



# Case Study

## Cast Angling Project

Simon is a young person from the Worksop area of Nottinghamshire.

By his own admission he didn't get on well in the normal school environment and was constantly getting himself in trouble with other pupils and staff. Simon was getting a reputation as a low achiever, and a hard to engage young person.

Simon did have an interest in angling and the schools Education Welfare Officer picked up on this and contacted CAST enquiring if Simon could be offered a place on one of the School courses that was running.

The CAST school courses consist of a maximum of 10 young people that have been referred to the project either by a school, pupil referral unit or other agencies. This course runs for a 1½ days per week for an academic year. The ½ day is spent in a classroom environment where the young people study for an OCN in Angling and Conservation, while the full day is a practical angling day by the water.

At first Simon was a bit wary of all the new faces but soon made some good friends on the project. The classroom work was about a subject that he was passionate about and he soon discovered that learning could be fun but more importantly discovered that he could learn.

Teachers from Simon's school came out to visit him and was amazed at the transformation, here was a young person who could not sit still in a classroom, but could sit by the side of a pond for a couple of hours in complete concentration. Here was a young person who would not study or engage in other subjects but was well on the way to achieving the highest Level 2 grade in the OCN.

Simon spent the final 2 years of his school life with CAST and went on to achieve his Level 2 OCN; he also gained an ASDAN Youth Award and his Level 1 Assistant Angling Coach Qualification. He also took part in two one week residential's and went onto represent Bassetlaw twice in the Nottinghamshire Youth Games Final.

Simon also represented CAST at an alternative curriculum showcase at the Nottingham Ice Arena that was attended by most of the county schools. Simon turned out to be the star of the show, and had a constant audience of professionals who listened to his experiences with the CAST project.

Simon is now attending a local further education college where he studying to be a plasterer, and through his positive experiences, now enjoying his learning.

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