

Alliyah's self-esteem has been boosted thanks to support from the dedicated staff at Oak Lodge School

Alliyah, who is 15 and is deaf, lives with her mother, Basirat. She has attended Oak Lodge School as a day pupil since she was 11.



Fluent speech

Basirat is proud of the progress her daughter, Alliyah, has made since starting at Oak Lodge School and is pleased that she has become much more confident. Basirat says: "Being able to talk fluently now has definitely helped boost Alliyah's confidence because she used to be very shy, but she now believes in herself to the extent that she can help other pupils."

Academic progress

The staff at Oak Lodge are giving Alliyah an excellent education and she is enjoying learning and is thriving at the school, Basirat says. "I am pleased that they give Alliyah an individual learning plan that is tailored to her interests and focuses on the things she needs to improve. She now reads very well and has progressed academically a lot since she started at the school and has improved in everything."

Signing school

One of the teachers at Alliyah's primary school introduced Oak Lodge to Basirat when she was looking for a secondary school for her daughter because they thought the school would meet Alliyah's needs. Basirat says: "I took Alliyah to look round the school and to talk to the staff and then I asked her if she liked Oak Lodge and she told me she wanted to go there. We both wanted her to go to a signing school where she would also be able to have help with her speech as Alliyah wanted to both talk and sign."

Great progress

Basirat says Alliyah now has some hearing because she wears hearing aids. "She had some speech when she first started at Oak Lodge but she can talk much more fluently now, thanks to the help she has had from the staff. They started by teaching her the basics and she has made amazing progress. She did not sign much before she started at Oak Lodge, but she is now able to both talk and sign to her teachers."

Improved confidence

"Oak Lodge have done a great deal to help Alliyah. She can now listen to the news and tell me what they are saying. Before she started at Oak Lodge she wasn't at all confident in her own abilities, but she is very confident that she can do things now and I think this is because she can talk fluently. She will even help me with my English now, if I don't know how to spell something," Basirat says.

Helpful prefect

"Alliyah loves being one of the prefects and likes being able to help the other children. It is lovely how the other children look up to her and are inspired by what she has managed to achieve herself. One of her favourite subjects is Maths and she also enjoys doing PE. She really enjoyed going to do work experience in a charity shop and it is testament to her new found confidence that she was able to cope with the experience of working somewhere different."

Boosting self-esteem

Basirat says she is pleased that Alliyah is happy at Oak Lodge and has made some good friends there and that she loves all the teachers. "The staff began by working on the roots of her issues and have improved her wellbeing and self-esteem and helped her overcome her shyness. I can see how learning to speak fluently has made a big difference to Alliyah. I would, without hesitation, recommend Oak Lodge to other families and advise any parents with deaf children to consider sending them to the school. Alliyah settled in happily right at the start and began to make progress from the moment she joined the school."

Children say

Alliyah enjoys reading and Maths and being a prefect at school which enables her to help other children.

