

Louis

CASE STUDY

A story of great courage, determination, pride and success!

Louis' journey at Bright Futures has been an incredible experience, not only for himself but his family, his education team and everyone involved in his successful transition to mainstream high school in Year 7 with his peers.

Louis came to Bright Futures School when he was six years old and was diagnosed with Autism around the same time. He was previously attending a dual placement at a local mainstream primary school and an additional needs provision. He was often sent home from school due to him displaying 'erratic and increasingly aggressive behaviours' (EHCP). Louis lives at home locally with his parents and siblings. When he arrived at Bright Futures School, Louis had limited understanding of social cues, significantly low empathy or regard towards others and often expressed himself in inappropriate ways such as hitting out, shouting, screaming, and destroying resources. He had very low self-esteem and very little confidence, particularly in his writing ability. Louis had limited awareness of danger in the environment, including climbing on furniture and needed 1:1 support to ensure that he remained safe. It was evident that a specialist education provision would better meet his complex needs and Bright Futures was identified by the authority and parents to provide the much needed therapeutic and nurturing environment to awaken his potential.

During Louis's time at Bright Futures, his education team, family, and specialist support team have worked together to provide him with a secure platform to reengage into a meaningful, challenging education programme from a point of crisis when his engagement within education was narrowing rapidly. Within the first academic year, his overall wellbeing and mental health were significantly improved as he developed strategies, such as social stories and the 'Alert Programme', to manage anxiety and unplanned changes to the day. Louis benefitted from a thematic approach across the curriculum, as well as kinesthetic learning opportunities through



practical and sensory activities. The family dynamics improved considerably, and they were able to holiday together and enjoy extended activities with far fewer disruptions and instances of challenging behaviour. Louis continued to make progress in all areas, albeit in very small steps, and he began to join in a wider range of activities such as team sports playing against other schools, whole school trips and was beginning to make a meaningful contribution to the wider community. Recently his artwork has been displayed in a local exhibition and a short story has been published in a 'Young Writer's Anthology', remarkable achievements by any standards.

Louis is a very intelligent young person who has aspirations and goals for his future within the mainstream setting and his local community. His family and education team knew that a transition to high school was the best thing for Louis and were committed to their values that forward planning was the key to his success. His transition to high school was meticulously planned twelve months in advance by his family, the education team at Bright Futures and his education team at his new school. The input was seamless and both teams had Louis' needs at the forefront of all decisions. Familiar support staff facilitated visits from high school to learn more about Louis and accompanied him on transition days in his new setting to ease his anxieties. A memory book with photographs and messages from peers and staff was made to provide Louis with a visual record and memory of his progress, friendships, and achievements during his five wonderful years at Bright Futures.

Louis has an amazingly bright and exciting future ahead of him.

