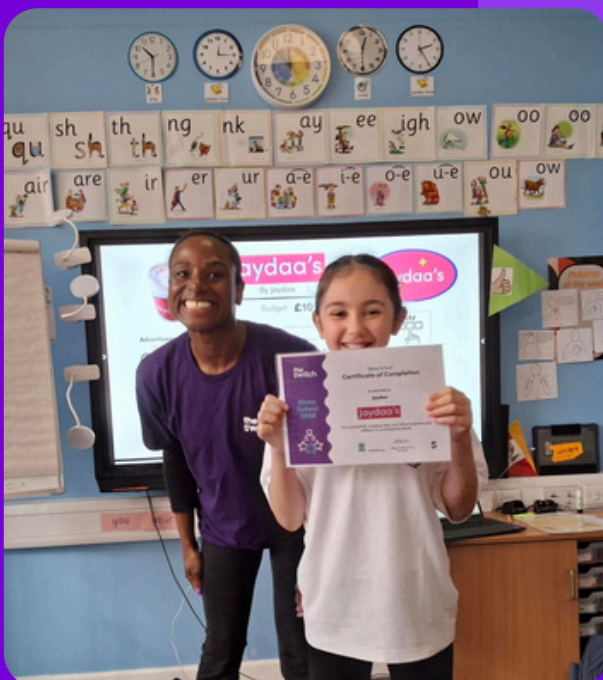
**KS3 Student**  
Phoenix School



## Teacher Feedback

As a result of Skills Workshops, teachers told us...

- Skills Workshops introduced students to employability skills
- The programme supported the confidence of the students in talking with professionals
- The programme created a wider understanding of job roles for the students
- Skills Workshops gave students opportunities they previously did not have access to



*"The employability programme has provided our young people with invaluable early experiences of the world of employment, helping to make future pathways feel both achievable and relevant. The opportunity to experience real working environments, alongside practical and engaging activities, has had a significant impact on our pupils' confidence, aspirations and understanding of employment."*

*The programme was delivered by highly trained, empathetic and experienced staff who expertly adapted their approach to meet the diverse needs of our learners. Their ability to build positive relationships and create an inclusive environment ensured that every young person was able to engage meaningfully and experience success. Beyond the impact on our students, the programme has also supported our school's understanding of what is possible for young people with additional needs, challenging expectations and demonstrating how the right support can unlock potential. Initiatives like this are invaluable in preparing young people for adulthood, and we would strongly support continued investment to enable more students to benefit from these life-changing experiences in the future."*

**Jack Sims**

Assistant Head of KS3 – Phoenix School

# 100%

of volunteers enjoyed the event and would volunteer again!



**"I'd encourage every business to consider hosting a visit and help inspire some future employees."**

*We work regularly with young people of all ages as part of our Raising Aspirations programmes, mainly focusing on careers in law, so to have the opportunity to spend time supporting autistic young people was welcome. The group from Phoenix exceeded all expectations. They were enthusiastic, interested, polite, showed so much potential and were genuinely pleased to be here!*

*The Switch did a fantastic job in preparing the students for the day and briefing our volunteers to undertake the mock interviews that formed the heart of the visit. Every volunteer was full of praise for how the students responded to the discussions and they all want to get involved in any future events we host for autistic young people. Taking the students on tours of our office also went very smoothly; they had been fully prepared about where they were going and what to expect, and everyone behaved beautifully! Enabling autistic young people to have the opportunity to visit an office like ours, and meet people from outside their usual circle of contacts is so rewarding. And easy to do. I'd encourage every business to consider hosting a visit and help inspire some future employees."*

**Cathy Jones**

Clifford Chance

**the  
switch**

Interested in hosting a workshop or booking one in?  
Get in touch with us at [volunteer@theswitch.org](mailto:volunteer@theswitch.org)