

Dear Julia and Katherine,

I was always a child who needed additional lessons after school to cope with the every day life in the classroom, even in the private school environment during my primary school years.

After my eleven plus examination I went onto a government secondary school, where my parents and I just knew I would not get the individual attention and therefore would find it hard to cope.

My parents soon enrolled me in after school lessons with Learning for Life (*now Lockerbie College*), where I could benefit from small classes and one on one attention.

After four years at my new school my parents became more concerned about my results and were very fearful of what fifth form would bring, as I was being promoted to that level although I had pretty much failed all of my subjects.

My parents remember sitting with you two with tears flowing down their faces as they thought about what could be done to turn around my school experience and help me to be the best I could be. As parents they felt they were failing me.

My parents remember having a conversation with Julia where she asked them, if she could register to have some students full time, if they would be interested in signing me up. For my parents that was the answer they were looking for, finally they felt hopeful again.

I repeated my fourth form studies with Learning for Life (*now Lockerbie College*) and then went onto complete my studies for my CXC subjects, where I gained confidence in myself. I sat six CXC subjects, four of which I gained at Grade 1: English, Technical Drawing, Information Technology with a distinction in Mathematics, a Grade 2 in Integrated Science and a Grade 3 in Social Studies. On hind sight I could have probably coped with another subject.

The teachers taught me more than just the work that was necessary; they were caring, understanding and encouraged me to be the very best I could be. They were hard when they needed to be, but always very professional.

My parents and I are most grateful to you, Julia and Katherine, and the rest of the team and we wish you all every success in the world. We will never forget that if it were not for you all, I might have left school with no CXC's at all.

Ryan Harris

(Ryan is currently the Webmaster of www.lockerbiecollege.com and we are thrilled to welcome him home, to where his success began. He's now helping us!)