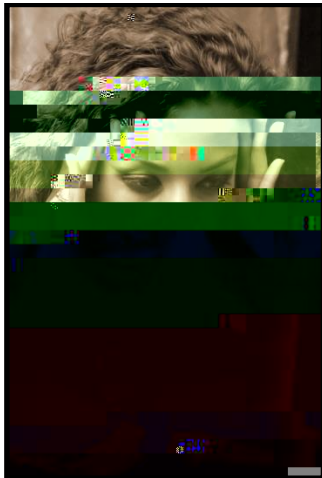




# Supporting friends with Autism or Asperger syndrome



# What is Asperger syndrome?

Asperger syndrome (AS) is a form of Autism which predominantly affects communication and social interaction.

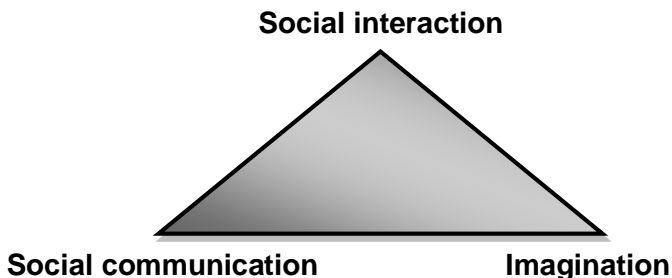
Yet whilst many people with autism may have learning problems and poor basic verbal communication skills those with AS are generally more fluent and are of average or above average intelligence. This enables the majority of adults with AS to progress through mainstream education and into further or higher education.

It is in Higher Education that further difficulties can come to light and it is therefore imperative that all their friends have a broad awareness of AS so you can offer useful support quickly and effectively, as guided by the Disability Support team.

(01243 812076; E-mail [disability@chi.ac.uk](mailto:disability@chi.ac.uk))



## The 3 key areas of difficulty known as the TRIAD OF IMPAIRMENTS





*As friends you can*

*observe conversations – situations without ongoing  
patience*

*for them they've said enough on a subject that's  
becoming abused or give them a physical cue*

*be patient if they take time to respond or take a precise  
answer*

*avoid expectations and surprises*

*access support from the Disability Support Team to advise or  
support your friend during lectures*

### **3 Imagination:**

#### **Students with AS may have difficulties:**

thinking in abstract ways

accepting changes to routines

be limited to specific favoured activities and be unable to think  
in other ways eg: enjoy playing pool but not ten-pin bowling

*As friends you can*

*observe and discuss how we think in abstract ways*

*ensure they know of any forthcoming changes eg a room  
change or fire drill*

*support student with academic work*

**Students with AS have the right to a  
university education and it is our  
responsibility to support them  
appropriately.**

#### **For more information:**

Visit the National Autistic Society website: <http://www.autism.org.uk/>