

Mr Waugh is the teacher every parent hopes their child will have. He is an inspirational teacher, who is interested in every child achieving their potential. English has been my son's great passion, both in terms of reading and writing. I know Jack feels all that he has learnt from Mr Waugh will stay with him.

I think one of Mr Waugh's key achievements is the way he ensures the boys take ownership of their own learning. That motivation has been important in Jack achieving his potential. Part of that is the innovative teaching methods Mr Waugh & the English department employs, the interactive way the boys write online – with each of them keeping a blog - and getting feedback from both teachers and parents, as well as their peers. It extends to encouraging the boys to think about what they are going to study and understand their learning styles, their strengths and weaknesses. This benefits them in every subject, not just in English.

I would also want to stress the inclusive nature of Mr Waugh's approach. He really is about getting the best from every child. It has been inspiring to see the 'Showcase' which the English & Drama Department organise with the Music Department. To see, for example, the boys performing Shakespeare, sometimes when they are just learning English themselves, is really moving for all the parents to see.

At every stage I feel my input as a parent has been welcomed and encouraged, Mr Waugh works closely with parents in a way that really benefits the boys learning. He does this in a variety of ways, through the blogs, but also through 'town hall meetings'. He has organised these meetings regularly to get the parents and boys to meet together and feedback on the experience of teaching and input into planning for the next academic year. The whole of the English & Drama Department has been involved in this. The way the department works is evident whenever you meet them. The way all the staff in English & Drama interact with parents at the parents evenings make them such a worthwhile experience. I think I speak for every parent when I say how good it is meet with teachers that really know your child, and are able to explain to us, but very importantly to them, what they need to do to take the next step in their learning.

Mr Waugh has also made himself available to meet with me whenever I have had concerns. The school had agreed that Mr Waugh would become Jack's mentor on the basis of finding ways of extending my son's learning earlier in his school career. When Jack encountered difficulties in his final year before GCSEs Mr Waugh played a key role in supporting Jack. He provided pastoral support and strong academic advice. It was not always what Jack wanted to hear, but it proved to be absolutely what my son needed. I trust Mr Waugh's professional experience absolutely, I know my son feels the same. The way I was able to work closely with staff to support Jack, an entirely joined up approach, was central to my son getting well, as well as his success in this GCSEs and his A* in English.

The final point I would like to make is the Mr Waugh is genuinely a leader, in the best sense. This is visible in his leadership of the department, but in his interaction with the boys. Jack has learnt valuable lessons for life in terms of how to interact with the whole school community. Mr Waugh has encouraged them to be part of the life of the school, to find their voice and to feel it is their school. This has happened through the encouragement Jack and his friends had from English and Music in setting up a band and very importantly the formation of the Equalities Group in LNS and all that that has involved in terms of relating to their peers and to staff, and the impact it has had on the school.

Jane Elderton