

# There is a right school for every child, and Tracey believes she has found the right one for her son at Worthing High School

**WORTHING  
HIGH  
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Leading Learning



Tracey and Abhai Pandya and their children Kiaya, 16 and Jevhan, 15, live in Worthing. Jevhan moved on to Worthing High School from the Thomas a Becket Middle School.

## FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL

Tracey believes that it is important to take a child's character into account when choosing a school, and having looked at several options for Jevhan she was convinced that Worthing High was right for him. "Certain schools suit different personalities and as I hoped, Jevhan has fitted in very well at Worthing High," she says. "The school has allowed him to maintain his individuality and to be his own person without making him feel he has to become just one of the crowd."

## OUT OF THE ORDINARY

In fact, Jevhan's qualities have been recognised and embraced by the school, which has given him opportunities not only to expand his education but to broaden his horizons in various ways. "Through the Gifted and Talented programme Jevhan has been able to study Latin, Critical Thinking and Classics, which he can take as an additional GCSE, and to take part in enrichment activities which offer something out of the ordinary. The visit to India with the CRED Foundation was an amazing experience for him and he even shaved his head to raise the sponsorship money to get there!"

## ADDED BENEFITS

In the two and a half years that Jevhan has been at Worthing High, Tracey has noticed an improvement in teaching standards. "There are some very strong and inspirational teachers who really motivate the students and Jevhan has made good progress, especially in science and maths but he's achieving well in every way. Socially, the school's close links with the community encourage a sense of responsibility in the students and I feel this is an added benefit over and above the normal curriculum."

## NO RESERVATIONS

If Tracey had any reservation, it was concerning the linear system of the Community Groups, but her initial scepticism has been dispelled. "I wasn't sure that it was a good idea to integrate the year groups but actually it has worked really well," she says. "The periods in the day where the students spend time together as a form rather than just with their classes gives them all something extra. It helps the younger pupils by giving them access to the experience and advice of the older ones, and the older students respond positively. This is another reason that I am glad we chose Worthing High; the consideration of the students' welfare is as much a priority for the school as it is for parents."

## FIRING IMAGINATION

As far as Jevhan is concerned, Worthing High has given him opportunities he would not have imagined but which have fired his imagination to a great degree. "My teachers have, rightly, pushed me when they think I can do more and I have been more than happy to accept the extra work as it is a means to an end for me. I want to do something useful with my life and a good education is the best way to achieve that goal."

Alongside his parents, Jevhan had visited several schools before making a final choice and to him, Worthing High stood out. "I sensed the enthusiasm and the vibrancy, and it seemed to me there was a lot going on behind the scenes. It felt interesting - somewhere I thought would be a bit different - and I was right."

## STANDING UP TO OPPOSITION

Worthing High's strength in science and maths gave Jevhan the chance to participate in the Science University Challenge, a competition involving eight local schools and which Worthing High lost by a single mark in the final. "It was amazing, and a fantastic result as we were up against some very strong opposition from private schools," he says. "I really appreciated the fact that Worthing High was prepared to pitch against some formidable competition because they believed in the ability of their students."

## A PROFOUND EXPERIENCE

Perhaps Jevhan's most profound experience has been in the visit he made to India to help in the teaching of disadvantaged children. "India is a place I have always wanted to visit and I have considered teaching as a career, so this was a chance I couldn't miss. I had to raise £1,500 for the privilege of a place on the programme and in fact it was a real privilege. Seeing how those children were so engaged and enthusiastic about learning when their classrooms were little more than four concrete walls made me realise how massively we take our education for granted. It made me see even more how fortunate I am to be able to attend a school like Worthing High, and I was so grateful my school gave me the chance to do something to help."

Jevhan's considered and articulate account of his experiences at Worthing High could be seen as a reflection of how it treats and nurtures its students, through both academic and social education.



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