

Case study: ‘Anthony’*

Anthony is 12 and is in the second year of a boys’ school. He is relatively tall for his age and looks up from under a mop of dark hair. Compared with other pupils in the year Anthony’s academic achievements are a little below average. He hangs out with a couple of rather serious boys, but they can become quite giggly and excited when they are together.

There is something about Anthony that can be rather irritating. He sometimes hands homework in late and often forgets things he needs for the lesson. His Form Tutor worries how negative some comments made to her about the boy are.

There was an incident in a Maths lesson recently. The teacher had asked Anthony a question he felt sure he would be able to answer with a little effort. Anthony became rather red, made a face and finally stormed out of the room to laughter from some of the class. The teacher settled the group to work and went outside where he found Anthony in the corridor, looking tearful but sulky. When he tried to speak to him, Anthony turned away. The teacher felt exasperated with him.

* This case study is not based on a particular individual.