

Parent Feedback across 2020/2021

We just wanted to email to say THANK YOU to everyone at Overley involved in organising the vaccines today and please also pass on our thanks to the GP practice. We are so very grateful for the support given to H to enable him to have the injection with no issues

It was lovely to talk to him and Mandy after and know all went well.

Having been unsuccessful in persuading Overley Hall to keep M and W until they are 25 or 65 frankly, we are now looking towards July 2021 with a sense of nervous anticipation, dread and excitement. Moving away from the security blanket that has kept M and W safe, secure and educated, towards a slightly uncertain future, presents some natural anxiety for us.

We think the most important skill our boys have learnt over these years at Overley is tolerance. This many seem quite small and insignificant to most people, however, for these boys, it is a massive achievement and cannot be understated in our view. M and W have been able to learn tolerance in such a way that gives them an opportunity for a much more enriched life than we had thought possible.

There is not enough space or time to write down all the ways we have been surprised, stunned and amazed at the progress of M and W over the years they have been with Overley. Our grateful thanks feel inadequate. In 2015/16 we were broken as a family and our worst fears came true when we had to let them go from our home into the care of others. It was a dark time and one that we won't dwell on, suffice to say that with time, it came to be the best change of direction for our family.

Oh Martin, that cracked me down the middle #blubbing. A beautiful video and thank you for doing that. It means so much to us to have a glimpse of their year with you.

How blessed and fortunate Y and I are to have all of you at Overley working so hard to keep our children safe in these terrible times. You are truly our guardian angels.

We have no words to express our gratitude, except to say that you are always in our thoughts. We can only imagine how tough this has been for you and we hope that life is easier for all of us soon. We wish you all a safe and peaceful Xmas.

With much love and thanks to you all

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Just wanted to say a big thank you for having L and I at the open day. You always hold a fantastic event and it was lovely to see the young people recognised for their achievements. They all seem to be living their best lives and it is testament to your hard work and vision that they are doing that.

We love the open day and another massive thanks to your catering and maintenance staff. You were right Bev that they are just the jolliest people you bump into at Overley and the grounds look beautiful.

When I put my pictures on Facebook with my feelings of gratitude and thanks, so many friends comment on how special and magical the school is and how lucky my children are to be surrounded by committed and caring people.

Bev and all at Overley. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts to keep our boys safe. You have done an incredible job and are inspirational for your courage and teamwork.

Love & gratitude,

Dear Bev, Martin,

Jess, Karen, Lorna, Rachel and Conor, and all the staff who have been working so hard with H. Following the annual review this morning I just wanted to email again to just really express again a sincere and huge THANK YOU to all of you from myself and X for helping H settle into Overley Hall over the last few months with the added pressures of a global pandemic!!! We really could not have envisaged that the transition would get to this point so soon! When H started with you in November and was coming into the coach house classroom I was absolutely over the moon, I used to look at the main school and wonder if he would one day make it in there but at the time I just didn't know.....and here we are!

Bev, it must be almost a year since I first visited Overley and I knew I had to step up and fight to get H the help he deserved and wow am I glad I did!!!!You helped us through that fight and we will be forever grateful to you for supporting us and for you giving H this opportunity at Overley.

What a lovely positive meeting and to hear everything you have been doing with him was brilliant! It really makes me believe the battle and the heartache we have had over the last few years has all been worth it in the end!

H is really getting back to the H we used to know, cheeky, happy, funny, laughing a lot and holding himself more confidently! Seeing him interested in playing outdoor games again, forest school, cooking, designing and making things -just all amazing!

We really feel you have managed to all 'unpick' what is going on with H and it has all just come together wonderfully!

H told me Bev yesterday that you had played the piano together! Jess, he also told me you left him for a 'long long time' and you must have had 2 cups of tea!! haha that made me laugh! and at the weekend we were talking about school and how he was finding it hard to move into the new classroom....he jumped up and down and said 'I love my school'!

I had to just email and thank you all again because it really does mean so much to us as a family that you have worked so hard with H and we have our happy little boy back! This time last year was very different!

We are sure H will just continue to grow in confidence as he settles into main school at Overley!

Truly wonderful! Thank you. Miss all those faces.

I just wanted to say thank you for arranging the testing on Friday so we could bring the boys home. We are so grateful for your flexibility and recognition of the boy's need to see us and vice versa.

Your testing and procedures were smooth and well done, as always with the Overley way, and although it felt strange being around so many people, we felt reassured by how diligently the process was managed. Thanks again for keeping our boys safe.

Z and I want to thank you and Martin for your time yesterday. We very much appreciated you showing us around and providing us with an introduction to Overley Hall School.

We both felt the school has a good, happy atmosphere. You obviously have some lovely, dedicated members of staff.

We will be giving the potential opportunity serious consideration over the next week and will contact you after we visit xxxx School on Monday.

I just wanted to say thank you so much to you and your team for making me feel so welcome yesterday. It was an absolute pleasure to meet some of your amazing students. I was so impressed by your facilities and beautiful grounds - I can see J being extremely happy there. It's made me feel extremely reassured.

Thank you all for making such a wonderful change in A and to our lives as a family – the school is amazing!

