

A Parents' Perspective

Eunice Onwuamaegbu : A parent case study



“Think positively, be an encourager to your children and to yourself.”

Pre-University Experiences

I have three daughters, and after studying for their GCSEs they all attended Longley Park Sixth Form where they all took A-Levels. My strongest memories of their school years were that my children were happy with the schools they chose, and that they improved their overall performance - physically, socially, mentally and spiritually.

My ambitions for my daughters were to achieve their life goals. I did want them to go to university as 'knowledge is power' and without a proper education, I felt they would get left behind. Independently, they knew what they wanted to do after sixth form/college - I only gave advice when necessary.

Two of my daughter's had a gap year, which I felt was very good for them and the family. My youngest daughter decided not to have a gap year and she went straight to university which in other ways suited both us and her.

University

My daughters attended Manchester Met, Bradford and Manchester University. Being the parent of a university student is exciting, however, when my daughters started university I was concerned about having regular communication with them, without spending too much. To overcome this we shopped around for a telephone package which suited us and kept our costs down.

Financially having children at university is quite tough, but we were assisted by the student loan system for tuition, accommodation etc. My daughters also have jobs during their time at university, either during term time or in the holidays.

From my point of view the impact on my daughters has, so far, been good. My daughters are very proud of themselves, articulate and wise. I am so proud of them.

Looking To The Future

When my daughters graduate, I will be so proud of them and pleased that they are on the way to achieving their life ambitions. They know what they want to do after graduation and I will always be there to give them support whenever I can and wherever I am.

From my point of view the benefits of Higher Education are enormous. It boosts their confidence, self esteem and job opportunities.

My advice to parents of children who are thinking of going to university is 'think positively, be an encourager to your child or children and to yourself.'

I would also like to say 'Many thanks to Aimhigher for giving my daughters the opportunity to be, at least, part of the way towards achieving their life ambitions.'