Welcome to Witherslack Group

Witherslack Group

www.witherslackgroup.co.uk

My name is Ben Reecejones

• My journey to success and why you shouldn't be "written off" from a young age





At the age of 3 and diagnosed with Autism, I was written off by education and called a monster by my head teacher.





- Teachers did not understand me, they did not listen to my views or take the time to get to know who I am.
- They restrained me and pinned me to the floor. They attacked me and saw me as a monster.



THIS DID NOT SHAPE WHO I AM !!





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This Is my Mum

My Mum believed in me. She learnt the Law to ensure my rights were protected She was my voice My Mum never gave up She would not stop until everything was right

Then came Lakeside...

- I was treated like a human being
- I was respected
- I felt safe
- I actually enjoyed school and I made progress!



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Then high school went wrong

- I had issues with staff and all the hard work done by lakeside was undone because the school I was put in was full of staff that were poorly trained, didn't know how to how to cope with my autism, and made me not want to come to school at all.
- But look at me now!

Pontville

- My first year I challenged the staff because I believed they would be the same as my last school.
- Ms. Sims became the head teacher and she brought along a new approach.

As the head she believes in young people, and she believed in me!

Pontville is more than a school it's like a family, yes you learn, but you also get to be a part of such an amazing bunch of people who accept you no matter what.

Pontville staff want each student to be the best they can be and they see the potential in each student regardless of their autism or ADHD or anything else that might mean they perceive the world slightly differently.



Everyone deserves to feel safe, especially in an educational environment

I was seen as a naughty boy and treated like one. If this had carried on who knows where I'd be right now.

Instead I found a school where I felt safe I wasn't treated like a naughty kid.

Instead they found the things that I was good at and enjoyed doing and replaced the negativity with positivity. They let me help out with a range of things like performances, school parties,

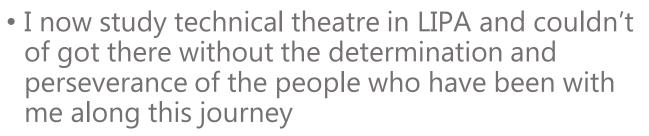
photographs, event planning and kept throwing interesting opportunities at me which helped me

develop my skills in photography, DJing, event planning, lighting, sound management, computer

editing, set building and so much more which has made me the person I am today and got me into an amazing school.



From Monster

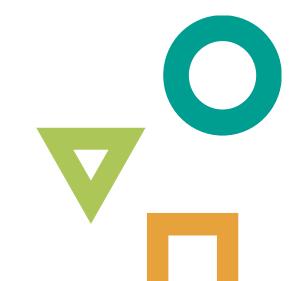


LIPA

But most importantly I couldn't of done it without believing in myself so i'll leave you with this...



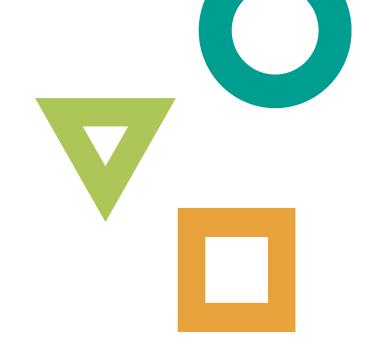




BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND YOU WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE.

'Always make sure you believe in yourself because if you believe then anything is possible'

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Thankayou.co.uk for listening

