

Autism: the positives



Understanding, embracing and celebrating different ways of thinking and doing can release the true power of the autistic mind. Here we look at the positive features of autism.



Attention to detail

- Thoroughness
- Accuracy



Methodical approach

- Analytical
- Spotting patterns, repetition



Deep focus

- Concentration
- · Freedom from distraction



Novel approaches

- Unique thought processes
- Innovative solutions



Observational skills

- · Listen, look, learn approach
- Fact finding



Creativity

- Distinctive imagination
- Expression of ideas



Absorb and retain facts

- Excellent long term memory
- Superior recall



Tenacity and resilience

- Determination
- Challenge opinions



Visual skills

- · Visual learning and recall
- Detail-focused



Accepting of difference

- Less likely to judge others
- May question norms



Expertise

- In-depth knowledge
- High level of skills



Integrity

- Honesty, loyalty
- Commitment



Remember

Every experience of autism is unique. No one person will identify with every positive feature of autism. We all have individual skills, attributes and characteristics that are as unique as our personalities – this is the power of neurodiversity.

Harriet Cannon
Disability Services, February 2018

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS