



Avonbourne has really helped to improve my daughter's confidence

Julie Thomson lives in Bournemouth with her daughter Isabel Baxter, aged 15.

Help with settling in

Making the move from primary to secondary school can be challenging but Isabel has adjusted well. Julie says: "Isabel's transition from Year Six to Year Seven was very smooth. We had a couple of sessions beforehand to introduce the children and parents to Avonbourne, which definitely made a difference. What also helped was that Avonbourne only invited Years 7 and 11 to come in on the first day. The children were able to get used to the lay of the land and learn their way around whilst the school was quiet which was a good approach to help them settle in."

Peace of mind

Knowing your child is well looked after and is happy at school is important for parents. Julie says: "I know that my daughter is safe at school and that is key for me. It gives me such peace of mind to know that she is safe and is being well looked after. The staff and teachers at Avonbourne really do have their pupils' best interests at heart."



Exam support

During their GCSE years, the exam support that pupils receive can be a big help. Julie says: "Isabel is now in Year 10 and she chose her GCSE subjects based on what she most likes learning about. The school has offered excellent support to help Year 10 prepare for their GCSE exams. This has included pre-exam revision sessions and mock tests. The after-school sessions were optional at first but have now been made compulsory and I'm pleased about that as they do help and it only adds an extra 30 minutes to their school day."

School experiences

Avonbourne offers a range of extracurricular activities and the one Isabel has enjoyed most is dance. Julie says: "Isabel used to take part in the after-school dance club and she absolutely loved it. She has taken part in many school shows, the latest in January. Isabel and three of her friends were invited to teach a dance of their choice to Year 7, 8 and 9 club members and this would be performed as a group number at the show. Year 10 also danced together and Isabel and one of her friend's performed a duo routine at the show. It was amazing to watch as I could see just how much her confidence had grown. Seeing my daughter perform her two dances was a proud moment."

"The dance club asked if the girls wanted to continue after the first term, but Isabel and her friends said they needed to focus on their end of year exams. It was such a great experience for my daughter though."

Excellent communications

Julie has been delighted with the way that staff take time to listen to parents. Julie says: "The school is very good at listening, understanding, and taking appropriate action when it's needed. As a parent, knowing that you have been heard is important. The school is always open and responsive to parents and it's really appreciated."

Confidence building

Julie was a prefect when she was at school and her daughter was keen to be one too, and now she is! Julie says: "Isabel is a modern languages prefect for Spanish. Her school experiences including being involved in dance club, teaching younger pupils a dance routine and now being a prefect have all really helped to improve her confidence."



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Some of the people you will get to know:

Mrs Dyer - Principal

Miss Barr - Assistant Principal

Isabel says:

"I enjoy seeing my friends at school and my favourite lessons are maths and history."