

# Kyle has had his life transformed by his musical talent being encouraged at Oastlers School

Jean and Dave live in Leeds with their 22-year-old son, Ben, and 17-year-old son, Kyle.



## Future ambition

Jean and Dave are thrilled that Kyle has had the world of music opened up to him by the staff at Oastlers School and that he is now attending Leeds City College to study music once a week. Jean says: "Now Kyle is in the sixth form, he is trying to improve his GCSE grades because he wants to attend Leeds City College full time next year. Going to the college one afternoon a week this year has opened his eyes to the possibilities for his future."



## Music opportunities

Jean says that Kyle plays the electric guitar and has the ability to play music by ear. "He can hear a piece of music for the first time and then play it on his guitar. Oastlers have given him lots of opportunities to play music. The teachers give up their free time to play alongside him in the music room during breaks. Kyle has performed in bands and concerts and has enjoyed helping the teachers organise the Oastlers Got Talent event at the school each year."

## Good recommendation

Kyle started in Y7 at Oastlers having struggled in mainstream schooling. Jean says: "There was nowhere in Leeds that could meet his needs and we were recommended Oastlers by one of the SEND team at his junior school. He had not thrived at his primary school and was at a pupil referral unit but couldn't cope with the constant changes. Kyle has never had a definitive diagnosis for his issues but it has been suggested that he may have a reactive attachment disorder."

## GCSE success

"Our first impression of Oastlers was excellent and sending Kyle there has been an amazing success. He travels from Leeds to Bradford in a taxi and has always been willing to go. By the time he went into Y8, he was starting to accept the rules and regulations and went on to make amazing progress. He got maths GCSE and passed music and IT with merits."

## Respect for teachers

"We have always worked closely with the school. If we had issues with Kyle at home, we let the school know, and if something happened at school, they informed us. It has been very much a two-way process. Kyle gets on well with the teachers. They have respect for him and he has respect for them. He is now able to interact on the same level as adults."

## Nurturing school

"Oastlers is very much a nurturing school, but they have strict rules they want the children to follow. They do reflective work and if there is an issue at school, they look back on it and discuss what they should do to prevent it happening again. There is a room called the Sanctuary that children can go to if they are feeling anxious."

## Positive attitude

"The children start each lesson with a high grade and it is down to the pupil to maintain that grade. It encourages them to have a positive mindset and want to do well. When they go into the next lesson they start again with a high grade and try to keep it. The class with the highest set of grades gets a treat."

## Encouraging self-belief

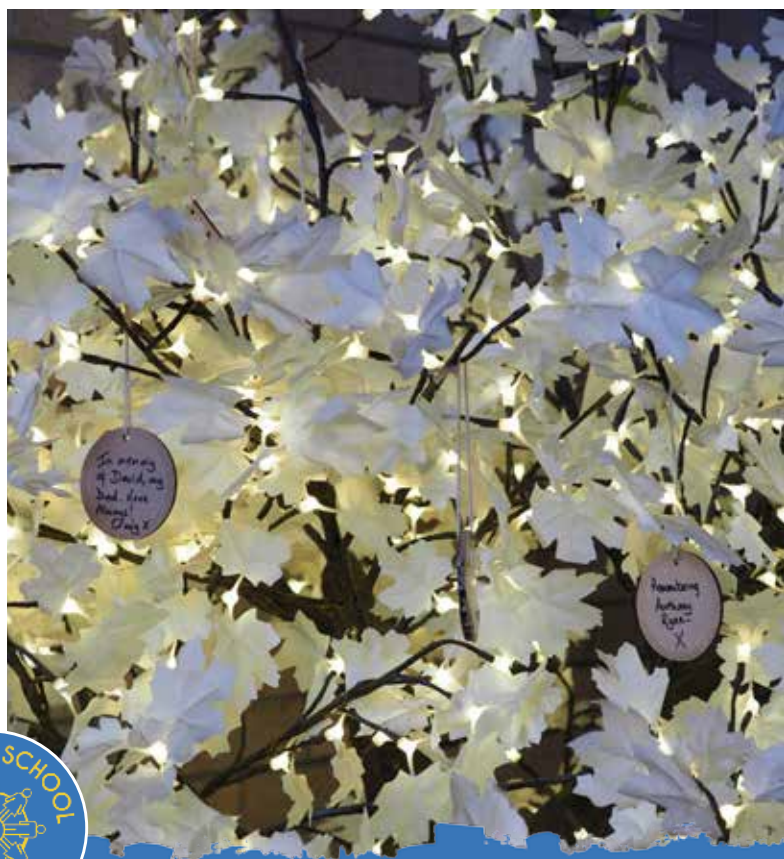
"The school are good at rewarding positive behaviour, which helps give the pupils the self-belief that they can achieve. It has definitely made Kyle easier to deal with at home. You can discuss any issues with the school and you get a regular update as frequently as they think your child needs it."

## Happy time

"The small classes have definitely helped Kyle. He still gets on better with adults than children but on his day at music college he seems to be focusing more on his peers. Overall, he has been very happy at Oastlers, which has been a huge relief to us and made our home life easier."

## Children say

**Kyle says:** "I have enjoyed my time at Oastlers because I have been able to learn music freely without being restricted."



**Oastlers School**

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