

Student – AB

Parental Case Study

Year 10 at Campion was the start of challenging behaviour from AB. His behaviour began to be consistent problem for staff. AB did not settle from the start of year 11 at Campion. As soon as he returned to school after the summer break in 2015 the pattern of unacceptable behaviour and exclusion that had started in Year 10 resumed. At home he was negative and uncommunicative or angry and aggressive. Both at school and at home things deteriorated until there was a threat of permanent exclusion from school. This resulted in a long absence from education during which time we didn't know what would happen. AB mainly stayed in his room and listened to music or went out with his friends.

By this stage we had the early intervention team, YOT and IASS supporting us (alongside Selena Robinson at school) and trying to find the best place for AB to continue his education away from Campion. Sally Knight at IASS was very supportive and tenacious and introduced us to Matt Goode & Jordan Letts at Hitz. AB had turned down every other opportunity offered to him so we decided to choose for him and he met Matt and soon after was offered a place at Hitz. He started just attending an hour a day in mid-November. This was subsequently increased to 4 hours a day. AB always stated he was "fine" although his behaviour and attitude at home suggested otherwise. He would not engage in conversation. Mainly shouted at his family and was negative and aggressive the majority of the time. He didn't always come home and was missing for several days at a time. I think he was suffering from a loss of confidence and was very unhappy and insecure. These feelings were exacerbated at school and at home by "punishment" - exclusion, removal of privileges etc. As soon AB started at Hitz it had a positive impact on him. He liked and trusted Matt and Jordan and quickly developed a positive relationship with both of them. He was happy to attend on every occasion - never made excuses or said he wasn't going.

Both Matt and Jordan kept us up to date with how AB was progressing - answered our questions and took into account information we shared with them about things that had happened outside of "school time". AB's relationship with the team at Hitz was respectful and he responded very soon to the mix of exercise and school work. Under mainly Jordan's care and guidance his self-esteem improved and his behaviour and attitude soon followed suit. He was able to talk to Jordan about things that he didn't want to talk about at home. Jordan helped him to negotiate some problems with friendships and difficult social situations. AB finished for exam leave in May, He did some revision work at home and met several times with Jordan to go to the gym. He completed his GCSEs mainly at school but some at Hitz with Jordan. I think he still feels that Jordan is there for him if he wants to meet or wants to talk about an issue. I certainly feel we could ask for support if we needed it.

Attending Hitz has enabled AB to complete his education and given him space to start to understand his place in the world. He is now a "normal" teenager. He is no longer aggressive at home. He is even occasionally helpful when asked! He certainly seems happy. He invites his friend home and always comes home himself unless he has asked if he can stay out. Working with Jordan, Matt and Joe (and others) has been a hugely positive influence on AB- his future now is looking bright.

Thank you all for your input.

SB