

# Carol knows how important it is to find a school to suit a child's personality, and Worthing High School has ticked every box for her daughter

**WORTHING  
HIGH  
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Carol and Phil Coles live in Worthing and have one daughter, Emily, who is 15 and attends Worthing High School.

## OUTSTANDING FOR PARENT AND PUPIL

As a teacher herself, Carol is very well aware that a child must be happy and comfortable in his or her school in order to make the most of what it has to offer, and it was partly for that reason she applied to Worthing High School for a place for Emily. "Because Emily is an only child we decided that a mixed-sex school would be preferable, but other than that we were prepared to let her have the final say," Carol explains. "When we visited the local schools it was Worthing High which stood out for Emily, and we were all struck by how welcoming it felt. The teaching staff were very engaging and we had no hesitation in agreeing to Emily's choice."

## PEER SUPPORT

Emily moved to Worthing High from The Vale with several of her friends but had little difficulty in adding to her circle because of the policy of integration. "The vertical Community Group system combines all the year groups so that new students are introduced to the older ones who can show them where to go, what they should be doing and give them a bit of peer support," says Carol. "That is so useful for children joining a new school as it helps them feel they belong."

## ACHIEVABLE GOALS

Carol's belief that a child is more likely to achieve their potential if they are happy in their school is proven by Emily's inclusion on Worthing High's Gifted and Talented Register. "The school has recognised Emily's particular skills and given her opportunities to capitalise on these. She has been offered extra-curricular lessons in Latin, and in Classics and Critical Thinking and these have added to her enjoyment of her school experience. She was also one of a group to make a visit to St John's College in Oxford, demonstrating that an Oxbridge education is not just a dream for state-school children but an achievable goal."

## COMMUNITY LINKS

Worthing High maintains strong links with the community. Students are encouraged to interact with local businesses in order to give them an insight into workplace practise, as well as to showcase their potential skills. In addition, pupils with musical talent often visit care facilities to entertain elderly residents, or to take time to sit and chat. "As well as giving something back to the community, I think it adds a lot to the children's education by instilling a sense of responsibility," says Carol. "Emily really likes taking part in something outside the normal school day so it is of mutual benefit."

## HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The Headteacher's openness is something else which Carol appreciates. "There are regular parent's evenings where we are kept fully up to date on everything. The home/school communication is very good indeed, and I have always had a quick and effective response to a telephone call or email."

## BRIGHT CHILDREN, BRIGHT FUTURE

Carol believes that a bright child will do well at most schools but also that the right school can help that child do even better. "I have never believed that Emily would achieve more elsewhere in the State system," she says. "Worthing High School has been the right setting for Emily in every way and has been instrumental in helping her make the most of her abilities."

## EMILY'S VIEW

"I have really enjoyed my time at Worthing High so far. I have made some amazing friends from all years and I have been given many opportunities here, especially through the Gifted and Talented programme. Because of the G&T, I do an extra GCSE in Classical Civilisation and Critical Thinking at AS level. As well as this, I have visited St John's College, Oxford University, which was an amazing experience, and the group also had a talk from the former Assistant Secretary General of the UN, Professor Sir Richard Jolly."

## MUSIC AND DRAMA

"I have also been given many opportunities in music and drama. I have been in all of the school productions since I joined and have thoroughly enjoyed all of them; they have helped improve my drama skills and I now take drama as a GCSE. At Worthing High, the Music Department is amazing, and is one of the reasons I chose the school. I have been involved in many choir performances and have been to many nursing homes to perform and spend time with the elderly. In addition to this, I was chosen to go to Howarth's oboe factory to take part in Childs Commissioner Take Over Day."



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