

# Katharine takes pride in her son's achievements and credits Worthing High School for giving him a great start in life

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Katharine and Martin live in Worthing with their son, Tom, who is 15. Tom moved to Worthing High School from Thomas a Becket Middle School.

## EDUCATION A PRIORITY

Like any parent, Katharine's priority in a school is her son's education and as Tom is doing very well across the board she has no complaints about Worthing High. Even though Tom is confident and articulate, she felt the smaller setting was a more friendly environment, where he would have access to a greater degree of individual attention if necessary. "We looked at all the schools but Worthing High just had the right feeling about it," she says. "We didn't want to risk him being swallowed up and felt he would be able to express his own personality more readily." This has certainly been the case, as Tom has been appointed Head Boy, chosen by both staff and other students. "That really was a proud parent moment!" says Katharine.

## DEDICATION

Katharine is very impressed with the dedication of the teaching staff and the long hours so many of them put in to support the students. "I have seen teachers already in school at 7am as well as the 'Period Six' sessions at the end of the day. They have also arranged study and revision lessons for the GCSE students during half term which is a real asset at such an important time and I admire them for doing so."



expected to have the chance to in other circumstances." Tom will also be part of the interview panel for next year's Head Boy and Head Girl and the other prefect roles.

## PASTORAL CARE

Although it is normally of greater importance to parents than the students themselves, Tom can appreciate the pastoral value of the school's Community Group system and believes it goes a long way to boosting the confidence of the younger students who might otherwise feel intimidated or out of their depth. "Bringing the four years together is a great idea and helps students to forge relationships outside their immediate peer groups. This crossyear interaction benefits both the older and the younger students and encourages the family atmosphere which I don't think would be possible in a bigger school. To me, Worthing High is a family school, rather than a business."

## CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

There have been considerable changes at Worthing High since Tom started in Year 8 and Katharine believes the Headteacher has been instrumental in making them very positive ones. "She is doing an amazing job and the strong leadership is reflected in the quality of the teaching staff and the hard work they put in. Tom has benefitted from a great all-round education and is a responsible, mature young man, and I think that is partly because of the way he's been treated at Worthing High."

## COMMITMENT

As Head Boy, Tom has the chance to see his school from more than one standpoint. From a student's point of view a student, he has seen teaching standards rise and is pleased with the support he receives from his teachers which is assisting him in reaching the grades he needs to qualify for Sixth Form. "I am very impressed with the commitment of my tutors who go above and beyond their remit to make sure that we have all the tools and information we need, and more," he says. "Every subject teacher puts in a huge effort, working after hours and at weekends, and they are very approachable if there is anything I need to talk about. If it's not convenient to speak to someone face to face, the email system is really good; I know I will always get a quick reply."

## THE STUDENT/TEACHER RELATIONSHIP

Tom's responsibilities as Head Boy are varied, but having been selected for his qualities of leadership, enthusiasm and overall positive attitude, he is entrusted to take part in the initial selection process for the appointment of new staff members. "It's good that students are given the chance to have their say as the relationship between students and their teachers is so important. It was also a very useful exercise in terms of life experience and something I would not have



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