

### **Feedback of Schools Direct Trainees' Visit to The Grove, Monday 12 December 2016**

Three secondary Schools Direct trainees based at Ponteland Middle and Ponteland High schools visited The Grove from 9.30-12 on Monday 12 December 2016. They had had little experience of specialist SEN provision and were fascinated to see The Grove, its facilities, resources and provision and thoroughly enjoyed talking with the Headteacher Mrs Derries about the school, its challenges and huge successes. The students specialised in English, Maths and Science and were very impressed and interested to see how much of their subject was within the curriculum and Schemes of Work. They understood the health and safety requirements for the children and, too, felt safe within the environment. They saw the future development of the school using the admin block on the other side of the road as a natural progression for the school. When we left the school we visited the pop up shop at the Homebase store at Tweedmouth, purchased items and spoke with the Grove students and their TA who were manning the stall. This was a lovely extension to our visit.

On a personal note, Penny, our visit was a complete eye-opener where we saw education in action for children who are unable to manage mainstream school and it helped us all to understand the overlap, compromise, communication and necessary interventions between specialist schools and mainstream provision.

Thank you so much for your time, expertise and wisdom as the visit to your school helped us understand the afternoon visit to Bridges at Berwick Middle School and the following morning's visit to Cleaswell Hill Special School.

With kind regards,

Caroline

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