

Navigating School

Sarah and Jack

Jack – the early years

Primary school



Primary Skool – early years

Sarah's thoughts

- * Installed blinds for the classroom.
- * Jack was integrated on a table near the front.
- * Direct sunlight avoided.
- * Coloured strips on steps.
- * Sun cream put on for Jack
- * Finding friends in the playground

Jack's thoughts

- * Handwriting – motor control
- * Marble on a A4 plastic tray – showed me how to form the letters.
- * My TA was fantastic!
- * School allowed me to write in 'Biro' rather than pencil which was hard to see.

Primary School – later years

Sarah's thoughts

- * Book print size reduces
 - * Approached RNIB & NBCS
 - * Tried voice recognition software.
- * Fight with London exam board to get extra time in SAT's
- * Teachers knew of Jack's albinism and the adjustments required.

Jack's thoughts

- * TA gave Jack a bigger spoon in the 'egg and spoon race'
- * Memorised all the songs sung in assembly.
- * Hated SATs – felt like hours – but had bigger lines and more time.

Secondary School

Pre- GCSE ('O' Levels)



Secondary School – pre-GCSE

Sarah's thoughts

- * Re-establishing himself in a bigger environment.
- * Different teacher per lesson.
- * Finding the bus!!
- * Difficulty in textiles, woodwork, metalwork.
- * Laminated credit-card sized paper explaining albinism & how it affected Jack.

Jack's thoughts

- * People were interested in why I was different.
- * Less name calling.
- * Slow start of recognition of my condition by some teachers – at least one still doesn't get it!!

Secondary School – the GCSE yrs.

Sarah's thoughts

- * Jack spent lots of time on homework.
- * Audible books loaded onto the iPod, fantastic for English.
- * The Apple Mac – very accessible built in software. Approached a local charity who supported the purchase – Speak to your VI teacher.

Jack's thoughts

- * Work load.
- * Could not have done it without the Apple!! Software is so accessible.
- * Post it notes!!
- * Sport more enjoyable as I could choose my sports.

GCSE's

- * Exams went very smoothly – Regular planning meetings to work out timings as Jack had double time to do his exams.
- * Had to chaperoned as one exam was completed by classmates the day before.
- * Jack achieved 10 GCSE's at grade B or above....
- * A Levels – “you have to hit the ground running” (which often happens!!)

New Legislation

Draft legislation on Reform of provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs was presented to Parliament on the 4th September.

Full paper can be found at:

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm84/8438/8438.pdf>

Aims

- * A new duty for joint commissioning which will require local authorities and health bodies to take joint responsibility for providing services.
- * A requirement on local authorities to publish a local offer of services for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs.
- * New protections for young people aged 16-25 in further education and a stronger focus on preparing them for adulthood.
- * Parents and young people, for the first time, to be entitled to have a personal budget, extending their choice and control over their support.
- * Further Education colleges for the first time and all academies, including Free Schools, to have the same duties as maintained schools to safeguard the education of children and young people with SEN.
- * The majority of provisions relate to England only, but you will find a more detailed explanation of this in the accompanying Explanatory Notes

Other sources of information

Good source of information is on the Department for Education, Children and Young People website.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/send/a00213564>

And

The Council for Disabled Children

<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/>



albinism
Fellowship