

Hi

I started at West Notts College last year doing the new Stepping Stones course that was made for students like me who were home schooled. I'd been home schooled the previous year after being removed from school due to bullying not being dealt with.

My parents bought all the textbooks and workbooks that I would need to complete my year 10 and 11 studies but there were limitations on some subjects as my parents didn't know how to teach everything I needed to know.

When West Notts College started the new Stepping Stones course, my parents decided to enrol me on it. I was nervous at first because I wouldn't know anyone and I had been at home learning for a year so I hadn't been in a classroom either. I was thinking all sorts of things.

When I started in the September after the enrolment, I was so happy. I met the new students who would become my friends. The tutors were really nice and we called them by their first names not as we did at school with Mr and Mrs, Miss. It was a lot more relaxed. I got to wear what I wanted to. I was treated like an adult. There are rules to follow but they are easy enough to do. Lessons are ok too. We can talk and joke around a bit as long as we do the work and don't disrupt the class.

We also got to try other types of courses. I did some brickwork, some joinery and painting and decorating as well as ICT. I enjoyed some but not others. Last year I had to be at college from 9.30am to 2.45pm which was much better than when I was at school.

There's a café to get food and drinks from but we are also able to go out to other places on our breaks and lunch hours as long as we are back on time for lessons.

This year I started a foundation course. I'm learning about employers and employment as well as doing my English and maths. I've been in class with some of my class mates from last year and some new and I have had a good time. Since the Lockdown, I have been working on my course work from home. It's been alright because I was home schooled for a year so I am kind of used to it. I am going to do IT next year and I'm really looking forward to it. This year I have only had to be at college three days a week from 9am to 3.30pm so I still get time to do other things as well.