

Andrews's story

Andrew reluctantly arrived at Cedar House School as a residential pupil diagnosed with ADHD and Autism. The frustrated young boy who worked in isolation clearly had social communication difficulties and had a history of displaying inappropriate behaviour towards those around him. The local primary school he attended reported that he was increasingly controlling, only attending school on his own terms and when things didn't go his way he would abscond. As a result of his behaviour he was excluded from school, making it even more difficult for him to make friends and access education.

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## Recognising potential

We could see that Andrew had real potential to succeed in education and so for the first time in our school's history we offered a free assessment week. Andrew initially displayed some of the behaviours highlighted in his previous school's report, however our genuine approach in connecting with our young people shone through and he quickly settled in school and his residential home; he hasn't looked back since.

From day one staff worked together with Andrew to put in place a personalised curriculum that included activities he wanted to access, such as climbing, walking, canoeing and bush craft. He also showed brilliant IT skills and so staff arranged for him to attend specialist computing classes.

## The next chapter awaits

The boy who joined us has transformed into a confident young man who has friends and can articulate how he feels and manage his behaviours. His keen interest in IT and outdoor pursuits has gone from strength to strength and he is now working towards nationally recognised qualifications.

Just as Andrew took on the challenge of outdoor pursuits with great gusto, he's now ready for the next chapter and the many exciting challenges that await.

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