

My Own Kind of Heaven

Can you imagine a school where you can call your teachers by their first names? Or a place where you can laugh and joke with your teachers? Where they do hassle you to get your work done, but don't force you to do it. Does this all sound a little too good to be true. Well, it isn't. This heaven of mine is called the Guildford Learning Centre.

There are a lot of differing opinions on this type of school. For some, it's the one thing that helped them finish high school and get their lives back on track. For others, it set them back farther. Some call it "Work and Burn." Some call it a place for losers. Well for me, it was the difference between graduating or just plain old giving up.

Now don't get me wrong, this is not a place for everybody. You have to want to do the work and have the motivation to make yourself achieve your goals. No one there is going to do it for you, or pass you because of good behaviour. If you slack off or don't attend, you have no one to blame but yourself. For most people this is harder than public high school because you don't have someone there all the time telling you this has to be done by tomorrow, or do this for homework tonight. You have to want to do it for yourself.

It has taught me a lot of valuable lessons in the three years that I have attended. Number one: You can do it if you put your mind to it. Number two: It takes more dedication to get out of this school, than any other public secondary school. And last but not least, if you are really serious about graduating, there are a number of loving, caring, dedicated people right at your fingertips to encourage you when you get in a rut.

Like I said before, this is not a place for everybody. But this school has taught me more about myself and what I can accomplish than any other thing has in my life. For that I will be forever grateful, for it has shown me that I can do whatever I put my mind to.

By Sara McDonald
Grad 2001