



Mark Rutherford School

Nightingale ASC Centre News

“The school’s resource unit for pupils with autistic spectrum disorder continues to offer high quality provision for a small number of pupils, some of whom are in the sixth form. These pupils receive individually tailored programmes of work, some of which lead to formal qualifications and some of which are designed to prepare them for their next steps.” Ofsted, March 2016

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A New Start by Matthew Fenner

When my mum first told me that I got accepted into Mark Rutherford School, I was excited but nervous at the same time because I was starting a new school. The day came and me and my mum and dad came from Milton Keynes to have a tour of the school. After the tour, we sat down in the Nightingale Centre and talked about what the best options were for me. We all decided that I should go back a year so that I could pick my GCSE's.

I started a month after the tour of the school, only half days at first, then I gradually built up to full time. I didn't do any mainstream classes at first but now I do. The classes and the staff are very nice. I was expecting it to be different but I'm enjoying school. I enjoy the work and it's a challenge sometimes but I do it. Now I have made friends in the unit and I talk to them sometimes if it's not lesson time.

I'm happy here and I'm enjoying it.



Matthew in one of his Food Technology lessons in the Nightingale Centre

Being in Year 9 by Billy Khan

I have been at Mark Rutherford since September 2015. I am a student in the Nightingale Centre. In my classroom, there are two other students. I like talking to my friend Matthew about Spiderman.

I like going to the library and reading manga. My favourite lesson in mainstream is History because I like learning about the past. I like making new things that other people don't know how to make out of Lego.

Since I have been at the school, I have been out on two school trips – one to the Science Museum in London and more recently to Eat N Bowl in St. Neots. I really enjoyed these trips out.



Billy trying out one of the many activities available on the trip to Eat N Bowl, St Neots.

My first year by Stefan Smiljanic

Hi, my name is Stefan and I am 14 years old. I started at Mark Rutherford in September 2015.

I go to most of my lessons in mainstream and my favourite lesson of all is Food Technology. I have two lessons in this subject, one practical and one written but I enjoy the practical side more. I like it more because I get to learn about different types of food and how to cook them.

In my practical food lesson, I have made some tasty dishes and snacks. I have enjoyed doing the "Great British Bake off" where I have made some delicious cakes, breads and pastries. The best thing that I have made so far would have to be the sausage rolls.

When I do my practical lesson, I have to follow Health and Safety Rules. These rules include making sure equipment is in working order and clean, washing the surfaces down with anti-bacterial spray, washing hands and tying back long hair.

Also in my food lesson, I like talking about different types of food and find recipes from around the world. This gives me a good idea about different countries and if I get to visit them, I will know a bit more about their traditional dishes.

I enjoy most of the lessons in school but I also like doing some of my lessons in the ASC Centre.



My first impressions by Jordan Cathrall

Hi, my name is Jordan, I'm 14 years old and I started Mark Rutherford in April 2016.

When I first started, I had been out of school for around 7 months for personal and transitional reasons. I'm starting to go into some mainstream lessons, but mainly in the ASC Centre, as my timetable continues to increase. My first impressions of the school were great and everyone was really friendly and welcoming. I never really enjoyed school before I came here for reasons to do with the students and the school but now I look forward to coming to school every day.

I like doing the gardening in the school garden especially in the sunshine and warm weather. I'm starting a project with Mr Saggars in the school garden but my favourite lesson is PE. I have a passion for sport and I play rugby for St. Neots Rugby Club. Next season, I am going into the U15 squad which I am looking forward to – I play 2nd row which I love and enjoy.

For my subjects in year 10, I have chosen GCSE PE, Geography and BTEC Construction. I have chosen these subjects as I have already said I have a passion for sport and I am quite interested in construction and engineering. I enjoy geography so I thought I would pick that too. When I leave school, I would like to have a career in something sport related or as a mechanic in the police or in a racing team, preferably Formula 1.



My trip to the Science Museum by Daniel Clarke

On Monday 25th April, I went on a trip with my COPE class to the Science Museum in London. As there were some spare places available, the Year 9 students from the Nightingale Centre were also invited along. This is an account of my day:

08:00 First we went on the minibus and we went on the road trip to London.

