

## Case Study:

# Olsen House School, Great Crosby, Liverpool

(For children and young people with SEMH, ADHD, ASC and LD)

*“Fresh Start helps remove barriers to learning for our students. They now choose to read, are happy reading to others and, importantly, can access the curriculum more easily. Confidence and self-esteem have increased in all lessons.”*

Olsen House School teaches children and young people with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH), with associated needs including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism (ASC) and moderate and specific learning difficulties (LD).



### Confident staff, enthusiastic students

Our staff are knowledgeable about phonics and reading and teach the Fresh Start programme confidently. They use the online portal films to review activities and help each other as a team. Teachers throughout the school have noticed the impact; students now read more confidently and speak more in other curriculum areas too.

Students who were previously unable to read are now reading enthusiastically and developing their fluency. Their self-esteem has increased; it's a pleasure to see. The Ruth Miskin Training consultant trainer working with our school commented: “Staff enjoy teaching the programme, develop positive relationships with their one-to-one students and are always eager to learn and improve”.

### One-to-one teaching accelerates progress

Eleven students started Fresh Start in January 2022. Each student had four 40-minute sessions with a trained teaching assistant every week. After two

### School information

Cherry Tripp, Reading Leader

For children and young people with SEMH, ADHD, ASC and LD

Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4

Number of students: 55

Number taught Fresh Start 2022: 11

terms, the average increase in reading age was one year and two months. We are delighted; this is a huge achievement for our students.

### “I join in with all my lessons now”

Student A needed to practise reading words containing the first 30 sounds. By June 2022, he was halfway through the Fresh Start programme. Staff have noticed a marked change in his behaviour. His confidence has improved dramatically and he joins in with whole-class activities. He is now excited to buy books and regularly reads to his younger sibling.

### “I love that I can read the questions in maths”

Student B started the programme in January 2022 and completed it in June. He enjoys reading now and even reads to his peers; something he never did before. He joins in with lessons and works more independently, especially in maths as he can now read the questions. It is a joy to witness his confidence and the improvement in his self-esteem.



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