



Case Study:

Becoming part of the Oasis Academy Arena family

Introduction

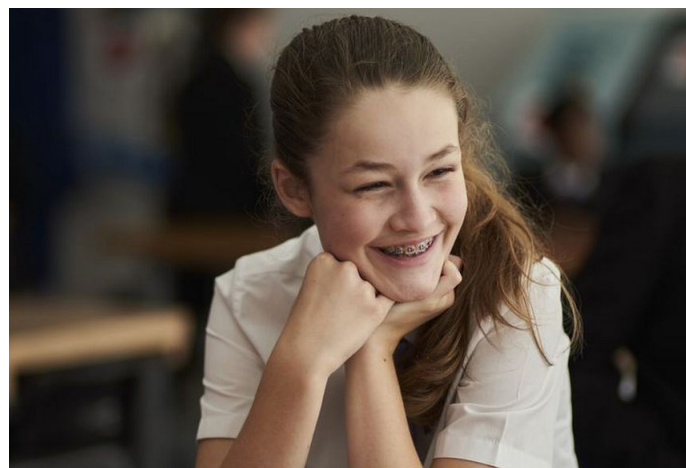
We understand a lot of thought and time goes into deciding which school is right for your child, and that there are many factors to consider. Finding out that your child has been allocated a place at a school at the lower end of your preferences or one that wasn't on your list at all, can be a worrying situation to be in.

Turning to parents whose children go to the school to get their opinion and a sense of their experience can be helpful in deciding on your next steps. Here's Mrs Latter's story. She has two children at Oasis Academy Arena, a daughter in Year 7 and a son in Year 9.

"We absolutely loved our primary school. We loved it so much that we weren't quite ready to start looking for secondary schools but we knew we had to. When the time came we discussed what criteria was important to us and we took our son's opinions on board."

The Latters visited their local secondary schools and spoke to as many teachers as possible to help them make a decision about which to apply for.

"When I compared my visit to Oasis Academy Arena with other schools, I felt the Principal was personable and honest. There was no show or sales talk which I liked. I could clearly see how passionate teachers were about offering my son a good education."



Starting secondary school

Leaving the school that you've grown up in and the adults you've come to know so well can be unsettling. Every child is different and whether they are starting secondary school with a group of primary school friends or setting out on their own, both parents and children need to be supported through the change.

"Starting secondary school is a big change and my son found it a challenge at first. There are lot more expectations of them at secondary school and they're expected to be much more independent. It took my son some time to get used to it but he did find his feet. What really helped was knowing that the teachers were kind and took the time to get to know him. With a second child at the school now, the school's caring and kind ethos hasn't changed. I know my children are looked after, cared for and are being listened to."



Being reassured that your child is settling in well into secondary school and knowing who to turn to if you have any concerns is essential.

"I know that if I ever I had a problem it would be dealt with transparently and professionally. The Principal, Mr Raymond, has ensured the academy has a culture of honesty and doesn't shy away from answering difficult questions."

I was delighted that the school took the time to call me and tell me that my daughter had made a brilliant start to Year 7. As a parent I know what it's like to see that school phone number pop up and your first reaction is to think 'Oh no what's happened.' Getting good feedback was really appreciated. Equally if my daughter wasn't doing so well I know that the school would be doing their utmost to help us work through the issues."

Being kept up to date with progress helps at home too. A strong teacher parent relationship is key to the success of a child's time at school.

"The Heads of Year are very good and approachable. You really feel that teachers and parents are part of the same team."

"With every parents evening that passes, and particularly as my son has moved up through the school, that sense of team effort has only increased. We all want what's best for the children and I know teachers work hard to deliver a high standard of education."



A year of discovery

"My daughter has thrived in Year 7. She's over half way through the year and she's doing really well. Teachers have encouraged her to take up music lessons and she's having adult conversations, which I think comes from her relationships with teachers. She's loved making new friends and flourished from being given the independence to get to and from school by herself and knowing that she's responsible for making sure she has the right equipment to learn. The teachers have very high expectations of their students and children know they must come to school ready to learn."

Whilst it took my son a bit longer to get used to secondary school, once he did, he become more and more confident which was lovely to see. Year 7 was a real year of discovery for him. He loved trying out different sports and found being in a real science lab really exciting. Getting his first taste of independence and responsibility was a positive experience as it helped him to progress. He made friends in Year 7 and those friendships have grown with him, much like his experience of primary school."

Engaged in learning

Starting secondary school offers lots of exciting opportunities to learn. Teachers at Oasis Academy Arena are committed to delivering lessons that not only engage children but also captivates their imagination and shows them that with hard work anything is possible.

"Both my children tell me what's happened in their lessons and what they're learning about. They're engaged in their learning. They also know who to turn to if they need extra support."

Over the years I've seen the growth in the school, it's made improvements and is going from strength to strength. They provide the right balance of support and challenge to ensure my children are learning and progressing. I know I've made the right choice for my children and they're happy at school. What works for one child might not work for another. What I would say to any parent is visit the school, speak to the Principal and ask lots of questions to really get a good idea of what they can offer your child."