



Alison and Tony Thompson live in Runcorn with Hannah, 12.

Alison and Tony say nothing is too much trouble for the staff at Cavendish High Academy and Hannah absolutely loves it

Perfect choice

Alison and Tony didn't hesitate to send Hannah to Cavendish High Academy, as it had already been a wonderful school for her older brother Mark.

"Hannah, who has global learning difficulties, had a brother called Mark who used to go to Cavendish, but he died three years ago at the age of 12," recalls Alison. "We knew that it was a very good school and the staff were amazing so it was a perfect choice for Hannah."



Family environment

Despite their initial concerns that Hannah might find the move to Cavendish unsettling Alison and Tony need not have worried.

"Hannah already knew and liked most of the teachers from when Mark went to the school, and she settled in straight away and was quite happy," says Alison.

"Everyone knows everyone at Cavendish – it's just like being part of one big, happy family."

On target

Within months of Hannah starting at Cavendish she rapidly made good academic progress.

"Hannah's teacher says she is quite good at maths and problem solving and is on track to achieve her targets for the year," says Alison. "Her maths has come on so much and I think that the one-to-one sessions she receives really help her."

Overcoming challenges

Hannah can be quite shy, but with its small class sizes and nurturing approach, Cavendish is helping her to grow in confidence.

"Hannah is a little immature for her age, but her confidence has grown a lot and she's made new friends," says Alison. "She's shy and doesn't like large groups of people so Cavendish is perfect because there are only seven children in the class and she copes very well."

Becoming independent

Alison says that excellent facilities such as a cybercafé and fully equipped bungalow help the children to develop independence.

"The cybercafé is really good as the kids can meet up and chat or each lunch. The school bungalow is also brilliant as the children can stay there and the staff teach them things like how to cook or work a washing machine, so they become a bit more independent. There are lots of afterschool clubs, and Hannah loves cookery club."

Sports and creativity

There are also many opportunities for children to enjoy sports and creative projects.

"Hannah really likes art and finding out how things work," says Alison. "The children's work is often put up in the local arts centre and the staff are always taking them out on trips. They also go to different sports events and Hannah has represented Cavendish in sports, which was great."



"They also put on plays at Christmas and arrange coffee mornings so that parents can get involved. It's just a really lovely school."

Dedicated staff

Alison and Tony say nothing is too much trouble for the staff at Cavendish.

"If you have any problems you can talk to the staff about them. The head teacher is there every morning, waiting to hug and greet all the children. The staff are just lovely, and very dedicated. Nothing is too much trouble."

"When Mark died the staff were absolutely amazing and I don't know what we'd have done without them. There are still photos of Mark up at the school and I think this helps Hannah."

Individual approach

Cavendish High Academy respects the dignity and worth of every student.

"The staff at Cavendish cater for every child's needs," says Alison. "They take time to look at who the child is and what they need and they cater for them all individually."

"When Hannah was at her old school she would sometimes come home feeling a bit miserable, but now she's really happy and can't wait to tell us what she's been doing. There's nothing about Cavendish that she doesn't like."

Cavendish High School
Lincoln Close
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4YX

Tel: 01928 561 706
Fax: 01928 590 807
Email: admin2.Cavendish@Halton.gov.uk
Website: www.cavendishhighschool.com

