

*Dear students, parents/guardians, teachers and others,*

*I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Site Director of "Bridge HDT Amsterdam PO". My roots are in Amsterdam Zuid-Oost, and I myself am a former student of one of our schools, De Brink. Since August 2023, I have been enthusiastically working at The Bridge. It is a true pleasure for me to be part of this wonderful initiative that not only provides support in mathematics but also focuses on the social and emotional development of our students.*

*My personal motivation is to instill more self-awareness in the students, as this is an essential aspect for a good and strong development. Additionally, The Bridge places great importance on direct communication with schools and parents/guardians. This way, we can work preventively from different perspectives to ensure that our students take the right path within our society.*

*In March, we organized parent open lessons, inviting parents/guardians to participate and take a look at our Bridge HDT lessons. This is to show that there is attention not only at school but also at home for the skills and knowledge of the students. It also provides an opportunity to meet the tutor in addition to the bi-weekly telephone contact. Understandably, not every parent/guardian could attend, which is why I would like to announce now that we will organize a Bridge HDT diploma ceremony at the end of the school year, before the summer vacation. It would be wonderful if parents, uncles/aunts, grandparents, siblings could be present for an extra special experience! More information on this will follow shortly.*

*In addition to the invitation for parents, we also invited the entire class and teachers of the students to take a look at a Bridge HDT lesson. The reactions were positive! Furthermore, we had the pleasure of welcoming Councilor Marjolein Moorman, responsible for education in Amsterdam. This visit was very interesting and valuable.*

*Finally, I would like to inform you that we, the tutors, are very proud of the progress of our students, as evidenced by the interim measurement of the CITO scores. We would like to emphasize that compliments from home play an important role. The students are doing great, and even though they may not always find mathematics enjoyable, they always do their utmost! I am always open for a conversation with parents and teachers about our activities. If you feel the need for a conversation, I am here for you!*

*Kind regards,  
Gail Levis  
Site Director at The Bridge Amsterdam PO*



### **Math riddle**

A hammer and a nail together cost €1.10. The hammer is one euro more expensive than the nail. How much does the hammer cost and how much does the nail cost?



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## The second check-in lesson!

In January, students were given a 'check-in lesson' about collaboration and listening. During a check-in lesson there are no calculations, but the students discuss a topic in groups which contributes to the social-emotional development of the children.

The lesson starts with an energizer in which the students both had to hold a tea towel. This way they both only had one hand to carry out tasks, and they could only successfully complete these tasks by working well together! Paper planes have been folded, chairs moved and shoelaces tied thanks to the students' collaborative skills. The students and the tutor then make a check-in instead of a Ready To Go. The students and the tutor answer questions about how they feel that day. This creates an open atmosphere and gives students the opportunity to share something with their tutor and tutor buddy if they like.

The lesson also consisted of creating a mind map about collaboration. What is needed to work well together? Students mentioned respect for each other, dividing the work fairly, daring to ask for help and listening carefully to each other. How can you listen to each other well? The students learned this by dividing forms of behaviour into 'inhibitory listening' (which does not show that you are paying attention and that you are interested) and 'stimulating listening' (which shows that you are interested in the story and paying attention). The two ways of listening are visualized in the cartoons on the right. An important lesson for the rest of life!

We concluded the lesson with a check-out, where students look back on their emotions at the beginning of the lesson and share what they thought of the lesson and what they learned. The students were positive about the lesson and indicated that they had learned new things about collaboration and listening!



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How many check-in classes will there be this school year?

There are 4 check-in classes this year. The first was about growth and fixed mindsets, during which students got to meet the mascots "Growie and Fixie". The second lesson was about collaboration and listening. The subjects of the third and fourth lesson will remain a secret for now. ;)

### 2. What are the rules for a check-in class?

There are four rules for a check-in class. These rules are intended to ensure that students feel comfortable in class and can participate well in the lesson.

1. Have fun
2. Respect everyone in the group
3. Challenge yourself
4. What is said here, stays here.

