

## CASE STUDY

### Mainstream pupil making significant progress as a result of specialist input

#### SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES – STACEY HALLETT

Stacey is a Year 11 pupil at a Wolverhampton Secondary school. Her transfer to Secondary school did not go smoothly and there were a number of issues relating to her mobility around school as well as support and inclusion in PE lessons. Levels of frustration from both pupil and parents were growing at this time.

Penn Hall's Outreach Service was asked to provide some advice and guidance about general inclusion issues. More specific support in PE lessons was planned and put in place for the whole year. Each time an activity changed, Mary Hall, an experienced Teaching Assistant from the Outreach Service, went in to help with adapting the activities and supplied adapted equipment for the school's use. She worked alongside the Schools own Teaching Assistant and provided ideas for use in lessons. The effect of this was that Stacey was now included in PE lessons and took part alongside her peers.



Further to this, Stacey was invited to come to Penn Hall's Outreach Sports club. Since this time she has attended every Thursday evening and has developed her skills in a range of disability sports. Participation at this club resulted in her taking part in the Regional Athletics competition at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. She performed so well that she was selected to represent West Midlands in the National Athletics Championships at Blackpool. Here, she won a gold medal and two silvers, breaking a National Record for her age group along the way. She has continued this success over the past two years and her school have celebrated her achievements.

Stacey also took part in the Kielder Challenge for the first time in 2006, alongside pupils from Penn Hall, Colton Hills and St Peters Schools. Her team was so successful in the heats that they won a place in the National Finals held at Kielder Forest in September 2006. We are delighted to be able to report that Stacey was part of the winning team in this prestigious National competition. Nearly 1700 pupils, from 280 teams entered this year which gives a sense of scale to this achievement. She also made friendships that will last for years and gained priceless self confidence and independence skills. With her confidence developing noticeably, she was part of the team that made it to the finals for the next two years.

In addition, she enjoyed the long term loan of a sports wheelchair which contributed enormously to her being able to participate in PE lessons at her school. However this was not an ideal situation or a long term solution. So, the Outreach Service made a successful application on her behalf to Lord Taverners for a sports wheelchair of her own. This was supported by the Power Pleas charity associated with Penn Hall. She now owns her own chair that is already greatly enhancing her independence and access to PE activities.

It was pleasing to hear that Stacey received a special award for PE and Sport from her school. The school have recognised what a talent they have in their midst. Stacey has also recently joined the Wolverhampton Rhinos wheelchair basketball team and trains with them on a weekly basis playing for the women's team. She will now take herself off to Stoke Mandeville independently for sporting weekends and has just started to learn to drive.

Measurable outcomes of the support provided are often difficult to show, certainly in terms of statistics. However, all those who have worked with Stacey will testify to the remarkable changes that have taken place. The developments of her confidence and self esteem have been there for all to see. She is a positive, well motivated and delightful young lady and her parents too, acknowledge the difference her successes have made.

The overall improvement undoubtedly had an impact on all her studies and again this improvement is an area that is impossible to quantify precisely. However, she was moved to top sets in English, Mathematics and Science which we believe to be a direct reflection of the improvement in her motivation and self confidence. Stacey is expected to gain an excellent grade in her GCSE PE examinations this year - a considerable change from her early PE experiences.

Stacey Hallett is a success story. We look forward to supporting her next year and enjoying being a small part of her continuing achievements.

