

Arran is making good academic progress and feels happy and settled at Oastlers School

Leanne and Ryan live in Bradford with their children, Sochia, aged 19, Arran, aged 14, and Lucas, aged nine.



Strong support

Leanne and Ryan are thrilled with how well Arran is doing at school now he feels comfortable at Oastlers. Leanne says: "Since Arran started in Y7, he has come on in leaps and bounds. He got used to the school within two to three weeks of starting and became easier to deal with at home because he was finally getting the support he needed."



Future prospects

Leanne says Arran has definitely turned the corner with his academic work and she would like him to stay on into the sixth form. "The school have given him hope for the future and there is now the potential for him to be able to get a good job because of how they have helped him."

Unhappy time

Leanne says Arran had struggled at primary school. "His teachers didn't understand his needs and would shout at him and humiliate him when he couldn't do his work. He said the teachers wouldn't listen to him and there was too much noise and too many children there. He came out every day with his head down."

Small classes

"Although he has never been given a definitive diagnosis, Autism and Asperger's have been mentioned by doctors who have seen him in the past. I wanted to find him a good secondary school in Bradford with smaller classes and, after doing some research, I found out about Oastlers. We went to visit the school and they showed me and Arran round and we thought it was absolutely brilliant. The Headteacher Mrs Brown was really lovely."

Football and food tech

"Arran has been attending Oastlers for three years now. We always knew he was bright and he's finally doing well academically. The fact that they have small classes at Oastlers has definitely helped him. He now enjoys English, maths and food tech and loves playing and talking about football. When he's doing food tech, they say he puts a lot of effort in. He also enjoys art and likes to play the drums in music lessons."

Work incentive

"Arran looks forward to going to school now, whereas he never wanted to go to his old school. The staff know how to get the best out of Arran. I think their rewards scheme is a brilliant idea because it gives him an incentive to work hard and do well in order to get points. I was thrilled the first time I got a letter saying that he had earned a certain number of points and could go to the cinema. They take them on lots of nice trips, such as bowling or to visit an activity centre."

Amazing staff

"I really couldn't wish for a better school for Arran. All the staff know how to deal with him and he loves all his teachers and has good relationships with them. He loves to talk to the pe teacher about football because he has told Arran he is a friend of Gareth Southgate."

Helpful tips

"The school counsellor has been really good and has shown me how to deal with Arran when he gets angry. They ring you every week to update you on how he is getting on. They will tell me if he has had a good week or a bad week," Leanne says.

Finding friends

"We can definitely see an improvement in Arran and we feel relieved, for his sake, that he is in a good school and is being well looked after. He can go out of the classroom and take time out if he feels anxious. If things go wrong at school, they explain why it happened to help him understand and he has now made some friends at school."

Children say

Arran says: "I like doing food tech and playing football at school."



Oastlers School

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