

Tony's story Case study

Tony* is 15 years old and has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), unsocialised conduct disorder (UCD), and displays traits of an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD).

Following his arrival at Radio City School in Ayrshire, staff soon began noticing that Tony was really creative and enjoyed music – especially singing. To further help Tony embrace his passion for singing and continue developing his beautiful voice, we arranged for one-to-one music lessons with a music instructor. This provided Tony with a weekly opportunity to express himself. Group sessions were also introduced as a feature in his music lessons to offer a regular and trusted audience for him to practice the new songs he wanted to learn and refine.

Over the years, our nurturing and supportive staff team have helped to build Tony's confidence, encouraged him to believe in himself and realise his own potential. During the pandemic, staff at Radio City School also ensured that he still had access to musical equipment and tuition to further develop his skills.



Fulfilling a passion for music

With encouragement from the Head Teacher and other staff members at Radio City School, Tony entered into the well-known TV talent programme, 'The Voice Kids'. We provided extra sessions with his music instructor and his parents organised a singing coach at home to help him practice and prepare for auditions.

Hesitant at first, Tony was successful in the first round of auditions which required him to complete a detailed application, including MP3 recordings of himself singing. Following this, he was invited to travel to London to the set of 'The Voice Kids' and audition for the second round. Despite not progressing beyond this stage, Tony described his experience as follows:

"The experience was amazing! To go to London to 'The Voice Kids' was just the best thing ever! It was a very special thing to have done and not many people would get an opportunity like that in their lifetime."

Since the auditions, Tony continues to take part in opportunities to perform to live audiences, at events such as charity events, summer fêtes, and mini festivals organised by the local children's homes which are also part of Aspris Children's Services.

The largest of these events, a charity fayre, received over 100 visitors and provided Tony with the opportunity to set up his stage at the entrance of the venue. Members of the public greeted him as they entered the fayre and he raised significant donations for a children's charity.





Preparing for the future

At Radio City School, we also host regular events to celebrate students' effort and engagement in education and extra-curricular activities. During these events, Tony embraced the opportunity to perform to a small audience of families, peers, partners and staff. More recently, Tony has led a team of students to organise a school concert which included a stage lighting setup, smoke machine, prebuilt floor stage, balloons, flags and bunting.

As Tony prepares to move on from Radio City School and into further education, he has embarked on courses which will see him gain qualifications in music and music technology.

We are so proud of Tony and what he has achieved over the years at Radio City School. We will continue to work together to support him to follow his aspirations in music and all other aspects of his learning and wellbeing.

Contact us

For more information on Radio City School, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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*Names and images have been changed to maintain confidentiality.