

ASC and Me

By Leon

For BBC School Report at Thornhill Community Academy

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Leon, one of our BBC School 'Reporters' from the provision, talks about his experience of autism

The Thorn Centre at Thornhill Community Academy is a safe haven for me. It's the right place for me. I go to the Thorn Centre because I have autism. The staff help me when I'm unhappy, upset and struggle to communicate. They also help me to regulate my emotions. Sometimes I have trouble understanding things in mainstream lessons, but with my support I am able to learn very important things.

In the Thorn Centre, the staff talk to us when we feel upset. They help me to talk about any problems I may have.

Having support in lessons helps me, because they will give me prompts to catch up with the speed of the lesson and use resources to help me to focus.

I like everything to be correct and neat but I get frustrated when I feel like my writing isn't neat enough.

Autism is a condition, we struggle with communication. Some people are profoundly autistic, some are non-verbal and others can only say a few words. Sometimes when I come home from school I have to go straight in to the house. I struggle to go out of the house when I know that other students from different schools will be there, because they may say something to me and I may not know the answer. I am also worried about other people making fun of me because I am autistic.

I have become more confident in myself now. I feel I can do more things outside of school and try new activities that I would never have tried when I was little. I am able to walk to places on my own a little too.

I would like to thank everyone in the Thorn Centre - students and staff - because they have helped me be me.

