

When the time came for **Megan** to **choose** her secondary school, she **knew** that it could **only** be **Kingsmead**



**Ian and Jo van den Berg live in Hednesford with their daughter Megan, 13**

### **The right choice for the right reasons**

When Megan was choosing which secondary school to attend, she looked at others in the area even though her heart was already set on Kingsmead. Mum and Dad wanted Megan to keep her options open, but having visited the school for Transition Days during year 6 at Hazel Slade

Primary, she had no doubt where she wanted to be. For Megan, looking elsewhere only confirmed that. The Transition Day events had been fun and informative and so Megan was excited to get started at Kingsmead. As a keen musician she was soon taking saxophone lessons and singing in Vocal Group.

## A smooth transition

Moving to high school from primary is a big moment in a child's life and so even Megan approached it with a an amount of natural trepidation. "My only concern was that I wouldn't know many people at Kingsmead. I came from a small primary school and there was only one other person from there who took part in the Transition Day activities with me. As a result, we quickly made new friends and now most of the people I'm friends with came from other primary schools."

## Superb support

Megan's Dad Ian thinks Kingsmead staff have been instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition. "Mr Truby's enthusiasm has helped greatly. When Megan came home from Transition Days she was excited to return. Kingsmead is very inclusive and they look after anyone new going to the school. All of the challenge activities at the beginning of the year really helped them get together with each other and settle in to become part of the Kingsmead family."

## Family value

As a teacher herself Megan's mum Jo is well placed to appreciate what Kingsmead has meant to her whole family. "Megan's older sister Amy recently graduated from Aberystwyth University with a first class honours degree in drama and theatre studies. She loved her time at Kingsmead. Megan's saxophone teacher suggested Cannock Wind Band to her and Megan goes every Saturday."

Megan has also joined in with musical showcases at the school, such as Christmas Concerts. "Working with others in Vocal Group and the school orchestra has definitely helped with my music skills. I've been able to join in with so many group activities that I simply hadn't done before."

## A bright future

With a high level of academic attainment Megan's future is looking bright, but she's focusing on the present. "I have some ideas about what I'd like to do beyond 6th form and university but right now I'm just enjoying school."



**KINGSMEAD**

**"Finding the special skills of our students and nurturing them into real talents is what we do. We treat each child as if they were our own, with the same challenge and support."**

**Mrs. Mincher, Head of School**

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