

Shannon has been made to feel both wanted and respected by the caring staff at Oastlers School

Priscilla lives in Bradford with her daughters, Jade, aged 17, Shannon, aged 14, Holly, aged 13, and Savannah, aged nine. Shannon has been a pupil at Oastlers since she was 11.



Happy at school

Priscilla is delighted that her daughter, Shannon, is finally happy at school now she is attending Oastlers. She says: "Shannon absolutely loves going to Oastlers. If the school bus is cancelled for some reason, she will walk the three miles to school rather than stay at home. I am delighted with the way she has been looked after by the staff since starting at Oastlers and that she is now studying for her GCSEs, which she will sit next year."



Understanding teachers

Priscilla says Shannon had been to two mainstream schools and a pupil referral unit where she had not felt comfortable and this is the first time that she has been happy at school. "When Shannon speaks to the teachers at Oastlers, she is listened to, given respect and understood. She is now treated like a person, whereas when she was in the mainstream schools and the pupil referral unit she was dismissed. She has been made to feel wanted at Oastlers, where the staff are experts at dealing with pupils with emotional, social and behavioural needs, and so she has been prepared to let people into her world for the first time."

Comfortably settled

Priscilla says she will never forget Shannon's first day at Oastlers. "She would not get on the bus, so I had to take her in the car. When we got there, the Behaviour Team had to help me get her out of the car because she did not want to go into the school. But within three or four days she had really taken to the school and has loved it there ever since. I could not believe how well she settled there."

Singing success

"Shannon now loves music lessons and singing and enjoys learning to play different musical instruments, such as the guitar and trumpet. Before she started at Oastlers she would have been embarrassed to sing on a stage. She didn't even like having her photograph taken. But now she is prepared to get up on the stage and sing a whole song in front of the entire school. She won the Oastlers Got Talent competition in 2018. She also enjoys cookery lessons and has grown to love baking."

Making new friends

"She was really happy to go back to school in September at the end of the holidays. She couldn't wait to be back. She likes going to Oastlers' summer school, but doesn't think it lasts long enough. Shannon, who has never received a definitive diagnosis for her issues, doesn't have any friends locally and tends to stay in her room on her own when she is at home, but she has made friends with some of the other children at Oastlers, who she feels are more like her. That's one of the reasons she is so keen to get back to school after the holidays. Shannon likes the teaching staff and has a particularly good relationship with the Head Teacher, Lyndsey Brown. I also get on well with Mrs Brown, who is a very nice woman," Priscilla says.

Mutual respect

"I am delighted that Shannon will be sitting her GCSEs next year. Oastlers is one of the few places where she could be given the opportunity. I am sure there is no other school like it. I would tell other families considering the school about the way the staff respect the children. There are not many schools where the staff are so respectful of the pupils. The teachers build good relationships with the children and are supportive of them. Because they show the children that they respect them, the teachers are respected by the children in return."

Children say

Shannon says: "I enjoy baking at school."



Oastlers School

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