

For parents and students who value the quality of education, Cheryl believes Worthing High School is the one of choice

WORTHING  
HIGH  
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Callum and Kyira Liston are students at Worthing High School. They live with their mother, Cheryl, in Worthing and had previously attended Chesswood Middle School.

## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Although he kindly allowed his mum to have an opinion in the matter, it was Callum's own decision to move to Worthing High from his middle school, and made because he values the quality of his education. "Callum was very specific in what he wanted and that was to achieve as much as possible," Cheryl explains. "He was determined to make sure his next school could help him in his future ambition and believed that Worthing High was the one to do it."

## EVERY SUPPORT

Fortunately for Callum, Cheryl was more than happy to agree to his choice and she has been very impressed with the way his needs have been addressed. "The teachers have been brilliant and they quickly recognised Callum's capabilities," she says. "He has been given every support to make sure he can make the most of his talents and I have never felt that he would have had a better chance to succeed elsewhere. Because he enjoys studying he is in absolutely the right place, and the same can be said for Kyira."

## MUTUAL BENEFITS

For students who need extra help for any reason after-school study sessions are offered, and in addition students are actively encouraged to support each other. "If a student is particularly able in a subject they are paired with one who is less so, and often a fellow pupil can explain something in a way which is more readily understandable. Kyira was paired with a Chinese student who needed help with her English, with the benefit to Kyira that she has started to learn a bit of Chinese! So it is a system which works well all around."

## LISTENING TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS

A measure of involvement in the running of the school is an important part of the students' experience, to the extent that as a Student Councillor, Callum has been a member of the interview panel for selection of new members of staff. "It is remarkable that the students are given such a responsible role but it makes a great deal of sense," believes Cheryl. "Students will get much more from their lessons if they feel at ease with their teacher and giving them a say in a new appointment is a very good idea."

The school also seeks the students' input in many other areas such as the curriculum, fundraising ideas and possible future events and, says Cheryl, takes their suggestions seriously. "The school will act on what both students and parents suggest when possible and it is reassuring to know that what we say is valued. The staff are open and honest about everything affecting the school and the lines of communication are good."

## MAINTAINING GOOD COMMUNICATION

Home/school communication is reinforced by the website which is, says Cheryl, a priceless facility. "It is a very useful means through which the students can remind themselves about their homework requirements, for example, but absolutely invaluable for parents if we want to check up on anything relating to our children. Insight is the school's secure online system linked through the main website; the constantly updated information means I can find out about their current work, their grades and achievements or if they have been absent from a lesson! Even though I know I can always talk to a member of staff in person if I need to, the website is a great asset."

## FROM THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Both Callum and Kyira hold similar opinions to their mother concerning the school. "Worthing High has grasped my skills and helped me develop them, says Callum. "I feel it was a valuable choice and the right decision for me. I find the staff friendly and easy to approach throughout the school. In addition the integration between student and

teacher is of a quality above other schools I have visited. I feel I am encouraged to share my views and ideas without prejudice.



"Being on the student council has given me the opportunity to be part of the interview process for appointing new teachers, which has shown me the school appreciate and value our opinions. It has also shown me the inner workings of the school and allowed me to contribute to issues that help improve the school for everyone."

Kyira had other concerns initially: "I started later due to health issues and I was really worried about not fitting in, but the Buddy system was very helpful. I was paired with another student who shared the same lessons as me and they showed me where to find all the classes, introduced me to people and I settled in quickly."

After struggling in my previous years of education before Worthing High, I have found since I started my ability to learn has been improved greatly and I have surprised myself with the standards of my work and the grades I am achieving. I have also found it easier to build valuable friendships with students of different ages; this is mainly due to the structure of the form classes as they are made up of students from each year.

I value the responsibilities given me when asked to assist others with their learning and I find teachers easy to talk to when issues arise."



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