

10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**West Kirby School and College awarded Advanced Status for recent National Autistic Society, Autism Accreditation**

I'm writing to share news our school has been awarded 'Advanced Status' for our recent Autism Accreditation assessment. I am overwhelmingly proud of staff and pupils on achieving this.

The move to Advanced level is well deserved, and has been hard won; I am exceptionally pleased. This is external recognition that our school is dedicated to delivering outstanding educational opportunities for young people with autism and Special Educational Needs.

Presented to Miss Rebecca Spence, the lead Teacher on this award, by Jonny Knowles, Accreditation Consultant. Awarding body, the National Autistic Society says *"We have great delight in confirming that the school meets the criteria for an Advanced Specialist Award. Congratulations again for demonstrating standards of excellence in supporting autistic people, to a high level of quality and consistency."* They described our school as a place where pupils *"feel safe and calm; are treated with dignity, status and respect"* and *"have breadth of access to, and inclusion, within, community activities. How pupils are supported to take part in activities which are purposeful, engaging and promotes their emotional well-being and social inclusion."*

The report also praised:

- The passion of staff members, which was evident. Their working knowledge of approaches associated with good autism practice
- How pupil support is person- centred, bespoke and tailored to the individual
- How each young person develops skills and confidence
- The efficacy of the School Ambassador initiative
- How lunchtimes in the dinner hall are a positive experience
- The fact that pupils are empowered
- How the School's residential provision is 'low arousal' and homely
- The new School Bakery which will further provide functional opportunities for pupils to practise key skills in communication

Assessors said parents told them: *"WKS has achieved amazing things for my son; since starting at WKS my child has flourished, thoroughly enjoying every day in school"* *"My child seems so much happier since attending this school."* A pupil told the assessor *"I give this school a 10/10"*.

You can read the full report on our website

<https://www.wkrs.co.uk/autismaccreditationadvancedstatus> and also local paper Wirral Globe have shared our good news <https://www.wirralglobe.co.uk/news/23312255.west-kirby-school-college-awarded-autism-accreditation/>. We hope you share in celebrating this success.

Kind regards

Miss Sian Thomas  
Principal

**West Kirby School and College**

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