

## Transforming the life chances of some of England's most vulnerable excluded children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs

Below is a case study which illustrates how Olive Academies supports and then empowers our students to turn around their lives. All details have been authorised by the family of our student, **LA**, and his named changed for identity purposes:

**LA** was permanently excluded from mainstream school for persistent disruptive and threatening behaviour towards other students. He joined Olive AP Academy – Havering at the start of year 10 and is now a year 11 student. He is still open to the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and known both by Social Services as well as the police.



**LA** lives with his mother and our Academy found out very quickly about his passion for drumming, rhythm and music. A self-taught drummer, he was one of our first students to take up the new summer drumming sessions we are currently lucky enough to offer.

**LA** has also engaged well with our holistic range of therapeutic interventions and made significant academic progress particularly with maths where he has been coached by a city investment banker on a one-to-one basis. To support **LA's** future prospects, he has gained careers advice alongside first-hand insights about working in the financial sector. We are helping him to explore work placement opportunities as a personal trainer at a local gym once it is fully-operational after the lockdown.

Since **LA** came to our Academy his attendance has increased by nearly 24% to 86.4%. We have recorded a decrease of negative incidents from 147 when he was in year 10 to 67 in this year 11. During this same period his fixed period exclusions have reduced by half to 5. What is especially pleasing is that we award our students for good behaviour and good work through our Olive character point system and **LA** has achieved an incredible 777 points this year – some three times above the school's average.

Access to regular music lessons is taking **LA** to the next level, his self-confidence has improved greatly, as has his drumming! He is visibly excited every single time he studies with our new one-to-one drum teacher; it is wonderful to see how happy he is when he masters new techniques.

Due to the incredible support of FutureDJs and Havering Music School, it is the first time that our academy has been able to offer our students music education, including through remote and virtual classes. We will soon be able to incorporate a summer DJ learning programme through a generous donation of decking systems. With continuation funding we will be able to achieve so much more and run these important lessons after the summer holidays, as part of our standard Curriculum which will link music with academic study. With support we will, at last, be able to embed a brand-new culture of music, creative learning and broaden our therapeutic support interventions to help transform more young lives.