

Kettlemere ASD Hub: Case Study

Pupil A

Primary SEN: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (Asperger's Syndrome)
Current School: The Kettlemere Centre at Lakelands Academy

Pupil Background

In 2007 Pupil A was diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (Asperger's Syndrome). This had a significant impact on Pupil A's ability to cope with change, particularly in the school environment. Pupil A, as do other children with a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome, finds difficulty in being motivated to work if the activity does not seem relevant to their view of the world and experiences significant levels of insecurity, anxiety and low self-esteem.

Despite intensive support from a range of agencies Pupil A still found difficulty in interacting with their peers. Following a Statutory Assessment in 2009, it was decided to issue Pupil A with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) which mainly addressed the social interaction, social communication and rigidity of thought associated with a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome which is a considerable barrier to independent learning.

Pupil A began attending a mainstream secondary school in 2011. Pupil A had struggled since year 7 with punctuality. Pupil A needed a significant amount of support in order to help them get ready for school in the morning – a part of the school day which they found particularly difficult.

Following a permanent exclusion from the mainstream secondary school, a placement in another mainstream secondary school would not have been suitable; it was clear that Pupil A found a mainstream setting highly challenging and required very personalised and sustained support in order for their needs to be met. Without a specialist provision for ASD pupils such as the Kettlemere Centre, Pupil A's option would have been relatively limited. It is likely that they would have been placed out of county at an independent specialist provider, resulting in Pupil A being educated away from their family and their local community.

Kettlemere ASD Hub

The aim of the Hub is to create a safe, happy and stimulating environment in which pupils progress academically and develop as confident and resilient members of the community. Provision is built around individual needs and pupil's attending the hub are provided with a personalised curriculum that may involve, small group teaching, specialist 1:1 support and integration into mainstream classes where appropriate to the individual needs of the pupil.

The Kettlemere Hub provides support strategies to assist children in overcoming their difficulties, along with coping strategies for anxieties related to their special educational needs, and supports them in their journey to adulthood. Pupils attending the hub are encouraged to develop both self and group awareness, increasing their self-esteem, emotional stability and acceptability. The team of staff who work at the hub are committed to providing a structured, supportive and controlled learning environment in which they can help nurture each pupil to develop their own unique talents.

Contact officer: Rachel Wall (Graduate - SEN Team)

Pupil A's experience at Kettlemere

Since attending Kettlemere since September 2014, Pupil A is currently meeting all of their target grades for GCSE and has made great progress; recently achieving an A for a controlled English assessment and top grades for a physics exam. Pupil A's attendance is currently 100%. According to staff at the hub, Pupil A's work output and motivation during lesson time have improved considerably. Although initially being very anxious about doing tasks on their own, Pupil A has grown in confidence and is now becoming a more independent learner.

Pupil A's social and life skills have also improved significantly. Through regular sessions, Pupil A has developed skills such as meal planning, shopping and cooking, personal hygiene, planning for the future and social interaction skills. Whilst attending the hub, Pupil A has had the opportunity to practice these skills across a range of settings both at home and in school, such as visiting a local shop and going out for lunch. Pupil A also has regular sessions for developing both outdoor skills such as swimming and communication skills such as turn-taking and initiating conversations.

Pupil A's family are very pleased with the progress being made at the Kettlemere Centre. They are particularly pleased that Pupil A has been able to improve their social and communication skills, make friends at school and become more independent both at school and at home. Most importantly, they are pleased because Pupil A is happy and smiling more.