

Rafferty and his family chose **Kingsmead** because they know that **people** are the heart of the school, and **Kingsmead** has a **big heart**



Nathan and Sally Winnall live in Hednesford with Rafferty and his brothers, Mackenzie and Dempsey

A clear winner

Like most families, when choosing a secondary school for Rafferty his mum and dad visited them with him. For them, Kingsmead was the clear winner. Rafferty did not hesitate with choosing the school over its competition. "When we visited Kingsmead everyone was very welcoming, both the

teachers and the pupils. I knew some people who were already at the school and they'd told me good things about it."

Rafferty's mum Sally agrees. "It's not just about the building, it's about the people. At Kingsmead it's the people that matter - they're the heart of the school."

The perfect start

Sally thinks that Kingsmead has the perfect approach with new students. "I loved the fact that from the beginning it was all about developing relationships, team building and meeting new people. Raff made a lot of new friends and I've been thrilled at how good the communication between teachers and parents has been."

Rafferty's first day nerves soon faded and since then he has gone from strength to strength, embracing all of the opportunities Kingsmead has offered to him. He recalls how an inspirational speaker who conquered Everest "had a massive impact on me" to "be the best I can be!"

Strengths and weaknesses

Rafferty is a keen guitarist and singer. The school has helped him develop these skills. "Kingsmead has taken me out of my comfort zone, I've gone from never singing to an audience before to singing in a proper theatre. The acoustics were amazing, I just didn't want it to end."

"I recently played the role of Charlie in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. It was very different for me to sing without a guitar to hide behind!"

Rafferty's passion for sport has also been nurtured at Kingsmead. He's competed in cricket, football, rugby and handball and had the opportunity to challenge himself on the athletics track against the very best athletes in the county. Raff had an awesome week at the Joe Hart football tournament with his team mates. They played teams from all over the country. He was amazed to be selected to play in the elite team against Shrewsbury academy players!

It's not just his strengths that Kingsmead has focused on however. When Rafferty was struggling in his science lessons Sally recalls how helpful the school was. "Miss Robottom was hugely supportive. She was quick to respond to my emails and heaped praise upon Rafferty when he did well. He's managed to turn the whole subject around. We're happy that Mackenzie is going to be part of this exciting and forward thinking school."



KINGSMEAD

"If you have the drive, the purpose and the desire to seek out opportunities, Kingsmead will capture, nurture and fulfil your ambition."

Mrs. Mincher, Head of School

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