

John H's story

The move from primary to secondary school . . .

Well, that's one big stretch – because there's exams, tests – like that?. For tests or exams, it needs (to be) a bit more accessible – with pictures or diagrams.

Life at secondary school . . .

It was amazing – because it was much bigger. For each subject there's a different teacher on that, sort of, subject. Sometimes teachers explained what that course is about and sometimes, if students don't understand, they might use different resources or guidance.

Things about school I liked . . .

Well the best bit is meeting new friends and being more sociable. At Sawston Village College, it's got a youth club and also it's got a swimming pool, all different sports, like PE, and that's really good. Students have some fun! And achieve their skills.

Things about school that I didn't like . . .

Well, a bad thing about that college, Sawston Village College, is that it's out in the sticks, because it's lack of transport.

Sources of support . . .

It was very big. And also it's accessible – with some support, like LSAs. Because that's the only way to help younger people – to help their spellings, reading skills, writing skills, basic skills. It's trying to help young people explore different ideas. And also it's useful to have an information point or desk if there's things, like, you can do.

I think it's useful to have a key worker, you know, if you've got any problems you can talk to that person.

Making school/college better . . .

Well, at lunch times and break times, they'd just have five minutes – something like five minutes – and that's too short. I think it should be an hour. Well, you know, to catch up – to catch up with coursework.

Well, other things we could change, is giving more guidance. It's resources – like CD-Roms, or tape, pictures, text – or a video camera. Those sorts of things might make it better – more accessible pictures and text.

Information should be more accessible – like pictures and words. That might be useful to have.

The move to college . . .

One big stretch of string – from Sawston to CRC. Because we have to make some visits to see what college looks like, what courses they've got. Because Fast Track is mainstream courses for people like us.

Things about college I liked . . .

Well, choice of food. Which is all right – but because at the canteen it might be useful if they could have screens, all with the different choices of food. Yeah, pictures on it, like what food you like, what sort of drink you like.

Well, it feels like growing up, business. Because, you know, first step – first step, second step and third step.

Things about college I didn't like . . .

Well, there's antisocial behaviour. Because some students, they're not . . . I felt so uncomfortable with those students, really. Aggressive. It's just, be careful what you say. Because it's bad language.

Adult life . . .

After college, I'm starting getting involved in voluntary work. I did have a lot of work placements. I've been working with children at nurseries, council offices – all different day placements.