



Densholme Farm action



Densholme Care Farm – Hull Road – Great Hatfield – HU11 4UX – 01964 532640

CASE STUDY Student B

Student B is a gentleman in his forties; he attended in the formative years of the care farm and was sad to leave when changes in funding prohibited attending but happily returning last May now the care farm is established and funding once more available to him.

He travels over twenty miles each way via volunteer transport to attend twice weekly and has soon slotted back into the daily routine. He lives independently in the same village as his parents and their support is of great importance to him, explaining if any problems arose at the farm, which he assures haven't, he would talk to his parents regarding them.

When he attended nine years ago he reports that he enjoyed getting stuck in, planting trees in the orchard and using the ride on lawnmower which he hopes to do again in the spring. When funding was cut and he couldn't come he missed it and felt bored. His parents, realising this, looked into him attending again once funding was available to him.

His reasons for attending the farm are to:-

- Be involved with horticulture;
- Enjoy the social side ;
- Woodwork activities.

He feels he has done pretty well joining in a variety of tasks and loves being out in the fresh air. He also reports, and it is witnessed, that he engages well. He has enjoyed walks/talks and working with other students, staff, and volunteers; particularly working well alongside a mature male volunteer assisting to cut a hedge while other students led the cuttings away. A task worked on as part of a small team was clearing a woodland dell area and then planting 300 daffodil, snowdrop and winter aconite bulbs, which are now flourishing and he has been dedicated in keeping the area weed free, not easy on organic land. He feels at ease to make suggestions, expressing it would be nice to place a bench for people to sit on and take in the view of the flowers.

He can do quite skilled and intricate jobs, takes pride in what he does and is always keen to complete work to a really good level. His attitude he describes as get stuck in and it will be alright, and if it isn't, jokingly says take a chill pill and it will be fine. In recent weeks, Farmer Denys has given him bespoke jobs, discussing these with him and then he has worked independently for some of the day on these jobs. He is very self aware, explaining that he likes to keep on task but has become accustomed to and accepts that at times other students will want to join in or disturb him by asking what he is doing. When this occurs he is friendly and enjoys working with someone new, interacting well and demonstrating patience and being caring.

He has really good woodwork skills, working independently at home making wheelbarrows, bat and bird boxes, which he has brought samples of along to the farm to show Farmer Denys, these he sells at church fairs in his village. He demonstrated these skills working very methodically and patiently during a woodwork workshop when the students made some garden benches from pallets. He completed sanding the wood when other students were either unable to use the sanding tool or could only do it for a short time. I was impressed he said he would do extra sanding as he saw that some students were unable but seemed to enjoy painting the bench, a real good team spirit. Although he already had the woodwork skills he explained that at home he

works alone and so working as part of a team, swapping tasks and sharing tools was a new and good experience for him. He is looking forward to doing other woodwork activities at the farm and would like to help maintain and put up fences. He showed this caring side to his personality when he stepped back on a few occasions from collecting the eggs, which he loves doing, being aware that some visiting school children really loved the task too.

To allow people to come and see the work of the farm, on set days the farm has started to do 'tours' which last for an hour or so and show people around the farm. He has really come into his own, explaining many aspects of the farm and work as we take people around, he has impressed visitors who have named and thanked him on feedback forms. It is obvious he has a real understanding and love of the farm.

He has fitted in really well at the farm, shows increasingly good interpersonal skills. Empathy was noticed when another student became upset, he talked to them, comforting as best he could, patting their back and then got a member of staff, the other student appreciated this. He has a really dry, quick witted sense of humour enjoying banter and a joke, he's aware he likes teasing but ensures he does not upset anyone. He has formed good relationships and particularly likes pulling an older volunteer's leg, teasingly calling her grandma at times.

It is lovely to see him working and growing in confidence and he is a real asset to the farm team and it feels that he never left.

Family's feedback

Thank you for a very positive case study.

He loves to go to the farm and enjoys all the different activities he experiences – which he talks about a great deal. We have also noticed a maturing of his whole attitude and outlook.

The farm has been a very enjoyable and positive experience for him. We would like to put on record our most sincere thanks to all the staff for their professional approach in the care and support they give to him.