



Ben and Alex are both achieving their best work encouraged by the caring staff at Kingsmead School

Jo and James live in Enfield with their sons, Ben, aged 14, and Alex, aged 12.

Inspiring values

Jo and James are very pleased with the way Ben and Alex have thrived in the supportive surroundings of Kingsmead School, where they are being guided by the good values of the school. Jo says: "The values give students a secure foundation for their future."

Building for the future

Jo likes the way students are given achievement points if they live up to the values, such as demonstrating Rigour with good work, and Courage by speaking up in class about any issues. She says: "It is good to give children rewards for living up to the school values as it will affect how they present themselves as adults and encourage them to work with and care about other people."



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Impressive speech

After hearing good things about Kingsmead, Jo attended an open day when Ben was still in Year 5 at primary school. "I thought the Headteacher gave a very good talk to prospective parents and I was impressed with what I saw when I was going round the classrooms," she says.

Close friends

Ben's primary school was near Kingsmead and he went up with many of his friends. "His friendship circle has increased because he has got to know children who were at other primary schools and all his friends are now very close and support each other," Jo says.

Supportive teachers

When Ben started at Kingsmead, he hadn't been to school for several months because of the Covid pandemic. "The new year group were restricted to one building at the school to lower the chance of infection and there was some home learning. I think Kingsmead handled it well and the teachers went to a lot of trouble to support the children through the transition," Jo says.

Talent encouraged

"Once Ben was able to get into the routine, he began to enjoy school and he has had some very inspiring teachers. He particularly likes Art and was given extra time for the subject to develop his talent, but he chose to do Drama for GCSE rather than Art because he enjoys it so much."

Good role models

Ben has enjoyed Year 10 and being able to concentrate on subjects he has chosen for GCSE, such as Design and Technology, Geography and German, Jo says. "He has had some great theatre and residential trips with the school and last year enjoyed doing his bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. His teachers are excellent and always have time for the students, and I think it has been good for him to have some good male teachers as role models."



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Kingsmead School
196 Southbury Road
Enfield
EN1 1YQ

Phone: 020 8351 5000
Switchboard operating times: 08:00 – 17:00
Email: enquiries@kingsmead.org

Keen student

Jo says that Alex has had a great time in Year 7. "He also went up with a group of friends from primary school but was keen to start anyway because his brother was there. He has a lot more homework to do now, but is happy to get on with it and he takes responsibility for getting ready and going to school each day."

Ability encouraged

Alex takes lessons seriously but enjoys them at the same time, she says. "He is doing well academically and recently brought home a bronze certificate for taking part in a national Maths Challenge. He is good at Science and is given extra work to do by the teacher and he enjoys cookery and likes cooking at home. I have been so satisfied with Kingsmead that I have now become a parent trustee to help shape its future."

Students say

Ben says: "I really enjoyed Year 7 and we were encouraged with lots of achievement points. As I have gone up the school, I appreciate being treated in a more grown-up way."

Alex says: "I really like the school community and the Science practicals are fun."

