

A background of a red brick wall with a repeating pattern of bricks and mortar lines. The bricks are a mix of reddish-brown and dark brown tones.

Derwen Dreams

Written by
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*Edited & Produced by
Drew Fleming, Max Marek
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Jay was a naturally shy person, he was short with fairly long fair hair and he had just had his birthday, so he was now nineteen years old. He was a lad who stayed in his room a lot and he didn't really have any friends, but that was all about to change.

It was a bright sunny morning in September, and it was just about to turn 9am. Today was a big day for Jay; in fact, he thought this day would never happen, not in a million years, yes that's

1,000,000 years!

A car pulled into a parking bay outside a large red brick building surrounded by trees. Jay sat in the back of his Gran's beloved Skoda car clutching his favourite wrestling book. He held the handle of the inside of the car door, pulled it slowly and gradually got out of the car. His Gran smiled and handed him his roller suitcase and grabbed another small bag before slamming the car boot shut and loudly announcing,

'we are here'

This was Jay's first day in college, Derwen College!

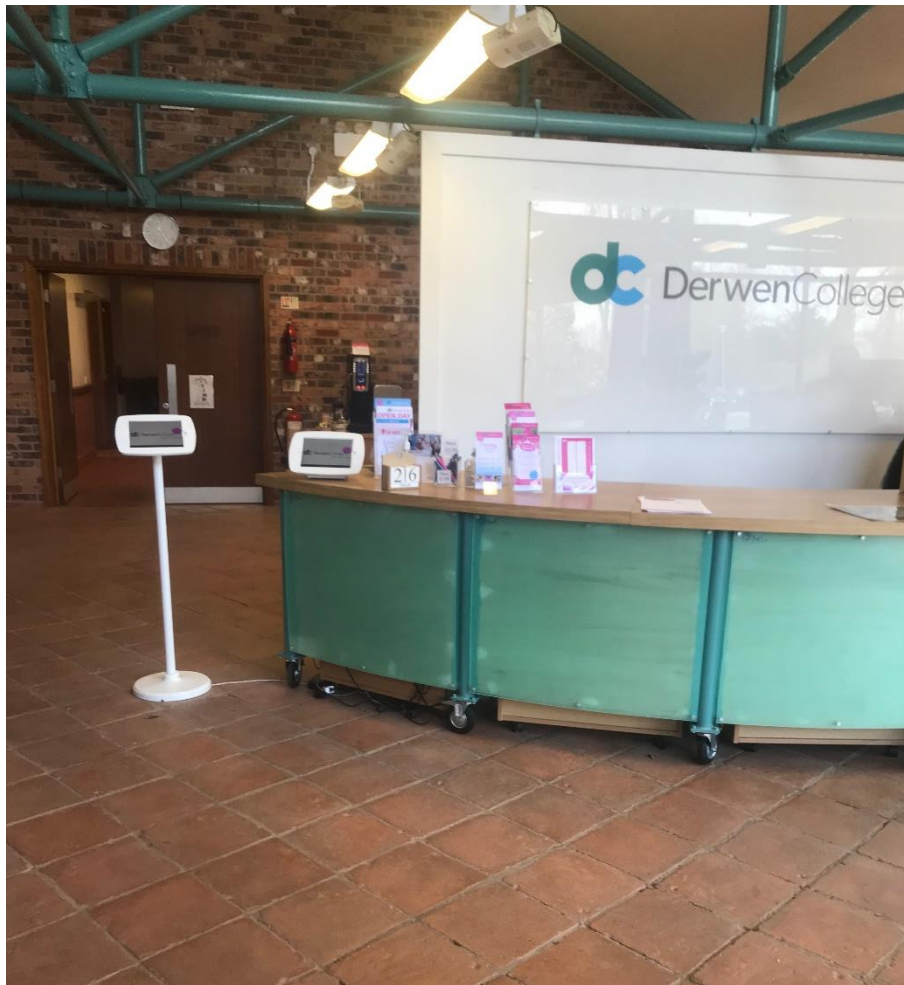


DerwenCollege

Where Learning Comes to Life

Together, they walked around the corner to another red brick building with a large automatic door, it opened and they went in. Surrounded by a huge desk and many blue waiting room chairs, was a woman with glasses and a scarf on, her badge read 'Alison'. She was stood waiting, ready to greet them with a smile on her face. She looked right at Jay, lifted her arms up high and bellowed:

'Welcome to Derwen
College'



Jay was nervous but said hello to the woman and smiled back, whilst thinking how hard that is for him to do.

