

The road to **University** is not always easy, but with **hard work** and the support of **Kingsmead**, Dan has **secured** his place



**Dan has secured a place at Birmingham University studying maths**

### **Supporting success**

Dan has faced some tough challenges during his time at Kingsmead. Thankfully, he's overcome the barriers in his path and secured a place at University of Birmingham studying maths. Dan knows that the school played a huge part in getting him there. "Earlier in my school career I struggled

with dyslexia. I kept failing due to poor hand-written work, but Kingsmead arranged it so that I could use a computer in exams. It was a massive help during my GCSEs, although I still struggled to get the grades I needed to join the 6th form. Rather than being rigid and dismissive with me the school were flexible, and with their help I stayed on to study."

Over the years, Kingsmead have helped Dan in other ways too. "Sometimes things don't go too well at home. Staff at the school have always been there to offer emotional support during difficult times."

## Access to Birmingham

Kingsmead staff have also been instrumental in helping Dan to secure his university place.

"Applying for university can be complicated, but I've been given a lot of direction. The school helped me to apply to University of Birmingham through the Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme. Kingsmead is a partner school with the University. The scheme is designed to help students from less advantaged backgrounds with no experience of Higher Education. It's given me the chance to go even further with my academic career."

Dan is also a keen musician and has been able to continue his violin lessons in 6th form due to Kingsmead's flexibility. As he plays several other instruments too he's looking forward to joining every group that he can when he gets to University!

## Balanced support

Dan's honest enough to admit that some of his problems have been of his own making. "At the end of year 12 my grades weren't the best. It was disappointing, but it made me realise that I'd made a mistake. I was doing several difficult and challenging subjects. I dropped one to concentrate on the others and my grades improved. I'd also been too complacent. I wasn't lazy, but I was disorganized. Mrs. Pritchard had some very direct and honest conversations with me – it was a much-needed wake up call. In that way Kingsmead haven't just given me an academic education, they've taught me life-skills too."

## A solid start

Dan's grateful for the well-balanced support that Kingsmead have given to him. He's remained positive throughout his school career and has been determined to succeed, and that's exactly what he's done. Kingsmead have nurtured Dan's innate strength of character, and, with their help, he's secured himself a solid start in life.



**KINGSMEAD**

**"Whatever your starting point  
and whatever your journey,  
Kingsmead will always endeavour  
to maximise your potential."**

Mrs. Mincher, Head of School

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