

NVQ Programme – parent quote

As a parent of neuro-divergent children, when the Post 16 moment came up for us to look into options for our eldest son, we realised that the locality where we lived offered very little prospects or options for young people with his needs Post 16.

Options available only served to marginalise these special young people rather than look into inclusive and progressive opportunities. We realised that after spending 5 years through secondary school, struggling to fit into a school that practised a “one dress to fit all policy”, our son was leaving, feeling quite depleted in self-worth.

It was during this time as well, after a thorough and comprehensive research coupled with very positive reviews about progressive pathways offered through the NVQ courses, run by Camden’s Physical Development Team in partnership with the LaSWAP 6th Form, we felt that there was a light at the end of that tunnel. Our son joined the NVQ Level 2 course in September 2020 and the positive changes in him have been truly remarkable. From a young person, who spent 5 years of his secondary school life anxious about making wrong moves, he has developed into a confident and expressive young person who truly thrives in the inclusive and responsive environment offered by the NVQ team.

The course and team have focussed on what young people can do and have encouraged their skills through a structured and responsive system of self-development. Outlooks and future outcomes are positive, young people are all identified through their own strengths and individuality and this has helped participants, including those who are neuro-divergent like our son, have the confidence and belief that they can

succeed in a dynamic environment. The trust that develops between the young people and the NVQ staff and tutors are key to the success of this programme and team.

Where in the past, inclusivity and diversity were keywords every parent with neuro-diverse children were taught about in courses, we never actually saw a practical implementation of it through the years our son was growing up until he joined the NVQ programme here at Camden. The approach is holistic and progress and future outcomes are outstanding. As a parent who has seen positive results, I would personally recommend the NVQ course to any young person looking for progression and to be part of an outstanding team who I have full confidence will bring out the best in the young people they train up regardless of their backgrounds or neuro-diverse attributes.

Quote by student's Mom