



This week on...



WELCOME BACK TO  *The EDIT*

Everyone has a story and personal stories from those living with disabilities are a powerful advocacy tool. They can change people's hearts and minds, encouraging empathy and understanding. During Disability History Month, I thought it pertinent to communicate one such story from one of our students here at Warlingham who was kind enough to share with us their experiences.

How can I use this?

Disability awareness helps to encourage and nurture empathy, so it is important that we help students to gain knowledge and experience about disabilities.

Sharing this story, and others like it, we help our students develop awareness and empathy.

See you next week!

What it's like to have a disability at Warlingham?



I am a Key Stage 3 student at Warlingham. I have genetic sensory-neural hearing loss which means my hearing will never get better, so I'm reliant on hearing aids and I've been equipped with these since I was 3 months old.

As I became older, I became more aware of my hearing loss, and I find myself always wearing my hair down to cover my hearing aids to try and hide them. But on the other hand, I feel comfortable talking to teachers about it and asking for support when I mishear something or need help with something. They sit me at the front, and this enables me to access a full range of sounds and to be able to lip read in louder situations. Sometimes I don't hear what people say, and people might think I'm ignoring them, but in reality, it is because I haven't heard you.

Every half term, I have my Teacher of the Deaf (ToD) come in to assess my hearing devices to make sure they are working properly. I don't really have a choice whether or not to wear my hearing aids, so I have to learn to live with it and accept who I am because I can't change myself.

Even though people with disabilities may feel like the odd one out, we are still good enough and we can do the same thing as others without a disability.