

A difficult challenge made easy - the Clarks found the personalised learning, pastoral care and community spirit they were looking for at Worthing High School

**WORTHING
HIGH
SCHOOL**
Leading Learning



The Clark family live in Worthing and have a daughter of 12 who attends Worthing High School.

FAMILY FEELING AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

'Community focussed' is one way the Clarks would describe Worthing High School, and that is an attribute they value highly. "We wanted a local, mixed school with a family feeling and a community spirit, especially since this was the first time we had ventured into secondary education with our children. It was a big adjustment for us all so we needed to make sure it was right for us, and we have never regretted our decision."

A VALUABLE INITIATIVE

The wish of many incoming parents is to bring the familiar playground experience into the secondary school environment and this was recognised by Worthing High. To that end, a social evening for parents of Year 8 students was arranged as a way of introducing parents to each other. "In first and middle school, parents have much more 'playground' contact and that helps to create a useful family network. The evening was a brilliant way of helping us not only to meet on a social basis but also gave us the chance to talk to a member of staff informally and to ask any questions which had not already been covered. We were very impressed by the thought and effort which went into this initiative."

INVOLVING AND INFORMING PARENTS

It is not only parents who benefit from the school's policy of inclusion but local groups, too, are welcomed into the school to use its facilities for music, drama and exercise clubs. The school also ran a free maths course for adults, designed to help parents support their children's learning: "The course was a useful experience as the way maths is taught has changed a great deal, so seeing how the school approaches the subject was very helpful. As parents, we expect to be involved and informed about our children's education and this is something Worthing High takes very seriously."

BROAD SPECTRUM OF SUPPORT

Pastoral care is another issue in which the Clark's are particularly interested and they have been completely reassured this is a priority at Worthing High. "They are very patient in terms of helping new students to settle and any concerns are swiftly addressed. There is a broad spectrum of team support from the, Community Leaders, Pastoral Leaders, Form Tutors and Key/Inclusion workers. "We were invited to bring our daughter into the school on

several occasions before her actual start date and this really helped her to familiarise herself with the premises and the staff. She has also been supported in her learning by the Inclusion Team who recognised that she would benefit from some extra tuition, and this has made sure she doesn't fall behind in any way."

SENDING OUT THE RIGHT MESSAGES

The homely feel of Worthing High is further reinforced by the high standards of behaviour evident throughout. "We like the 'firm but fair' approach of the Behaviour for Learning initiative under which there is zero tolerance for bad manners, uniform transgressions and general personal presentation. The students are expected to be good representatives of their school, both during the day and when they leave the school premises. This sends a message to the community and has a positive impact on how local people perceive the values promoted by Worthing High."

"In academic terms, our daughter is far more engaged in her studies than she was previously and this fact makes us even more convinced we made the right choice. We would encourage any parent to consider Worthing High as a serious option; look around and ask questions - you'll know if it's the right place for your child."



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