

As an **accomplished sportsman** Dan knew that you couldn't come second and **win**, until he went to **Kingsmead**



Tony and Jane Clements live in Heath Hayes with Dan and his brother Brad

Follow the leader

Like most children making the move from primary school Dan wanted to join his friends at secondary school. Dan's sporting hobbies outside of school include mountain biking, climbing, walking, swimming, karate and competing in triathlons but it was his rugby friends that Dan was most keen to

join. As its captain, Dan's used to having the support of his team, so he was naturally hoping to take that support with him to secondary school. Since most of his friends were not expecting to go to Kingsmead Dan's eyes were turned to another school, although his parents were hoping he went to the one that had been so good to Dan's older brother Brad.

Tailor made

Dan's mum Jane cannot speak more highly of Kingsmead. "Brad loved his time there. The support was fantastic and the staff were unbelievable. If I had to contact the school I knew I could rely on a fast response and any concerns I raised were dealt with swiftly. Kingsmead staff have a common-sense approach that feels tailored to the individual, rather than tying things up in red-tape and being inflexible. It makes you feel like you're talking to other humans and that they're listening. When we found out that Dan had been given a place at Kingsmead his dad and I were secretly delighted, despite it being Dan's second choice."

Recognition and reward

But how did Dan feel? "Before starting at Kingsmead I was worried about fitting in. I thought that the kids from different schools would form their own groups, but the challenge day activities really helped everyone to gel together. Kingsmead is a happy place. You get recognised and rewarded for your success."

Listening and acting

Dad agrees. "Dan thrives on that recognition and it's done wonders for his self-confidence. The support for students at Kingsmead is fantastic and it's great to see the way kids from different schools have integrated and bonded. It's great for us too. They have a parent's forum where they ask what we think they could do better. They listen to our suggestions and they take action. Suggestions from the parent's forum have already been put into place this year."

Planning ahead

Despite Kingsmead being his second choice Dan knows now that it should have been his first. "I'm really enjoying school. P.E. is my favourite subject of course, but I also love Maths and Geography." He shares his love for the latter with Brad.

Dan also has some fairly solid plans for the future. "I'd really like to be an investment banker. It's a role that really fascinates me." And why not? With his hard work and commitment, and the support of Kingsmead, the sky's the limit.



KINGSMEAD

"We believe that parents are our partners, and we work together to ensure that all students reach their goals through support and challenge. No one's future is set in stone - it's all to play for."

Mrs. Mincher, Head of School

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