



Competitive swimmer Maddie was kept on course academically by attentive staff at The Magna Carta School

Emma and Richard live in Surrey with their son, Oliver, aged 19, and daughter, Maddie, aged 16.

Understanding teachers

Emma and Richard appreciate the attention Maddie received from the staff at The Magna Carta School, where she was helped to achieve academically while she fulfilled her promise as a competitive swimmer. Emma says: "The teachers at Magna Carta were very good with Maddie and helped her keep up with her school work while she was training and taking part in swimming competitions. She swam for Britain in 2022 and has recently taken part in Olympic trials. Maddie is now on a swimming scholarship and is currently considering universities in the US."

Enjoying learning

Emma says when Maddie started at Magna Carta, her brother, Oliver, was also there. "He had a good time at Magna Carta. He is very sporty and the staff were supportive with that, while helping him to achieve academically, and he is now at university studying sports data analysis. Maddie also settled in well, even though she had come from a small school and Magna Carta was much bigger. She was interested in all the different subjects, including ones she had never studied before, such as French."

Good balance

Maddie had excellent teachers and liked everything about the school, Emma says. "The teachers supported her academically, making sure she didn't fall behind because of her swimming. We had good, regular contact with the staff, who kept us well informed. They made sure she remained on track to do well and maintained the right balance between academic work and swimming."



Flexible staff

The location of Magna Carta helped the family as it was important to get Maddie to school as soon as possible after swimming in the mornings. Emma says: "We had good relationships with all the staff, including the receptionists, when we had to take her in late. Everyone knew about her swimming and they were always very helpful and we never had any issues."

Great support

Maddie remembers how supportive her teachers at Magna Carta were. "All the teachers would ask me how swimming was going and take an interest in the competitions. I felt as though I could always go to them if I was struggling to keep up with school work and they would understand. When I was applying to different schools, such as Repton, they sent letters of recommendation. I felt well prepared for taking my GCSEs and we were given plenty of resources. We could only do so much revision in the classroom, so being advised on how to revise at home helped and made me confident I was revising properly," she says.

Managing work and swimming

"I would often struggle to get to school on time after morning training as I had to travel from far away. The school helped me to stay on top of work and attend all my swimming sessions as well. I loved it when they took an interest in my swimming and felt if I needed any support or was having any issues, I could always ask the staff," Maddie says.

Friendly PE department

"I enjoyed being on the sports teams and loved the cross country competition each year. My brother also ran for the school when he was there. I remember in my first cross country race, Mr. Smith asking my name, and he recognised it from my brother. I loved talking to the PE staff about swimming and having GCSE level PE lessons, as the PE department were always so kind to me and my brother."