



## Arthur is happy and growing in confidence in the calm learning environment of Avonbourne Boys' Academy

**Janine and Rob live in Southbourne with their children, Arthur, aged 13, Sid, aged ten, and Olive, aged seven.**

### Good teachers

Janine and Rob are pleased Arthur was given the chance to go to Avonbourne Boys' Academy because they have seen him grow in confidence during his first two years at the school. Janine says: "We're glad that the staff at Avonbourne have high expectations of the children. The teaching is good and Arthur is doing well in Maths and enjoys History and Music. He is a capable boy and we like the fact the staff expect him to work hard because we want him to do as well as he can."

### Improved school

Janine says Avonbourne was their third choice of school and they hadn't wanted Arthur to go there to begin with, but they didn't get either of their first two choices. "We tried to be open minded because we knew Avonbourne had been taken over by United Learning, who had already improved other schools, and we were hopeful that they would turn the school around, which they have."



## Good behaviour

She said after Arthur started, they were glad to see that the staff placed a lot of emphasis on good behaviour. "We were pleased they did not tolerate bad behaviour as it means the children can learn in a pleasant atmosphere and there is no disruption to the lessons. Whenever you walk round the school, you see that the children in the classrooms are listening and learning. For us, it is a real positive that the school is a calm learning environment," Janine says.

## Feeling at home

"It was a big change for Arthur going to secondary school and he wasn't a confident child, but he settled in well. Because it was 2020 and there were Covid restrictions, he hadn't had any transition events, but other children from his old primary school started with him and the staff did everything they could to help them settle. Eventually Arthur came out of his shell and each year he has become happier at the school," she says.

## Confidence boosted

"Our main concern was for Arthur's safety and we used to ask him if he felt safe at school. He always reassured us that he did. There was one incident when he was in Year Seven, but it was dealt with quickly by the school. If we have ever had any issues to raise, the school have always responded quickly. Arthur's confidence has grown as he has progressed through the school, with the encouragement of the staff," Janine says.



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Some of the people you will get to know:

**Mrs Dyer** - Principal

**Miss Barr** - Assistant Principal

## Achievement rewarded

"We like the way good behaviour and achievement are rewarded. When the children get three positive ticks on their record cards, they are entered into a draw to win vouchers. Avonbourne also send us postcards to tell us about Arthur's achievements. We recently received one telling us he had made a big improvement in his cross-country time," she says.

## Leadership skills

"There is a big range of after-school clubs at Avonbourne. Arthur was chosen by the games organiser to go to the club for young leaders this year and he is really enjoying it. He is being trained in leadership skills and learning how to run sporting events for younger children. It also involved him visiting another school and being trained by the staff there, which he enjoyed," Janine says.

## Satisfied parents

"His younger brother, Sid, is looking forward to moving to Avonbourne next September. He has been to a taster session and an open evening and will have a transition day. We are much less anxious about him moving up, because we know it is a good school. We are pleased Arthur was given the chance to go to Avonbourne and confident he will fulfil his potential there."

## Arthur says:

**"I like history lessons and learning leadership skills at my after-school club."**