

A photograph of a woman with blonde hair and glasses (Kelly) and a young girl with glasses (Bella) standing outdoors in a garden. Kelly is wearing a white t-shirt and Bella is wearing a school uniform. They are both smiling at the camera. In the background, there are green plants and flowers.

KELLY AND STEVEN LIVE
IN SOLIHULL WITH THEIR
CHILDREN, MELODY,
AGED 16, JACK, AGED 14,
AND BELLA, AGED 11.

Bella has made a flying start at Lode Heath School and enjoyed every minute of her time in Year 7

Good motivation

Kelly and Steven are thrilled with how well Bella is progressing at Lode Heath School and the awards she received at the end of her first year. Kelly says: "Bella is enthusiastic about all the different subjects and has been motivated to try hard. She was given a gold star for her attitude to learning and overall progress, and a Zero Hero badge because she has never received a debit."

Happy time

When it was time for Melody to start at secondary school, Kelly and Steven gave her the choice of two schools nearby and she chose Lode Heath. "We had visited Lode Heath and liked the atmosphere and the teachers. She had a good time at the school and is now waiting for her GCSE results and has provisional places at two colleges," Kelly says.

Friendly environment

Kelly and Steven also took Jack to see both schools when he was due to start secondary school, and he preferred Lode Heath. "Jack has also done well at Lode Heath and made good friends there. He has just finished Year 9, so he has been able to walk to school with Bella each day," Kelly says.

New friends

"We gave Bella the choice of both local secondary schools and she chose Lode Heath also. She never particularly enjoyed primary school, but she has absolutely loved Lode Heath. She started with a few friends from primary school, but now has a much bigger circle, with lovely friends she has met this year," she says.

Enjoying Art

Bella settled in at Lode Heath straight away and loved the school's Art facilities. "Art is her favourite hobby and she enjoys going to the after school Art Club. Bella likes nothing better than to be given an art project to work on at home," Kelly says.

Variety of subjects

Bella likes the way her class study different subjects, whereas at primary school it was just Science, Maths,

English, and Topics, Kelly says. "She gets on well with all the teachers and is above where she is expected to be in everything. She has now earned 1212 credits for her work. If you do something well, you are given a credit, but students can also be given a debit. When Bella was given a gold star for her learning, and a Zero Hero badge for never receiving a debit, she was very chuffed."

Working hard

Kelly and Steven have received so many postcards from the school praising Bella's work their fridge is covered with magnets attaching them. "After Bella took a Maths test and there were things she didn't know, she worked hard to learn them and she is now good at Maths as a result," Kelly says.

Student says

Bella says: "I like Lode Heath because it has expanded my knowledge past what I have already learnt in primary school, and you get to delve into a wide range of subjects. I am developing new skills through a variety of subjects, from cooking in my Catering lessons to keyboard skills in my Music lessons. I've been involved in extracurricular activities such as Art Club and football, and found new hobbies and passions. There is a library, which is well equipped, and I regularly borrow books from it."

Building resilience

"At Lode Heath everyone is friendly, which allows me to meet new people. Many school projects and activities involve working in groups and therefore I have created new friendships. Attending classes, completing homework, and managing my time, have helped me build a sense of responsibility, while some academic challenges have helped me build resilience," Bella says. "The teachers have been supportive and given me great guidance through my learning journey in Year 7."