

A photograph of two young men in a laboratory setting. The man in the foreground is smiling and wearing clear safety goggles and a white lab coat over a blue shirt. The man in the background is also smiling and wearing safety goggles. A green rectangular box is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing the text 'Welcome to Witherslack Group'.

# Welcome to Witherslack Group

[www.witherslackgroup.co.uk](http://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk)

Witherslack  
Group

# 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 !!





## 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!**



# 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 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

- I now study technical theatre in LIPA and couldn't of got there without the determination and perseverance of the people who have been with me along this journey

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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Thank you  
for listening

