

Leamington Vineyard Learning Centre

Case Study - Isabella*

Isabella started with us at the end of her year 10. Like many others she had been through a period of instability, attending 7 schools from years 7-10, and as such was not able to engage with education. She would repeatedly find herself in lessons where she was behind or ahead of the class, or in isolation units being given little support. This led to poor behaviour which ultimately resulted in exclusions.

Prior to starting with us, Isabella was once again on the verge of permanent exclusion. It was felt a smaller, more nurturing environment such as that at our centres would be better suited to Isabella's needs.

From the outset it was evident Isabella was a very bright and able student, capable of achieving high GCSE grades if given the right opportunities and support. However, the previous instability left Isabella with a number of gaps in her knowledge. Following a personalised curriculum, in a 1:1 environment, staff were able to identify her needs quickly in order to help her reach her potential. Isabella noted that in her previous placements she rarely got praised but, with our calm and nurturing ethos, Isabella received regular and specific praise which helped her focus on her efforts and achievements. With our small student numbers and high staff:student ratio, Isabella formed positive relationships with staff and students.

In Summer 2018, Isabella sat 6 GCSEs. She achieved 8s in Maths and Physics, grade 6s in English Language and English Literature, a grade 4 in French and 3 in RE. Following the support she received at LVLC, working closely with Isabella's carer and school, Isabella has now reintegrated into a mainstream setting, and is studying for A Levels at a local Sixth Form with a view to progressing to University in two years' time. Her carer reports that she has settled in really well and is enjoying Sixth Form life.

'You've helped me reach my potential and that's something I can never repay...I've met some really clever teachers, made friends, probably eaten well over my body weight in toast and managed to learn enough to do my GCSEs; it's been a great year.

Not only have you helped me academically, but pastorally too, which definitely helped me get through.

I'll never forget LVLC. Don't know what I'd have done without you.'

– Isabella, June 2018

**name changed for confidentiality purposes.*