

Case Study 1

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Latisha joined Beacon Hill School in Sept 2005, coming into year 7. She was a school refuser prior to joining the school. She is diagnosed with ASD, Tourettes Syndrome, ADHD and Separation Anxiety Disorder. When she started at Beacon Hill, she had a very negative attitude towards to school, challenging staff and other pupils on a daily basis. Her behaviour was very aggressive, often verbally abusing staff by shouting and swearing, fighting with other children, refusing to take part in lessons and walking out. Her Tourettes made her swearing more common place when she became agitated or distressed and she would often display tics, noises and spitting as part of her condition.

It was very clear from the beginning that she was a very physical young person, often choosing to join in with the boys during social times and that she was naturally well coordinated and her good gross and fine motor skills made her talented in P.E. Unfortunately, her behaviour was a barrier across all aspects of the curriculum at this time.

P.E. was an area where Latisha was able to excel and due to the physical nature of the subject, she soon found she was very capable of achieving success in a variety of activities and when she was focused on tasks, she was less likely to show the symptoms of Tourettes.

Through a variety of games, dance, gymnastics and athletic activities in P.E. Latisha slowly began to enjoy the success she was having and this began to have a positive impact on her confidence and self esteem. As these improved, she was more willing to try new things and demonstrate her ability in front of her peers, something she refused to do when she first started. Through team sports such as basketball, she began to form more positive relationships with the other pupils. They recognised that she was 'good' at P.E. and they wanted to be friends with her and this was something she enjoyed. As a result, the social skills she developed in P.E. transferred into social times.

Latisha is now in year 10 and currently undertaking the Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award. She is a fantastic role model to her peers, showing responsibility and confidence when leading small groups. She works very well with younger pupils in the school, demonstrating patience and understanding. She takes pride in her appearance and has represented the school across the curriculum, in different sporting activities such as swimming and cross country but also going on a school

trip to Paris and representing the school in London for the pupil voice of Building Schools for the Future.