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BONNIE IS HAPPY TO WORK WHERE SHE ONCE STUDIED IN THE FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT OF SWANMORE COLLEGE



Megan and Stephen McMulkin live in Swanmore with their children, Bonnie, aged 16, and Archie, aged 14.

Interesting work

Bonnie is now combining working with studying, having become the first ex pupil to take on an apprenticeship at Swanmore College. She says: "I am enjoying doing the apprenticeship in Business and Administration at my former school. The work is very interesting as I am dealing with lots of different people every day and I get to go to college once a fortnight."

Happy memories

Bonnie says she was happy to work at the school as she had a really good experience of studying there. "All my teachers were very supportive and helped me gain in confidence. When I started my GCSEs I used to go to the homework club, which was really good as there were teachers there who could help if I got stuck on something. They didn't mind answering my questions and were always very patient."



Confidence building

Bonnie's mother, Megan, says: "Bonnie was born 13 weeks premature and has had various medical problems as a result and needed to have operations. She has also suffered with a stammer. She has done a programme out of school to help her improve and her teachers at Swanmore also supported her. They gave her time to speak in front of her class and worked with her to build her confidence.

Helpful staff

"I have always found the staff very helpful and approachable. If I have needed to speak to someone and rung up and left a message they have always called me back. I always had a contact at the school I was able to liaise with and I felt that they really tried to work with me to help Bonnie.

Good start

"Bonnie did not join the school until Year 8 because we had been living in Australia for two years. We had lived in the Swanmore area before we left England so Bonnie knew some people from her previous primary school. It took her a few weeks to find her way round the school but I think she settled in quite well," Megan says.

Meeting new friends

"She quickly made new friends and found all the teachers very helpful. She particularly enjoyed Art, History and English. She always liked reading and loved spending time in the school library and she enjoyed doing cross country after school in Years 8 and 9.



Excellent support

"When Bonnie first started working for her GCSEs in Year 9 she felt overwhelmed and unsure about some of her subjects but her teachers really helped her. She has always found everyone very helpful and supportive and by the time she sat her GCSEs she felt a lot more comfortable with the work.

Job opportunity

"After leaving school she was considering doing an apprenticeship and saw one in Business and Administration at Swanmore College advertised on the Government website. As she had a good experience of being at Swanmore she decided to apply for it. She works nine days a fortnight at the school and does one day a fortnight at a college. It is the first time the school have offered an apprenticeship so it was a good opportunity for her."

Varied work

Bonnie says: "I remember when I first started at Swanmore it took a while to settle in and find where everything was but once I had made friends I really liked the school. I particularly enjoyed studying History and Child Development and I chose them as GCSE options. I am enjoying doing the apprenticeship at Swanmore as I like dealing with different people every day. I am on the main reception so I talk to the parents and find the work is very varied. I would definitely recommend Swanmore to other pupils looking for a good secondary school."



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