



Case Study - "Sixth form - an opportunity to build independence and broaden horizons."



SIXTH FORM AT PORTFIELD SCHOOL

Students attend Sixth Form between the ages of 15 and 19. The tailored curriculum means they can start to look beyond school and plan the next stage of their life. Whether this is onwards to accreditations, apprenticeship, or employment. Whatever their chosen path we can guide them as to the steps they need to take.

OPPORTUNITY

The opportunity to attend Sixth Form in a environment where you are understood is essential for all students but especially for young autistic adults who, otherwise may be left to languish.

At such an important stage of anyone's life, the right mentoring is essential to steer you closer to achieving your goals and a fulfilling life. Finding your dream career that follows your passion and maximises your skills is within everybody's grasp.

Our team works hard with our young autistic adults in managing the transition from the world of education into the world of employment or study. We help prepare them for life outside of school and encourage them to explore personal independence including an understanding of meal preparation, cleaning, and handling money in different situations outside of the classroom.

At the same time we ensure that their wellbeing is integral to our curriculum – healthy lives and healthy networks and relationships.

BENEFIT

All autistic people are different, they have the same ambitions and dreams and love fun. We want to ensure our students are given the very best opportunities to realise their full potential as adults and to be recognised for their very special abilities.

AT A GLANCE

Challenges

Lack of space in our building means we are restricted as to the number of young adults with autism we can accommodate.

Opportunities

The chance to expand our intake of students.

The ability to give more young adults with autism the opportunity to find their dream career.

Funding Sources

Local authority



"Once I started at Portfield School Sixth Form I was flying, the teachers there understood me and have been able to help me learn and also discover my acting talent. They are amazing!"

Sixth Form Student - Fenton Loader



autism unlimited
portfield sixth form

SUCCESS STORY

Fenton one of our Sixth Form students explains how the guidance he has received is helping him to realise his dream of becoming an actor.

Being at mainstream school was very difficult for me because my autism means I respond to some situations differently and this meant I sometimes struggled with managing my emotions. Once I started at Portfield School Sixth Form I was flying, the teachers there understood me and have been able to help me learn and also discover my acting talent. They are amazing.

He said: "My first ever role was as Pumba in The Lion King when I was about 10. I had a blind audition, and I was very nervous, but I couldn't wait to do it at the same time.

"I loved being on the stage acting as it gave me more confidence. I felt I could really express myself."

Fenton has also recently completed a week's work experience at the Lighthouse Poole. "I wanted to know more about the workings of the theatre, so I sent in my CV and requested work experience. I went for an interview and got a placement for a week. I loved it. I got to see all different parts of theatre life, from the ticket office to HR, the Stage Door, marketing, stewarding, etc."

Fenton has secured himself a full-time college drama place and will study the BTEC Theatre Studies Course at Brockenhurst College. Fenton added "My ambition would be to star in the West End. So, watch this space!"

STATISTICS



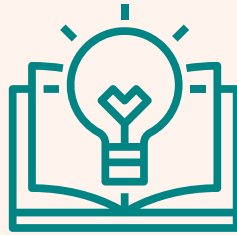
There are 160,000 autistic pupils in the UK. 70% of them are in mainstream schools.

Source: National Autistic Society



Only 11% of people with learning disabilities go on to get full time employment.

Source: About learning disabilities



The transition from school to further education is perhaps one of the most challenging times for young adults with autism.



"I have been educated by his phenomenal knowledge of musicals and films and entertained by his eclectic choice of music, which he plays on our minibus journeys, making tedious journeys uplifting ones as we all follow Fenny's lead and sing along."

Assistant Head Sixth Form - Carol

