

Edward is excelling educationally and has a bright future in store thanks to the caring staff at Woodstock School

John and Carol Gough live at Seamills with their daughter, Juliet, aged 11, who has autism and is about to start at secondary school and their son Edward, aged nine, who has autism and ADHD and has been a pupil at Woodstock School for a year.



Fast progress

What a difference a year at Woodstock has made to Edward. His Dad, John, says: "After we moved him from his previous primary school to Woodstock it was amazing how quickly we saw a difference in him and how his behaviour improved. Changing his school has been a life saver for Edward and it's been a life saver for the rest of the family."

Recognising ability

John says: "Edward has a high IQ and phenomenal Maths skills. He can work out complex sums and problems in his head quickly. He now has a Maths teacher who recognises his talent and is able to teach him at a high level. Woodstock have moulded what they do around Edward rather than just teaching him according to the national curriculum and it makes you realise how many other children are being held back in mainstream schools."

Lack of progress

Edward's behavioural problems were so extreme that John regularly used to have to go into his primary school and take him out of school. "He was not making any progress and his behaviour was a strain both for the school and for us at home. His primary school just focused on his behavioural problems and didn't encourage his aptitude for Maths," John says.

Reassuring staff

Fortunately the special needs coordinator at Edward's school knew the special needs coordinator at Woodstock and she recommended the school to the family. "When I first went to visit Woodstock I was surprised by how relaxed the atmosphere was but I found out later that the school is highly organised and very well run. The teachers were extremely reassuring and gave me confidence that they would be able to cope with Edward, so we moved him to Woodstock."

Enjoying school life

The school has rules and a strict routine but they also have a system of rewards for the children, John says. "Edward used to be uncontrollable at home and uncontrollable at school but he quickly calmed down at Woodstock. He used to hate going to school but now he loves going to Woodstock. He is socially calmer, understands more and accepts rules better."

Improving skills

Staff at Woodstock are also helping him to work at things he is not good at. John says: "Edward's social skills are improving but they quickly tell him when he steps out of line. They are experts at what they do and by helping him to excel at the things he is good at they have made him a lot happier. As a result our life at home is much better. It all seems to have happened really quickly. Before nothing they did at school seemed to help him, but now he comes home from school smiling and happy and he is excelling educationally."

Safe environment

"For me and my family it is a great comfort to know Edward is safe and happy at school. The staff at Woodstock are the most approachable people I've ever come across and they provide a secure home from home at the school for all the children. I can't put into words how much I appreciate everything they do

for Edward. He now has a future to look forward to. I know he will go on to college and university now, but before he started at Woodstock, his future was uncertain."

Children say

Edward says: "I love Maths. My teacher tried to outsmart me by asking me how long it takes sound to reach the moon, but I worked it out and outsmarted him!"



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