10:00 We arrived at the museum and looked at some museum artefacts like inventions, spacecraft and some old vehicles.

11:00 We went to the IMAX cinema to see Robots 3D which is a documentary film about robots from around the world and what they can do. Even greater, it's in 3D and their movements can pop out of the screen.

12:00 We had a snack together.

12:30 We watched the rocket show which was amazing and LOUD! We all loved the explosions and the demonstrations and some students and teachers came up on stage and were fantastic.

13:00 We went to the Legend of Apollo which is a 4D experience where the chairs move and the effects are in real life. It looks as if we were on an adventure in space! The bubbles came out which made us touch them.

13:45 We had lunch in MCDONALDS!!!!

14:30 We went back on the minibus and started our trip going back to school.

16:30 We arrived back at school.

My favourite part of the trip was the Legend of Apollo because it looks as if you are on a roller coaster and the effects were like we were really on the moon. The way the seats moved when the buggy was rolling on the moon was great because it looks as if we were sitting on it. It was a really great experience.

One thing that I learnt is that building a big model out of Lego is a possible thing to do. At the museum, I saw a Lego model of a spaceship. I liked it very much. The model took 650 hours to build and 150,000 Lego bricks!

The next thing I saw was an old fashioned steam train that I took a picture of and I learnt that trains had changed over the years.

The third thing I saw was the robot film which shows robots can do all the things that people normally do. This is something that I didn't know before.

The thing I didn't like about the trip was the journey which took us 2 hours! It felt longer because I was looking forward to getting there.



My time at Mark Rutherford by Lauren Goulding

My name is Lauren Goulding and I am a year 12 student at Mark Rutherford School.

I first came to this school in September 2012 when I was in year 9 from Lincroft Middle School. That was four years ago, time really does fly when you are having fun! Anyway, my very first day at this school, as I look back on it, was extremely nerve-wracking as I was entering a completely new building, with some completely new faces, and I had absolutely no idea what to expect. One advantage was that Nicky was going to be coming here as well as me so it made me feel more comfortable and I knew that I would recognise some of the other students. As the first few months went by, I got to know the staff and students really well and in time I got used to the new surroundings. I was able to grow in confidence and make lots of new friends in the process.

My favourite subjects that I studied here were English, Art (even though I am not an excellent drawer) and catering. My least favourite was maths but to look at it in more detail, it was not that terrible it's just that for me some topics were easier than others.

By the time I was in year 10, I was preparing to do my GCSEs and that I can truthfully say that was an extremely busy period, revising for three different subjects. Out of the three papers, I think that the easiest one for me was the catering paper. Unfortunately, I did not manage to pass my maths exam but, looking on the bright side, at least I have my entry level qualification and I am hoping to maybe retake my maths when I go to college.

For two years, every Tuesday, I went to Shuttleworth College studying Animal Care Level 1. In my personal opinion, it was a really good experience for me as I learned how to clean and take care of a massive variety of animals but I do have to say that I will never clean out real pigs again because it is a lot of work! Going to Shuttleworth has also helped me a little in one of my work placements and that is in the Pet Department of Seasons Garden Centre because the tasks I do there are pretty much the same as what I did on my course (only this time, there are no pigs to muck out – yippee!).

As of now, I am currently in the sixth form. What they tend to focus on in terms of lessons are things like literacy, numeracy, community trips into places like town, etc., first aid and cooking skills. Basically, I am learning about all the things that I will probably need later on in life.

Sadly these are my last few months at Mark Rutherford as I am going off to do the Foundation Skills Course at Bedford College and going on to hopefully study Media when I have completed that course. Of course I am going to be nervous but I know that in time I will get used to it, just as I got used to being here and I am going to miss everybody. I shall always be thinking of everyone and I shall also take away some fantastic memories that I will treasure for ever.



Multi-trade Skills at Bedford College – by Harry Dawes



Every Thursday, I have been going to Bedford College for day release studying Multi-trade Skills.

I have been learning all about tiling, painting, plumbing and woodworking, I love it there and the tutor is nice. At lunchtimes, I have been able to meet up with friends and other students on the course and we all go to McDonalds together.

