

# Bryony is being given the chance of a bright future by the supportive staff at Oastlers School

Lee-Anne lives in Bradford with her son, Jack, aged 20, and daughter, Bryony, aged 15.



## Settling well

Lee-Anne is thrilled that her daughter, Bryony, has recently been able to secure a place at Oastlers School. She says: "Bryony had struggled to cope in a mainstream setting so I am delighted that she has now started at Oastlers. She had behavioural problems and the PRU she was attending could not meet her needs. It is still early days, but she has settled in really well at Oastlers."



## Support needs

Lee-Anne says Bryony had been falling behind educationally and so she wrote to the SEN at her school asking if she could have an Education and Health Care Plan to see exactly what her needs were. "It showed up all the areas in which Bryony needed support, but was not receiving it," she says.

## Successful learner

Lee-Anne's son, Jack, is now working in fabrication and welding having done an apprenticeship after leaving Oastlers at 16. She says: "He thrived at Oastlers and left with six GCSEs and went on to college. He's now fully qualified and holding down a job in the trade. He's done fantastically well when you consider what his situation was when he first started at Oastlers. He had been moved from his primary school to a PRU, and then on to another PRU, because of his behavioural issues."

## Understanding staff

"I believe Oastlers succeeded with him because the staff took time to get to know him as a person and then worked out how they could help him. He definitely benefited from being in a small class and by being taught by staff who understood his needs."

## Clever strategies

"Jack ended up passing all his GCSEs and particularly loved DT, PE and IT. He got a merit on his sports B-Tech. The teachers worked with him one to one and thought about what might interest him to help him engage with learning. They realised he would benefit from hands on learning. Jack absolutely loved the school and all the staff and still likes to come back and visit."

## Relaxed environment

"I was inspired by Jack's success to come and work at Oastlers as an inclusion leader. I had been a support worker at a children's centre before, but thought Oastlers was such a wonderful school, I wanted to be part of what they are achieving for the learners here. I love the atmosphere here because it is such a relaxed place for the children to learn in and the small classes mean learners are able to get the help they need to turn their lives round."

## Good opportunity

"I am so pleased that Bryony has been given a place at Oastlers and that she will have two years to study for her

GCSEs here. It is a wonderful opportunity for her to have a fresh start. I was able to give her an insight into the school before she started and she also talked to her brother about what it was going to be like," Lee-Anne says.

## Chance to catch up

"It is obviously a big change for her and she has had to leave her friends behind, but I am optimistic she will do well. Bryony is going to be studying performing arts and hospitality and catering. The other learners have already extended a welcome to her and I am hopeful she will make new friends. The staff have looked at her timetable and put in extra support to enable her to catch up in English and maths. I would recommend the school to anyone whose children have additional needs. I don't know of any other school like it, but I believe there ought to be more schools like Oastlers."

## Children say

**Bryony says:** "I'm happy I've moved to Oastlers. I feel so much happier, the teachers are good with me, and the school is a lot calmer than my old school, which is better for me as I don't feel as anxious every day."



**Oastlers School**

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