



RIVER TEES
Hospital School

RIVER TEES HOSPITAL SCHOOL INSPIRING ALUMNI WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Maddie O'lane
2023– 2026



"When I was in mainstream school, I spent most of my time in constant fight-or-flight mode. Every day felt overwhelming, and I often wished I could be anywhere else. I didn't understand how to communicate my emotions or recognise how my thoughts, feelings and behaviours were connected. Coming to River Tees Hospital School changed everything. Working regularly with the school's therapists helped me understand my emotions and develop strategies to manage them in a safe and supportive environment. I also built strong relationships with trusted adults who believed in me and helped me believe in myself."

I never thought I would be able to sit my GCSEs. I didn't think I was clever enough and worried about learning at a different pace to other pupils. At Hospital School, I realised that none of that mattered. The staff understood my individual needs and adapted their support so I could succeed.

One of my proudest achievements is increasing my reading age from 10 years and 8 months when I joined in September 2023 to 17 years by June 2026. My confidence in learning has grown so much because of the support I received. Hospital School has also given me opportunities I never thought I'd have, including residential visits, abseiling, ice skating, and reading to residents in a local care home. Most importantly, it has shown me that with the right support, I can achieve things I once thought were impossible."

Achieved: 9 GCSEs
(Including Grade 4 in Art & Design, Grade 3 in English Language and Grade 3:2 in Science)

Studied: Level 1 Preparation for Adulthood and Employment at Middlesbrough College (Transitions)

'WE CHANGE LIVES'