

Callum's Life at Belmont

BY LEANNE, CALLUM'S MUM

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CALLUM'S MUM



At the age of seven, Callum had been to three mainstream primary schools and transferred to a Pupil Referral Unit. He was referred to Belmont School by Bury Council even before his formal ADHD diagnosis was made and arrived to take a place at the end of Year 2.

Having missed so much of his early years learning, he had fallen way behind with his formative education in reading, writing and basic mathematics.

HIS MUM, LEANNE, TAKES UP THE STORY:

"Callum was a troubled, naughty boy who would trash everything and anything in his way in the classroom. Mainstream schools didn't want him because he was such a naughty child. It was a difficult time. At one school, his behaviour was so bad the police had to be called because he was on the school roof.

At the time I was employed as a home care worker and desperately tried to hold on to my own job. Being called so often by school to fetch Callum home meant I was constantly letting people down in my job. They were people who needed me to be there for them and I was letting them down because of Callum. In my line of work, you simply can't up and leave half way through the day, so I had to leave my job.

The biggest difference to start with was that Belmont wanted Callum to be there. They were welcoming and very understanding about his needs. He felt he was wanted and I felt straight away that he was part of the school.

The structures that they have in place at Belmont really worked for Callum. Every day was a fresh start for him even if he'd been naughty the day before. No-one labelled him or wanted rid of him. They worked with him."

His Mum could see that after about six months, Callum was settling into Belmont School routines and starting to earn rewards for good behaviour.

"In Year 3 he was far from perfect but things were improving. The teachers at Belmont are all very skilled in dealing with this type of behaviour management and it works. They know what to do. It worked for Callum.

His last two years at Belmont Primary have been the most successful. He has made really good progress and in some subjects he's ahead of where he should be. That's down to Belmont and their teaching.

He is a completely different child to when he first went to Belmont. He's calm, more mature and a much happier boy. They've taught him how to try to pre-empt and manage his own behaviour. He's learnt to step back and think about the implications of his behaviour. I have no trouble getting him out of bed in the morning to go to Belmont.

They've been absolutely fantastic with him. I can't fault them: the school has been really good.

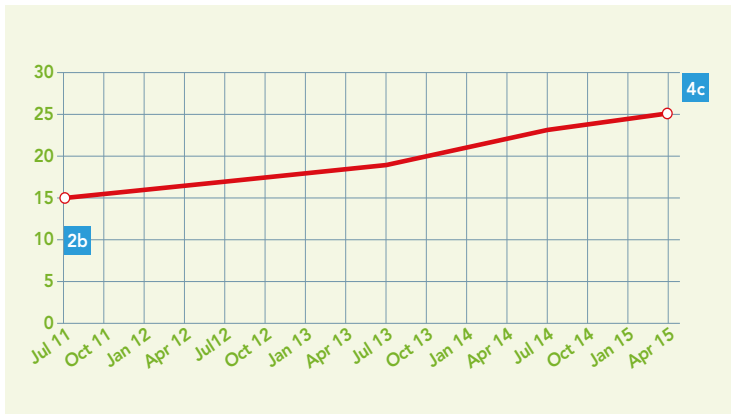
Communication with me has been excellent. We get a diary home every night and if they have been any blips they'll share them with me by phone but they'll also ring me and tell me what he has done well. It's helped me to know what's going on, whether it's good or bad.

I'm delighted he's been offered a place at a mainstream school and that he has been given a second chance. His Dad is also delighted: Callum has a lot of respect for his Dad. It'll mean he can have more friends locally.

Thanks to Belmont School, he's ready for it. I hope the strategies he's learnt with them will hold him in good stead to move on to a mainstream school. Callum wants to move to a mainstream secondary and I think he's ready for it now.

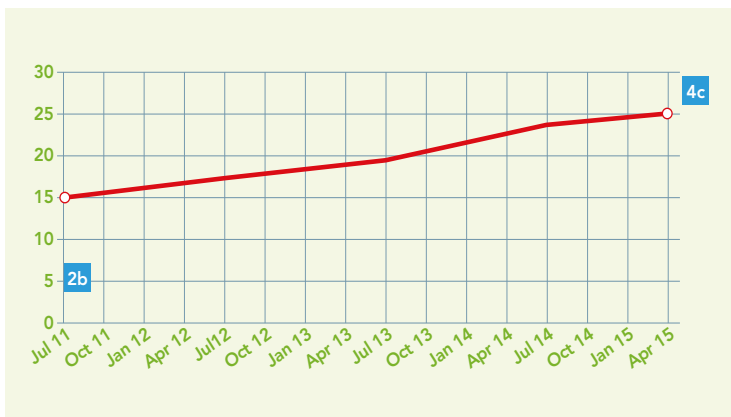
Belmont School has been life changing for us all. Things were so bad and it was all so stressful: before Belmont we just didn't know what to do with him. It's just been fantastic that Callum has done so well. We're all really proud of him."

School Progress Report



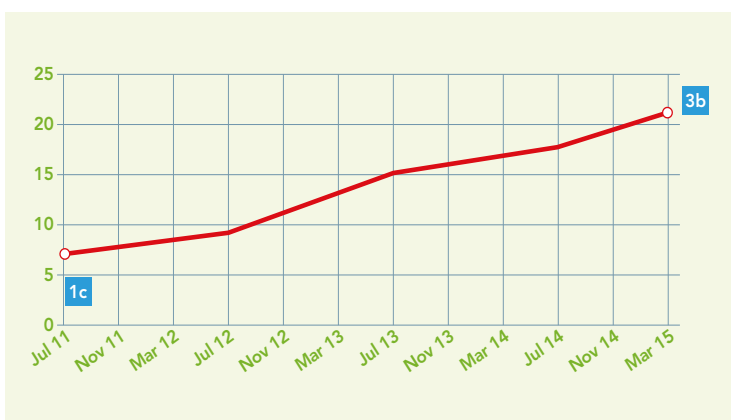
ENGLISH

Callum's writing has continued to improve and he takes pride in his work. He is a confident writer with a great imagination. He has made great progress in speaking and listening and is willing to contribute thoughts and opinions in class. He demonstrates maturity in group discussions. He appears to enjoy reading and selects texts he will enjoy.



MATHS

Callum always works hard in maths lessons and, as a result, has made excellent progress in Year 6.



SCIENCE

Callum has continued to make progress in Year 6 and has learnt about classification of living things.

"Callum has made good progress at Belmont and is continuing to improve on his work ethic and academic attainment. He responds extremely well to Belmont's therapeutic approach of rewards and sanctions programme and has made good positive relationships with his peers and staff.

His behaviour has improved significantly and he has responded very well to the support and structure at Belmont and the increased time he is spending in lessons is enabling him to make academic progress. In Year 6 he has been more mature and focussed. He works hard and wants to achieve, which has been a pleasure to see.

Callum should feel very proud of his achievements whilst he has been in Year 6 and we all wish him well for the future."

Mike Stobart, Executive Principal

Callum's hopes of moving to a mainstream secondary education were realised when he was offered a place at Parrenthorn High School from September 2015.

Everyone at Belmont School wishes him well.