

Worthing High School has helped Anne's son towards new independence and new confidence

**WORTHING
HIGH
SCHOOL**
Leading Learning



Anne and Tony Harvey's only child, Blake, is 14 and attends Worthing High School.

GOOD COMMUNICATION

Anne and Tony were prepared to let Blake have a final say in his choice of school, having between them weighed up all the options. Their main considerations were that Blake should feel comfortable about where he was going and that it was in a practical location, given that he would often need to be able to make his own way to school and back.

"As Tony and I both work full time Blake had to be able to get to and from school under his own steam but if we hadn't been happy with his decision to go to Worthing High we might have had to think again," says Anne. "As it happens, even though I rarely get the chance to go into the school the communication and feedback I know I can rely on makes me feel that I always know what's going on. I can be involved in his school life without having to be there physically and I fully trust his teachers to keep me up to date with everything I need to know."

A FAMILY FEELING

Anne, Tony and Blake visited Worthing High as a family both during the day and after school, something which Anne recommends. "It was interesting to see it from both

perspectives; the students going about their lessons and then later after school hours, when we had the chance to look at the work being done, the facilities and the way the school operates. We all really liked the family feel, and the way the teaching staff all seemed to be very engaged with the students."

A DAUNTING EXPERIENCE SENSITIVELY HANDLED

Anne's only real concern was about Blake's transition from his previous middle school, Thomas a Becket, to High School as transition was something Blake had historically struggled with. "He had never been comfortable moving from one class and teacher to another and September had always been a difficult time," she says. "Going from Middle to High School is a much more daunting experience and one I think should never be underestimated. When I mentioned my worries to Worthing High, they fully understood what I was saying and offered Blake an additional transfer day to help him acclimatise. It was a strategy which worked very well and really helped him to settle in."

NO EXCUSES, JUST SOLUTIONS

This is something which appeals to Anne; the fact that every student is treated as an individual with his or her own needs and personality taken into account. "They are all respected as people in their own right but that places a responsibility on the student. High standards of behaviour are expected and contraventions of those standards are addressed appropriately. This is completely in line with my own feelings and I like the way that if Blake has done well I am informed of the fact, as well as if he has let himself down in any way, the school will tell me that, too. I don't want to hear excuses on any side - just to have straightforward, honest information and solutions."

IN TOUCH

When a child moves to higher education and towards a degree of new independence, a parent needs to be able to trust that child's school not only to cater for their education but also for their welfare. "Although we are now distanced to a certain extent from Blake's day to day school life, we don't feel cut off from it," Anne believes. "We know he is being well looked after and completely trust Worthing High to keep us in touch with everything we should know."

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

From Blake's point of view, his teachers at Worthing High have done as much as he could expect in making him feel welcome and comfortable in a new and unfamiliar environment. Although it took him a few weeks to adjust he was helped by one of his teachers who arranged events and activities where new and older students could get to know each other. "As well as the usual form meetings

in the morning, we had times when we played games together and had a chance to socialise so it helped us feel more a part of the school," says Blake. "I did feel a bit out of place to begin with but everyone made an effort and the transition is behind me now."

MAKING DECISIONS

Based upon his skills and interests, Blake has two very different career paths in mind and is confident that his teachers will be supportive whichever route he chooses to take. "At the moment I'm thinking of sport physiotherapy or air traffic control, and I'm sure that whatever I decide to go for I can rely on my teachers to back me up and help me make the right decisions. My particular interests on the sports side are rugby, football and cricket but philosophy and ethics is something I feel will give me another string to my bow, and it's great that I have the chance to do such different things at school."

FACING THE CHALLENGES

Moving from a relatively small middle school to high school can be an intimidating experience but Blake has taken it on the chin and adapted very well. "At any secondary school there will be challenges to face but I do know that at Worthing High if you ever have a problem the teachers will listen to you and sort things out," he says. "Anything you say is always completely confidential and I feel I can trust them completely. If I had to choose again, I would still choose Worthing High."



Worthing High School
South Farm Road
Worthing BN14 7AR

Tel: 01903 237864
Fax: 01903 231709
Email: achieve@worthinghigh.net
www.worthinghigh.net

**WORTHING
HIGH
SCHOOL**
Leading Learning