

# SWRAC

**Post-16 Alternative Provision**  
Dorchester, DT2 9SL

**Tutor:** Marc  
**Learner:** DB

### **The learner starting point**

DB started with SWRAC in 2019 but started on the Post-16 AP course with Marc in September 2020, before this he had been attending the Compass Learning Centre.

When DB first started at SWRAC he would frequently abscond from class and when in class, he would cause low-level disruption by throwing things and using inappropriate language. This would often disrupt the rest of the class. His opinions were very closed and he would not consider anyone else's opinions. He had no respect for the setting he was in and Marc (tutor) described him as a very angry and confused learner when he attended back in September.

### **The learner journey**

Marc (tutor) took a fairly strict approach with DB and aimed to teach him about the consequences of his actions and to take responsibility.

To begin with, DB would often make himself a hot drink but leave the equipment in a mess and would often spill his drink on purpose. To combat this, Marc only allowed him to use the tea making equipment if he helped to keep it clean and look after it. It wasn't long after this that DB started to take responsibility in keeping the equipment clean and tidy and seemed to understand the importance of respecting the equipment. This approach to actions equals consequences was very black and white for DB, and reinforced the expectations instantly. This ethos was used for many other situations with positive effect.



*Figure 1: DB working on the allotment.*

Although DB would attend regularly, he would occasionally miss the bus. Marc encouraged him to take responsibility for this and helped to support him in getting an earlier bus so this didn't happen. DB no longer has an issue in getting to SWRAC on time.

These steps seem to help give DB focus and there is a notable improvement in his attitude in class.

A big change in DB's behaviour and the respect he has for his surroundings began when the class started constructing outdoor products around the farm. The first project DB helped with was building the allotment and looking after the

plants within this. He put a lot of work into this and seemed to be very proud of this achievement. In addition to the allotment, DB also helped to make smoking shelter and a BBQ.

DB seems to thrive when working outdoors but his classroom work also started to improve. He became more engaged, more determined, and focused when in class. He responded better to feedback given and was a lot less disruptive. He now takes ownership of his actions and appears to have a clearer idea of where he wants to go in life.

The Information & Guidance Team (IAG) started working with DB in December 2020. The IAG team did a Holistic assessment to find out more about DB, his past and where he sees himself in the future. DB expressed that he wanted to be a Brick Layer and the IAG team worked with DB to look at different courses and careers available. The IAG team have carried out 3 meetings with DB and have helped him apply for Weymouth college which he has now been accepted at.

DB will soon be taking his Entry Level 3 English and Level 1 Maths Functional Skills and Marc (tutor) is confident that he will pass these.

DB has come a long way since he started with SWRAC. His behaviour and attitude have improved, and he seems to have a better outlook on life.

### **The outcome for the learner**

DB is on his way to achieving a qualification in English & Maths Functional Skills which will be a useful achievement for future education/employment. He is able to focus more on the task in hand and will take ownership of his actions which will stand him in good stead for his future.

DB has been accepted into Weymouth College on a Level 1 Brick Laying course for September 2021 which will then hopefully lead onto an apprenticeship. DB is very much looking forward to starting his next chapter at Weymouth college and understands the opportunities he now has.

### **The learner voice**

Before DB joined SWRAC he was at the Compass Learning Centre doing basic Maths, English and Life Skills. After this DB didn't think he was ready for college, so he came to SWRAC.

When he first started at SWRAC he admits he was a 'nightmare' and just 'didn't care'. Some examples he gave is that he would put pins in the seat, throw dishwasher tablets out of the window, throw apples at the windows and was just generally misbehaving. He respected the other learners but at time he felt he could be a bit of bully. He felt like he would never change but now thinks he has changed so much for the better since being with SWRAC.

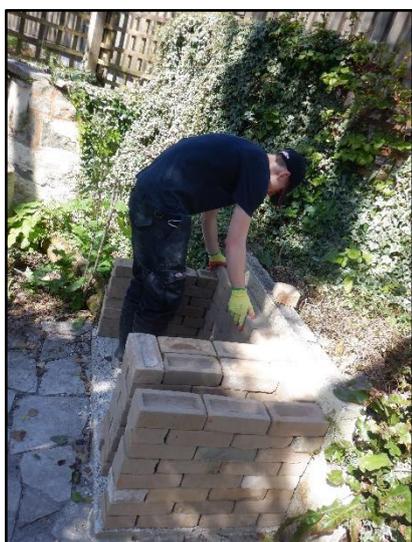


*Figure 2: DB building the smoking shelter.*

DB believed that Marc had a structured and strict approach with him which helped him realise that he was being 'childish' and that he didn't want to behave like that anymore. DB wanted to do something with his life and to make money for himself and realised his actions could affect this.

One thing DB really liked about SWRAC and Marc is that everyone is treated the same and, because of this, DB respects Marc. This has made DB realise that everyone should be treated equally.

When DB started, he said he used to rip up his work but now he is in a routine he will just 'get on with work' now. He can't remember the last time he really moaned whilst at SWRAC and enjoys the course a lot more now. DB said that 'Marc is probably the best teacher I've ever had' and feels like Marc will always look out for him even when he is being selfish.



*Figure 3: DB building the BBQ*

DB wants to be a Brick Layer and has now been accepted into Weymouth college and, although he knows it will be a change, he now feels '100 %' ready for this.

DB really enjoyed doing the outdoor activities and this helped him have 'a clearer mind' and gave him 'the space to think' rather than being stuck inside. He particularly enjoyed making the BBQ as this involved brick laying which is what he wants to do in the future.

DB believes he has managed to change the way he is through his own determination and with SWRAC's support along the way.