I am going to college in September to do the course full time and I am really looking forward to going. The day release has given me a head start on what to expect on the course and this has been really useful for me.

Taster Days at Bedford College by Lauren Goulding



I have just recently had two taster sessions at Bedford College and in my own personal opinion, they both went really well. On the first day, I have to admit, I was a little nervous seeing as it was my first full day there but, in time, I got used to it. I have visited the college before on lots of occasions and there were several old faces there so it was not like I knew next to no one there!

On both of the days I was there, they held 2 charity fundraiser activities. One of them was FSPs Got Talent, which was very similar to Britain's Got Talent. The event had some brilliant acts and I have to say that Francesco (a former student of The Nightingale Centre) rocked some killer shades! The second event they had was Man Vs Food in which several people had to eat certain amounts of food as fast as they could. There were some not so nice foods that they had to eat but I think the worst of them was in the final round where one of the drinks was milk mixed with marmite! (Eww, yuck, I would never be able to drink that even if my life depended on it!).

Overall, I am really looking forward to starting Bedford College in September although I am a bit nervous. I am sure I will quickly get used to it as I did here at Mark Rutherford.

ASC Provision Award



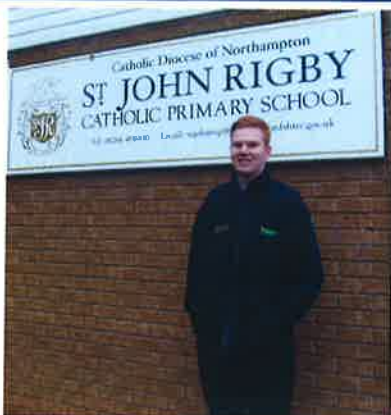
The winner of this year's ASC Provision Award is Harry Dawes.

Harry is in his final year at Mark Rutherford and over the past 5 years, we have seen him develop into a mature, confident, very sociable young man who has been a delight to teach and work alongside.

We wish him all the very best at Bedford College and will of course miss him but know that he is well equipped to move forward with his life.



Work Experience in the Sixth Form



I go to St. John Rigby for work experience every Monday. I have been going there for nearly two years now and have learnt quite a lot over the time I have spent there and I have enjoyed it.

I worked initially with “Jim” the Site Agent but he retired recently so now with the new Site Agent “Aldo”. I mostly do jobs like sweep up leaves in the playground, learn how to put up shelves and stock up on equipment like cleaning spray so that we don’t run out of it.

Some days are peaceful when other days can be busy—you just don’t know what may happen on some days but all in all, I enjoy doing the job.

Harry Dawes



I attend a work experience placement at Goldington Green Academy from 9.50 until 11.55 every Thursday providing one to one support for a child in Conifer Class.

Whilst there, I make sure the student is kept safe and is able to access his learning. I enjoy the opportunity of getting away from school and learning new skills which will help me in the future.

JH



Hello! My name is Akira Ferguson and I’m a 6th form student at Mark Rutherford School.

During my first few months attending 6th Form in the ASC, I was given the opportunity to do work experience in the Harpur Centre, more specifically, Bellissima Accessories.

I’ve been doing work experience from September 2015 and it came to an end in April 2016. Leaving there was hard but I knew it wouldn’t last very long.

My sales assistant responsibilities included pricing and displaying merchandise, as well as cleaning and tidying, filling shelves to maintain adequate displays, assisting and serving customers and just general shop tasks.

I learned quite a bit while working there, such as using a pricing gun when I was pricing some bandanas and scarves, learning how to tidy stock items, all that jazz.

What I enjoyed is that I could get out of school for long periods of time, I’m not a fan of staying in one place you see. I enjoyed learning the skills on what the retail industry has to offer. I really did enjoy it! However, the job (like all things) had it’s flaws. For example, I was mostly doing one thing, which was pricing. It became an incredibly repetitive thing and it got very boring. It was uncommon for me to do different store tasks whilst I was working there. And my back often had pains because of the repetitive tasks, as I was almost always sitting down. Despite the flaws, I truly did enjoy going.

