

I am Harry and I'm Autistic.
I attended
Ambergate Sports College
between June 2013 and
June 2016.



I completely appreciate the staff's hard work now, sticking by me and believing that I could become a better person.

A challenging beginning

When leaving primary school I chose to go to a mainstream secondary school because I wanted to be with my mates and it was close to home. However it soon became apparent that my needs could not be met there and my behaviours reflected this. At times I was in crisis. Unfortunately this led to exclusion from school and my parents 'home-schooled' me.

This made me socially isolated and I didn't understand why I was doing school work at home; school is for school work and home is for relaxing. After nine months of dedicatedly trying, my Mum finally encouraged me to return to school. I was reluctant but trusted her judgement and decided to give school another try despite being very scared and not knowing what was around the corner.

Upon starting at Ambergate Sports College I could barely read or write, nor could I manage my behaviour; however, with perseverance and determination from some of the most dedicated members of staff, I gradually learned these basic skills. I value those staff to this day.





Harry attended Ambergate Sports College between June 2013 and June 2016.

Harry's Autism meant that he struggled both with his learning and his behaviours. He had previously been excluded from a school and was reluctant to return to education when he joined Ambergate.

Harry's story...

"In order to get to Ambergate I had to access school transport and I found this experience horrific at first and had many attempts travelling in different taxi groups. It was noisy and I was surrounded by different and unfamiliar

people. Staff continued to support me and eventually I settled."

"As the days, months and years went by I struggled incredibly with my behaviour and emotions. Sometimes I needed support and had the help from some phenomenal staff who used strategies and interventions. They helped me get through some of the most daunting times of my life so far. At times I felt that the school was working against me and trying to manipulate me into someone I am not. How wrong was I?"

"Today I can appreciate the staff's hard work and determination in sticking by me and believing that I could become a better person. It actually inspired me to want to work with vulnerable children who are just like me."

"Although I still have my own issues to deal with, I am so passionate to help other students. I would like to encourage them to believe in themselves and remember that staff are there to help. I respect the staff at Ambergate from Admin through to the dinner time staff (who always made my dinners to perfection) and thank them all."

A New Start

Harry left Ambergate Sports College with qualifications including an English GCSE.

Harry has now gone on to an Apprenticeship at St. Christopher's Special School in Lincoln, with support from both Ambergate and St. Christopher's Schools and continued encouragement from his parents.

We wish Harry every success with his future!



"What's happened has inspired me to want to work with vulnerable children and help them."

Grantham Additional Needs Fellowship -

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