

What so special about well-being at Thornhill Community Academy?

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For BBC School Report at Thornhill Community Academy

🕒 March 2017 | [Education & Family](#)

Two of our 'mainstream' students write about their new understanding of Autistic Spectrum Condition

We didn't know much about autism until we came to our high school, Thornhill Community Academy in West Yorkshire. The special thing about this school is that they encourage children with special needs to attend, and have a normal education and school life. Many other schools don't have the facilities or experience for children with special needs like autism to be supported in their schools, thus these students can feel are secluded and may choose to go to special schools which isn't right for everyone, or fair as they are no different to anyone else.



Another special thing about our school is that we are a big family and as our slogan goes '**A School, A Family, A Community**'. The teachers in our school educate us about the children in 'The Thorn Centre, which is the special provision centre, so we understand how they feel and how we should treat them. Unlike some other schools, where autistic children can feel isolated and misunderstood - in our school, they are included and are part of our daily life.

Josh is one of our 'school reporters' and he is also autistic. In his previous school, he felt as if he didn't fit in and experienced some types of bullying. The children in his school didn't understand his unique way of thinking and reacting to changes. Now he is in our school, we understand how he feels and he has made many friends and enjoys learning (well most of the times anyways)

Some autistic people are very inspiring to us, you may have heard of Jacob Barnett, who is a maths prodigy. Jacob was born with severe autism and was diagnosed at the age of two. He never used to speak or make eye contact with people as a result of his autism. Despite this he loves his autism as if it wasn't for his autism he wouldn't be a maths genius. At the age of 11 he would work at university levels and he skipped most of the years and currently he is on his way to getting a PhD in theoretical physics. It just proves to us and autistic kids that they are so unique and inspiring. No matter how different they seem to be they will always be inimitable.

From this, you should understand that autism isn't a disability, rather a speciality. No autistic child should ever feel out of place or isolated because everyone is different in their own way

We would like to end with one of our favourite quotes;

"Have I gone mad? I am afraid so, you're entirely bonkers, but shall I tell you a secret... all of the best people are." Lewis Carrol