Laura Oxley 2019
University of York

“We’ve got fabulous staff in school and they are willing to go that extra mile to find ways of working as best they can with our kids. We try and make it clear that we’re not just doing what’s easy. Because if we are, we’re not doing our job properly. If we are doing what’s easy, then we’re not going to get the results we want.”

Laura Oxley is a senior teacher at a secondary school in the UK. She has worked in education for over 20 years and is known for her innovative approach to behaviour management. In this interview, she shares her views on the importance of supporting students in realising their potential and the challenges she faces in doing so.

“We try and help students manage their behaviour by making changes as a staff. ‘Good leaders have the ability to help their staff develop in a way that makes them better teachers. We don’t talk about what’s wrong with our staff, we talk about what we can do to help them improve.’”

Laura believes that it’s crucial to work with parents and the community to support students in their education. She also emphasizes the importance of acknowledging the efforts of staff and students alike.

“If you’re in a school where leadership is about doing things right, not what’s right, then you’re not going to get anywhere. It’s about being open to challenge. ‘Education moves on. It’s not the person that is the problem. It is the relationship that is the problem.”

Laura’s approach to education is grounded in her belief that education should be inclusive and empowering. She stresses the importance of collaboration between teachers, students, and parents to create a positive learning environment. In her words, “We all have a role to play in making sure that every child feels valued and supported.”

Laura’s commitment to her students and her passion for education are evident in her approach to behaviour management. She is not afraid to speak out about the challenges she faces and the solutions she implements to help her students.

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