

Feedback from Parents and Professionals

Just thought I'd let you all know how X is doing :)

He's not missed a day and although not up to full days he's doing really well. He loves all the woodwork and has completed most of the joints he needs to learn before starting his first piece of furniture (foot stool). Today he learnt how to sharpen his tools so another thing achieved that he was worried about. He's using lots of Maths to work out his measurements. His great vocabulary is being put to good use in his coursework and he's planning to make a website when he starts making bird boxes :) when I picked him up today he came out beaming with one of his joints to show us !!

I spoke to his teacher in length last week and he's very pleased with how X is doing, he said he's a polite, respectful and enthusiastic young man :)

We're so proud of him, it's not been easy but he's trying really hard to stay a bit longer each time. He's exhausted each week but happy. He's already talking about how he'd like to get an apprenticeship next year in carpentry.

Can't thank you all enough, PLC is a great place that's helped X in so many ways (and us)!

Thank you all for the support and encouragement you have given X over the past couple of years. She has thrived since she has been there and has really enjoyed her time at PLC, she will miss it greatly. Everyone has been so kind and helpful and it has been very much appreciated, from both myself and X. **(Parent)**.

Being contacted by pathways, I will be honest, filled me with dread. I know towards the end of X's main stream path, he had been labelled as naughty and I was scared for him that is all you would be able to see. He had very high demand avoidance issues that I thought would take a miracle to undo. His ASD, ADHD and Anxiety meant he was unable to access the normal class room environment and the constant being forced to do something he knew he would fail at, meant he was consistently setup to fail, come the end he believed he would always fail. His main stream school had failed him very early on and once the relationships had broken down there was no way back. On meeting with X and X for the admissions meeting, I see for the first time in a long time my son smile, and it was a genuine smile, not one of his usual forced ones. We left that meeting, and for the first time in years I felt relief. The relief came from knowing I was going to be sending my son in to a safe and supportive environment. That they would unpick X, understand why he had become the child he had become and show him, he was not worthless and that he could be anything he wanted to be. X in the short time with you, is a completely different child. Your staff have given him confidence and showed him although things are not easy, he is worthy of the help and support and that he can achieve. He now has a bounce in his step and he walks taller, thanks to your staff. This can only come from care support and understanding. I wish you and your team to be fulfilled in the knowledge that you make a difference not just to the children but their families to. You have given us light to know that anything is

possible when all can seem so bleak. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
(Parent)

X came back to visit us 2 years on from being a student at PLC. She left us this message to share with other students: I started Pathways in September 2014. To begin with, I was unable to get out of the car, and 3 years on, I walked out with a smile on my face after passing 4 GCSEs! Being at school were the hardest years of my life, but looking back they've shaped my future in a way I could never have done alone. As of today, I'm driving, have a job in catering and am able to live life the way I want to. If I can do it, anyone can! **(Professional)**

As a parent, the worst conversation I ever had was the one with X's mainstream headteacher saying that X was being referred to an alternative school. This conversation turned out to be the best option for us. Over three years at Pathways, X gained confidence, grew as a person and learned how to deal with her emotions. Family life got easier as we all began to understand. Now at 19, X has so much more confidence and lives life as a teenager should. Of course there are still ups and downs but they are much easier to deal with. **(Parent)**

I want to say I appreciate all of you at PLC and the hard work, effort and time spent nurturing my baby boy, you really are an outstanding staff, in a great school and I am more than grateful and thankful to you all, please pass on the fact that I have never taken it for granted that he was given the opportunity to become who he is right now, a more grounded, happy & funny boy who is starting to open up and express himself so much more with the guidance and support he's received. Everyday his confidence is growing and he is asking so many questions about things around him and remembering what he's done at school and enjoying telling me what he's learnt and he's so proud. I absolutely love seeing these positive changes that have taken place and long may they continue. Thank everyone on my behalf. **(Parent)**

To all staff at pathways, I honestly have no clue where I would be if I hadn't have met any of you. You all helped me at my worst when no one would and I will always thank you for that. It honestly breaks my heart to know my Pathways experience is over and I'm finally ready for the big world! I would like thank each one of you for being the best second family I could have asked for. (Sorry for the loss of the annoying student). Pathways changed my life from bad to good and the people around me helped me find who I really was and helped with education along the way! A big thank you for everything you have done you are all amazing life changers! P.S. This won't be the last you guys see of me as I will still be around to annoy you just like old times ☺ I love you all!!!!. Best family I could ask for. **(Parent)**