When I was leaving work experience, all of my comments were incredibly positive which was very surprising! He said I work as hard as a full time experienced worker, and on my work experience certificate, everything I did was excellent! I couldn’t have been happier!

Even better, he let me use him on my CV as a reference if I ever apply for a job! This is good because it’ll make it easier for me during job interviews!

This is really all I can say on my work experience, it’s truly opened up a lot of things for my future!

Work Experience in the Sixth Form continued



Since I have been in the 6th Form, Thursday has been the day I do work experience and I do it in a shop in the town centre. I worked at Age UK as an assistant for 6 months. The jobs I did there included taking items off the shelf which were out of date and sorting items out and getting them ready for the shelves.

After Age UK finished, I went on to do work experience at the Keech charity shop in the town centre. I do similar tasks to Age UK and keep things tidy. I have learned a lot about life at work through doing this, about the way things are managed in shops and I have become a lot more independent for example crossing roads and travelling on buses.

At these two places, I have had the chance to meet some people who I like and get on with too. This is one thing that I have enjoyed about work experience. I have also enjoyed the freedom of being independent.

Nicky Monks



At the moment, I go to two work experience placements each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays, I go to Seasons Garden Centre in Wilstead and help out in the pet department. The jobs that I usually do are feeding, cleaning out and giving the animals fresh water to drink, or in the case of the birds, use as a bath! I also help to price stock when deliveries come in.

On Thursdays, I go to the Keech Hospice Care charity shop in town near BHS. My jobs there vary based on what needs doing. Sometimes I am upstairs tagging clothes and hanging them up ready to be steamed or if I am downstairs, I am sorting out the clothes on the rack and putting them in the right order. I have also been asked to change the window display which I enjoyed.

I am leaving Mark Rutherford and starting at Bedford College in September so my placement at Keech will end very soon but I have met some really lovely people there and hopefully I have learned some skills that will help me in later life. However, I am very fortunate that my placement at Seasons will continue a bit longer so I will have at least one familiar territory to return to for a bit longer.

Lauren Goulding



Autism Awareness Week 2016

During Autism Awareness Week, staff and students held a variety of events to not only raise awareness of ASC but also to fundraise on behalf of local charities Autism Bedfordshire and Beds. Garden Carers. Events included a doughnut sale and a whole school mufti day. We are delighted to announce that in total we raised a massive £810 for these two very worthwhile charities.



Our end of term trip to Eat N Bowl – by Emily Walker

On Tuesday 14th June, we travelled by minibus to Eat n Bowl in St Neots. I sat at the back chatting to Matthew and Harry. The trip was to celebrate the Sixth Form's last week in school – a last chance for us all to be together ☺

We got our funny shoes and split into two teams as we had two lanes booked. I enjoyed the bowling – it was good fun – even though I am not that great at bowling.

We had lunch there – some people took their own lunch but I had burger and chips and an ice cream lol. I jokingly offered to finish my friend's lunch when they couldn't eat all theirs – so I got a free portion of scampi and chips because of it – lucky me ☺

I went a little bit crazy on the juke box because it had Florence + the Machine songs on it and I played 7!

All in all, it was a really fun day.



Some feedback from our students – “What do you enjoy the most about being in The Nightingale Centre?”

Making new friends.

Being in mainstream lessons and learning new things.

I enjoy interacting with new pupils and teachers.

Learning new skills.

Seeing new places.

Going to work experience. It has helped me build up my confidence in travelling and also prepare me for a job in retail in the future.

Going on the Wii.

Having nice teachers.

Spanish Lessons.

Having the radio on.

Being able to go on the computer at break time.

Being with my peers.

And finally

We are very pleased to have welcomed two new students into the Nightingale Centre this year, Zoe Brocklehurst and Gregor Murray and would like to congratulate them on completing two very successful terms with us.

May we also take this opportunity to wish all our students an enjoyable summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming them back in September. Sadly we have to say goodbye to Harry Dawes, Lauren Goulding, Nicky Monks, Akira Ferguson and JH. We wish them all the best for the future and hope they will come back and visit us soon.