

In Jamie's own words:

Before coming to TWT, I was doing bad things like carrying knives and misbehaving, and I was doing things to impress others; I didn't have clearly set goals, I was working towards GCSE-equivalent qualifications, but they weren't as structured as with GCSEs. This has inspired me to better my work as before, I was demotivated without any structure. The Write Time gave me a lot of support by giving me assemblies every morning to help change my attitude, which I didn't have in my previous school. I am now studying Arts Award to help further my Piano skills and my mentor is now doing a business course with me which is helping me to create my own business with hydro-dipping. The teachers are more friendly and they give me more attention here, whereas my other school gave me no contact which made me feel very sad as I had no older people and role models to talk to. Their way of teaching is more structured and there's much more explaining than just giving me a worksheet. I wouldn't change anything because the teachers do their job well here. I now feel like I'm a polite young gentleman who is ready for work, and it's just a wonderful school that is great at teaching.

In the views of Jamie's Mum:

Jamie, before joining TWT, had no friends and no ambition in life, and thought that he was not going to be doing anything with his life because he was labelled and in a special needs school. He was in the wrong place, and the more severe autism around him made him feel held back compared to others. Behaviour was horrendous and there would be updates everyday with numerous calls. At home, he was depressed and was always complaining and being snappy about what's the point of school and could not see a future, and this was having a strain on our relationship.

When I first met his previous school, I told them how he was going to be and what bad things to expect from him, and after one day at TWT, I felt like a liar; he was completely settled. Since joining TWT, Jamie now has friends and can talk about having friendships which has been hard in the past because of his ASD. He is a lot happier, despite still having down periods; however, he can pick himself up much quicker from these low moods (weeks to days). Jamie really enjoys going to school, talks about school, and all the positive praise he gets. As a parent, it has been great, predominantly down to the excellent communication; it's not just negative, there's frequent calls for positive feedback as well. It's the more laid back and relational approach at TWT that really makes the difference for Jamie and the other students. Jamie has also expressed to me as his Mum that The Write Time allow him to be a 15 year old, giving him the room to have fun within broad constraints. As a parent, it's been great to hear that he can do his GCSEs at The Write Time, because we all know he's capable.

In terms of Jamie's goals, thanks to the school, Jamie now has a goal in life, and that's the biggest thing that he sees a future for himself. He can see that he can go to college and get a good job and that he can have a better future. He is on a good path and he can see that which is the best thing because he never believed anything anyone said to him before, but now he actually believes it, and believes in himself.

In the views of TWT:

When Jamie joined The Write Time, he was quiet and at first needed to have some quiet time for himself. He didn't talk to many students or staff, and seemed quite sad, but this gradually changed as he became more accustomed to The Write Time's values. The Write Time intervened by doing the simple things well, including: one-to-one attention with his mentor and from teaching staff; having someone to listen to him when he was in a bad mood; giving continuous well-deserved praise; an individualised programme of study; tapping into Jamie's interest in Music production; and giving him the time to grow as a person and self-reflect. Jamie is now a very personable young person, who is a pleasure to be around, and wants to start a business in hydro-dipping, whilst also attending college to keep his options open. He has made huge strides at TWT, and is now much more confident and in trouble a lot less which has changed his opinion of himself and what he can accomplish.