Another member of staff arrived and took them for a quick look around just to remember where everything is because it

had been a long time since Jay came to visit for the day.

Eventually, they arrived at Jay's new work department Hospitality and Housekeeping. Jay's dream was to be a waiter. 'Okay,' Jay said uncertainly and quietly to his Gran. Then he took a deep breath and confessed, 'I'm nervous, my tummy feels funny'. Gran hugged Jay tightly; it was time for her to leave. 'I'll ring you, Gran,' he muttered. 'You better had do' she replied sharply, laughing.

A young woman approached Jay with a piece of paper in her hand. 'Let me introduce myself' she said softly, 'I am your Personal Tutor. My name is Sam'. Jay nodded; this was all he was able to do

because he did not feel he could look up just yet.

She turned and stood next to Jay, instead of in front of him, and whispered, 'Jay, this is your new timetable. Let's see what you think'. Sam passed Jay a white piece of paper. Jay turned it over and studied it. There were so many words. Written down the left hand side was each day of the week and there were so many numbers! These must be the times of my lessons, he thought. Sam softly repeated her question, 'what do you think?' Jay panicked; he wanted to shout that it looked too...

busy, busy, busy!

Instead he looked up for a brief second and muttered 'it's okay, thank you'. Sam told him to try all his lessons and if he was not happy about anything, they could meet up and talk about it.

After a week of being at Derwen College, Jay loved his timetable! He wanted to change one thing so he talked to Sam because he decided he did not like yoga

and so changed it to something else, but he loved the rest!

	Name:	Jay Mahone		Residence:		Key Worker:	
	Programme:	Study Programme					
	Tutor:	Sam Samkins					
	Understanding:						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 10:30	Makaton	HH - Garden Café	Waiting on	Relationships Award Centre	HH- Food Centre Baking		
10:30-11:00	Break	Break		Break	Break		
11:00 12:30	Makaton	Trolley Service		HH-Garden Café	Baking		10.00 - Swimming Swimming Pool
				HH-Garden Café			
12:30-1:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
1:30 2:30	Independence	HH - Orangery	Waiting on	HH - Garden Café (BOH)	Emotions & Wellbeing	1.00 - Walking, Meet outside Well-Being	
2:30 3:30	Independence			FS E2 Maths (D) Bradbury Centre	HH		
3:30-4:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break		
4:00 5:00	Online Safety	Move and relaxation Studio 1	Board games league	Makaton Choir Studio 1			
5:00 6:30	Supported Tea	Supported Tea	Supported Tea	Supported Tea	Supported Tea		
6:30 onwards	6.30 - Art and Craft, Art Centre 7.30 - Dance, Studio 1		Yoga				

Jay knew where he was going everyday thanks to his timetable and to staff member Kerry and the team. It was their job to help students get to work, but they were not serious or bossy in fact they were really funny and always laughing. He even put his name down to go to

College Band in the evening.



He tried to remember his timetable by finding things that rhyme:

Makaton Monday 

Trolley Service Tuesday

Waiting on Wednesday

Toasties for lunch Thursday

(okay, that doesn't rhyme)

And fun baking Friday (I'm

losing it now!)

By the time Jay had finished his working week he was exhausted but also very excited because it was the weekend!

Woohoo!

Super-tastic Saturday

**(which usually meant going on a trip
out somewhere cool)**

swimming Sunday

Jay worried that he would not like the food. He imagined what meals they might have at Derwen College.



**Sprout
sandwiches?**

Celery soup?



**Broccoli
flavoured
ice cream?**

He dreaded to think. His Gran made the best pasta bake ever! She made the most amazing jam roly-poly and Jay thought nothing could be better. At least it was something to look forward to at half term he thought, going home for some lovely homemade food!

However, the food was okay. Jay liked it in fact. His favourites were lasagne and chips, chicken curry, which he had never tried before, Jay loved being a waiter and learning all about hospitality, but he struggled to read the words on the menu sometimes.



Katie, his teacher noticed Jay was particularly quiet and said, ‘Having some trouble there, Jay?’

‘I just don’t get it,’ he said. ‘I mean, I tried to do the work in school but I couldn’t. It’s like it’s too hard. I freeze up and, you know, I panic.’

