



Steve Cherry's son Michael, joined Ambergate Sports College in 2006 and then Sandon School 6th Form in 2016.

“Michael has developed and progressed since attending GANF Schools”

All boys together...

Since Michael was a very young boy he and his Dad, Steve, have lived together, with Steve being a full time Dad and carer to him. Following a difficult start within the family home, Michael and his Dad became a team and life slowly started to get easier for them.

Living in Northampton at the time, the family Health Visitor noted a developmental delay in Michael at the age of 3 years old. This was monitored regularly and Michael attended a mainstream primary school from the age of 5 years.

On starting school Michael was pre-verbal and he struggled to communicate; quite quickly his behaviour became disruptive.

After a time the father and son duo relocated to the Sleaford area. Michael attended another mainstream school, but continued to display the same disruptive behaviour.

Steve found the school to be unsupportive and made the very difficult decision to remove Michael from that situation. This allowed for a suitable de-escalation period, enabling Steve the time to search for an alternative source of education for Michael.





GANF had the Key...

Moving forward, Steve managed to find a special school setting that Michael could access. As a trial he was accepted on a Thursday afternoon only session to enable some form of education. This setting had the potential to become a full time post for Michael but a lengthy waiting list meant this couldn't happen for at least 9 months.

Steve didn't feel this was right for his son and again took to the internet to research some alternative Special School provisions.

He found GANF schools and booked an appointment to meet the then Head Teacher, and now CEO for of the Trust, Peter Bell.

After looking around the school and meeting the staff, Steve felt that it was the right place for Michael to be, and a full time place was offered.

In the beginning there were a few expected teething problems; however, these were very quickly overcome with the support of GANF staff and Michael began to settle into his new surroundings.

From then on Steve has been more than happy with Michael's time at Ambergate and Sandon and said, "Michael really stalled within a mainstream school setting. Ambergate Sports College helped him progress and develop. In 2016 he joined Sandon Sixth form and they have been supporting Michael with his life and living skills."

Michael is making excellent progress at Sandon School in The Hospitality Class. He is a vital part of the team at the Coffee Shop and now has a work experience placement at Little Gems Gift Shop in Grantham. Michael said, "Sandon School is good, it's got everything I need and I'm happy there."

Michael is a very adventurous, comical young man, who adores the rough and tumble activities. From a very small boy he has been fanatical about keys and has collected them ever since. In his spare time now, Michael and his Dad can be found at any number of theme parks in the country, or out in the countryside Geocaching.



"Sandon School is good, it's got everything I need and I'm happy there."

Grantham Additional Needs Fellowship -

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