



Tom is flourishing at Avonbourne Boys Academy thanks to its disruptive-free learning environment

Amy and Daniel live in Bournemouth with their son, Tom, 12, and daughters, Freya, 14, and Amelia, 16.

Avonbourne felt right for Tom

Amy and Daniel have been delighted with how the staff and teachers at Avonbourne Boys Academy have supported their son, Tom.

"We live just around the corner from the school and Tom's sisters have both been educated at Avonbourne. But we were a little apprehensive about whether the learning environment would be right for Tom as he has learning difficulties including dyslexia, dyscalculia and also experiences processing issues.

We had a number of meetings and conversations with the school before deciding Avonbourne was right for Tom. Miss Barr who is Assistant Principal was amazing in helping him to settle in.

"Tom is now in Year 8 and as long as he is happy at school, we are happy. He really enjoys going to school, even though learning can be difficult for him. He's very sociable and he has a lot of friends. He gets on well with his teachers and the support he receives is excellent.



How Tom has flourished

"Tom was far behind his peers by the time he left primary school. But since starting at Avonbourne, his English has really improved and he's excelling in the subject now. He also really enjoys science lessons."

"Tom needs constant reassurance that he is doing well and the teachers at Avonbourne are really great at praising the children and acknowledging good behaviour. Although Tom is in one of the lower sets because of his learning difficulties, the teaching staff are great at recognising that he tries really hard with his school work."

Special support

"Tom's weakest subject is maths, and the school placed him into a special class in Year 7 called direct instruction to help him learn with others who are at a similar level. He really enjoys being part of such a small class. It's so specific to the learning needs of those children and it has worked amazingly for Tom. Recently, he has gone back into his direct instruction group for maths and he's really enjoying it still. He also enjoys being part of another intervention that the school offers and that's the dyslexia club."

"The support Tom has received and continues to receive has really helped him. The school's online support during the pandemic was also excellent and was so well set up. I really can't fault the school; they have been great."



Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies
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Some of the people you will get to know:

Mrs Dyer - Principal

Miss Barr - Assistant Principal

Working together

"We experienced some issues when Tom initially began Year 8 however the situation was dealt with very quickly. We are in regular communication with the school, and they are really good at listening. They do try and find a solution whenever problems arise. He has since moved into the next stream up and the class he is in now is much better for him."

"We have a really good relationship with the school and the zero tolerance for disruptive learning policy that they have is excellent for Tom's needs."

Supportive environment

"It's been such a big thing for us that Tom can enjoy disruptive-free learning when he is at school as that is best for him. It's such a supportive and encouraging environment for Tom and he is always happy to go to school."

Tom says:

"I like going to Avonbourne because everyone is welcoming and nice. The teachers are also very supportive."