Just wanted to say thank you so much for another fabulous term with H. We have been so proud of all he has achieved and with your wonderful support he continues to excel. When he spoke at the Christmas service I was overwhelmed. He continues to amaze us and is growing into such a wonderful young man. It is also great to see how much he enjoys all your company and talks of you when with us too. It is a great testament to you as a team.

W and I really enjoyed the light switch on. I think there are more lights on the tree than in previous years and it looks gorgeous. When describing where Overley is to friends and colleagues, I always mention that you can see the Christmas tree from the M54, and a surprising number of people have seen it but not known what it was.

I like hearing the young people from Abraham Darby play their instruments and thought having Santa's Grotto was a lovely idea. I enjoy see staff bring family members, especially their children as I think that creates a special "big family" atmosphere.

Over the years, L has gone from being quite anxious and stressed at the event, to being very obviously excited and happy. This is partly because he now knows what to expect, so I wouldn't like the format to change too much. It's also because his confidence generally has increased because Overley staff take him to events quite often. We are now able to take him to events such as Broseley Festival which he couldn't cope with previously. I am conscious that L's time at Overley is ticking away, and sad that we only have a couple more years as full participants in these sort of events, but pleased to see how far he has come.

The cakes and mince pies were excellent, but it would be nice to also have something more substantial to eat like hot dogs. Because of the timing (6pm), T and I both came straight from work and then went on to something else (it's a busy)

I just wanted to say thank you for a lovely open day on Wednesday. We really enjoyed seeing all the young people and staff so proud and happy.

I thought you might like the attached photos.

Thanks for sending us the virtual tour and the prospectus. We really enjoyed looking at them and have shared them with our families. We had a feeling of excitement for what the future could look like for S last night and wanted to include them in it.

Really lovely evening. We really appreciate the time spent to put these events on.
Thank you.

I don't always get an opportunity to say thank you for the thing you have done to help shape Z into the amazing young man he is today. He has come a long way– lots of hard work and perseverance!!! Although he will have a few more personal struggles over the next year, we know (and he knows) that we have Overley's support. So, we can sometimes be a pain in the backside as parents, I, myself and Z thank you!

Very informative, useful hearing about the work going on in school and care.

We can't thank Overley Hall enough. The staff work so hard to make sure our son is the best he can be. He has a wonderful life at Overley and it allows us to spend quality time with him.

Thank you for your head teacher update. It made me feel sad and happy all at the same time!! Every single member of staff are doing an amazing job and we are so grateful to them all. We are missing D like mad, even his very loud noise! but fully support the decisions that have been made.

Apparently on Sunday D took Erin a change of clothes and then signed car as this is usually what happens when we take him on Sunday afternoons. Again it made me feel really sad but also as you say really proud as he had found a way to communicate.

Thanks again for everything that is being done for all our young people and hope everyone keeps safe and healthy.

Hi,

We always enjoy the lovely cakes and coffee's at the Coach House, thank you so much.

Thoroughly enjoyed sports day this year – always a highlighter!! All the children were STARS!! Well done and huge thanks to all the staff.

I had a phone call from Rachel today about how well H has been doing this week! He is meeting so many new faces which is great! I have the impression that if you race H on the go-karts you have passed the test with H!! I am amazed he has come in happily every day this week and he seems to really be enjoying it!! I can't believe it! Karen and Jess are doing great with him and H must feel so safe and settled to be showing he is happy talking to other members of staff! I feel that Peter really helped him through transition and getting his trust and that H must feel good about himself that he is enjoying school even with Peter not there! Jess and Karen have done great to support and reassure H over the last week. Building those relationships with staff in school is really good too and we are so pleased at everything happening at Overley! H is happy and laughing again and I can really see a change in him and his confidence growing every day!

Thanks Bev! Just spoken to Jess and she's going to pop round tomorrow to the garden! I think that's great with H not too keen on video calls yet!
We will work on that though! V is going to and I'll keep doing it too!
I've told him Jess is coming to the garden to say hello and I've shown him her picture and so far he's happy with that! 😊

Awe Bev honestly we are absolutely over the moon tonight!

So proud of H!!!

Peter and Jess are a credit to you they really are, all the support and encouragement and patience is really paying off..... H has really clicked with Peter too!

Sending him off for a little walk with Peter today and then coming into Overley for a visit has really made my day!!

We're getting there!

And his attendance mark that's brilliant 🙌

After everything that's happened the fact he's stepped back into a classroom again is just amazing 😊

Aww he's coped amazingly well! I can't believe it! He was exhausted tonight and started to get a bit agitated around 5 so I gave him his evening meds a bit earlier than usual and had more time to settle him- he's gone to sleep now 😊 He's really taken with Peter, loves him! And Jess too. Honestly I can't believe how he came to school this morning and I left him! Big moment after 14 months at home! I didn't tell Peter and Jess but I did cry all the way home- big step today. Everything you're all doing is just brilliant 😊 Aww literally L and I are just amazed at what you do! We don't know how you do it but you're all miracle workers! I couldn't have predicted that after 2 weeks he would be happily going in like he did today- the trust he has in Peter is just so so lovely to see. They're doing a great job and taking things at H's pace which is just brilliant! And for the attendance! Yay! 😊 Aww wow love this!!! How amazing is that, H having Christmas dinner at school! 🎄 🧑🏻🎅

So lovely and informative great staff, so caring, great faith in them. What a brilliant job they are doing! So much easier talking than emailing.