



William now has the confidence to sing in concerts and speak at events thanks to help he has received at Kingsmead School

Maxine lives in Enfield with her children, Grace, aged 18, and William, aged 14.

Help with transition

Maxine is delighted William can now stand up and speak in public and perform in concerts because of the support he has had from the staff at Kingsmead School. "William has come a long way since he joined the school in Year 7. The school were very supportive and their Stepping Stones transition programme helped him cope with his anxiety," she says.

Making friends

William had been prepared for moving up with a Taster Day at Kingsmead when he met his new teacher," Maxine says. "But he struggled when he first started at the school and realised he was in a much bigger environment than his primary school with a lot more people. Fortunately, the school were able to help him and he has now made some friends and is a lot less anxious."



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Caring staff

Maxine's daughter, Grace, who is in Year 13, has just completed her A Levels and is planning to go to university to study Politics. "Overall, Grace's experiences at the school have been very positive. She suffered from anorexia, but the staff were caring and looked after her, and she has been successful at Kingsmead," she says.

Understanding teacher

"William has benefited from having a good Head of Year who has been brilliant with him. She knows and understands him well. I know if I email his Head of Year, I will always get a reply from her. Both my children have been well supported at Kingsmead. I would tell other parents they will get support if they let the teachers know they are worried about something. I can't thank Kingsmead enough for what they have done for my family."

Helpful mentor

William says after he started at Kingsmead, the staff made him aware of the opportunities available for pupils to get help. "If you are upset you know where you can go to talk to someone. The staff were kind and would listen to me. If I was anxious about something at home, I knew I could email a teacher and they would get back to me. I knew where to get help because of the Stepping Stones transition programme. I had a mentor who would give me advice if I was having problems with Maths, or some other homework."

Helping others

Now William is in Year 9 he has friends and is happy at school. "My favourite subject is History and I also enjoy cricket and football.

I help to mentor the present Year 7 students and give them advice and reassure them they can always speak to a teacher if they are worried about something. In the mornings, we advise them that if they haven't had breakfast at home to go and get some hash browns or toast, before school starts. We tell them it is good to always have some breakfast."



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Enjoying singing

William now enjoys singing and performing in concerts. "One of my friends knew I was good at singing and encouraged me to perform. I will sing anything relevant to the theme of the concert. If it's an '80s themed concert I will sing '80s songs. My music teacher has been very encouraging. Singing built up my confidence and performing in concerts has paved the way for me to start speaking in public."

Speaking confidently

William now gives talks on behalf of the school. "I have spoken to an audience in central London and told them about the Stepping Stones programme and the help available for students going up to secondary school. I also speak at events, such as open evenings, and I have addressed the School Governors. I now have the confidence to speak to a room full of people."