‘That’s what I’m here for!’ she said, ‘We’ll do it together’. Jay even joined an English group to practise his reading and it was surprisingly fun!

So he loved his timetable, he liked the food, he was missing home but at break time he felt a little lost. Sat in the Student Union, Jay was munching some crisps on his own. A tall bearded man called John who worked at college in Student Liaison, who Jay had met last week, approached him with a smile. 'Hi Jay, how are you settling in?' he said. He replied in a soft voice, 'I'm okay'. 'I know you're okay, but how are you settling in?' John responded. 'Work is good, I love being a waiter here'. 'That's awesome mate, well done you. Have you made many friends?' 'Not really' Jay replied when really he meant none, not one friend!

Turning his head, John peered around the room. He gestured to a person to come over. A tall lad, slim with black hair. He was wearing combat trousers, you know the ones with the pockets all down the sides and he had those really hard boots on, those steel toe capped ones for working outside. He worked in the Horticulture department. He had a big, bulky, warm looking coat casually held under his arm that he could barely hold onto. It was bigger than he was! It was massive!



'Hi Jay, I'm Robert' he said putting his hand out to shake hands with him. Robert looked at Jay's T-Shirt, which read 'Hogwarts' and said 'I like Harry Potter too, let's be mates'. He had always imagined the other students laughing at him and pointing but instead he met Robert, his first friend at Derwen College. Robert was popular, everyone knew Robert. He was funny. He said hello to everyone and Robert liked to talk and play football in his spare time. Robert was representative for his department, Horticulture in the Student Council. Jay thought he would like to try and stand for election one day too.

Friday soon rolled around again and it was nearly the end of term. It had been so much fun and next week he and Robert were going to go and see the Christmas Show, Robert's girlfriend was starring in it!

Walking to their lessons together that morning Robert asked if Jay was coming to the disco on Saturday night.





‘I don’t like things like that, sorry’ Jay answered. Robert said his girlfriend was going and he was hoping for a snog. ‘urgh!’ exclaimed Jay. ‘That’s disgusting’. ‘No it’s not; I love my girlfriend we have been together since we started college’.

Robert thought nothing of it but Jay thought about it all day. He liked music but discos were busy, very loud places and he did not know if he would cope but he wanted to spend time with his friend.

That evening he spoke to the staff in his house and they suggested he went over there and just looked in, just to see what was going on. In the Student Union, you don't have to go in the big part of the building if you don't want to, so Jay just went and sat in the Hunter's Bar part.

He slid onto a seat at the back of the room and got his phone out to check the time. Robert was coming at 7:30pm. It was 7:10pm. Jay panicked that he had got there too early. He sat and waited, nervously. He could not stop his feet from moving and twitching.

Jay thought about all he had achieved this term and was so proud of himself, he thought that he could do this! He leaned back, trying to appear relaxed and knocked a poster down from the noticeboard behind him. It floated to the floor and Jay stamped on it with his foot to stop it floating away. On bending down to pick it up something caught his eye. A bag lay on the floor with a Harry Potter wand pen sticking out of it. The bag was

blue and pink and had Little Mix on it. Jay had heard of Little Mix but didn't really like their music to be honest. He looked up and saw the outline of a person on the table next to him, but couldn't fully look because Jay found looking at people really difficult.

Jay peered at the wand pen and whispered 'Expelliarmus!' as he picked the poster up from the floor.

'Expecto Patronum' said a voice, quietly in reply. Jay froze. Someone had spoken to him. Someone had said something. Someone had said another Harry Potter spell. Someone had obviously heard him saying a spell! What was he going to do?

Jay looked up. In front of him was a girl about the same age as him. She had long blonde hair styled in two perfect plaits with a thick fringe. She had blue eyes, sophisticated black rimmed glasses on and a light blue Student Union zip up jacket, just like Robert's.

Jay tried to say hello, instead he said another Harry Potter spell word 'Lumos' – this girl did indeed light up the room. She was gorgeous.

She looked straight at Jay, smiled with a twinkle in her eye and giggled. She spoke with a bit of a Welsh accent because she was from Wales. 'My name is Marie; I'm in the second year. You're Jay, you're friends with Robert, and he's on the

council with me. Do you like Harry Potter like me then? Are you going on the museum trip next month?’

Jay sat, listening to Marie. She was a talker, in fact, she didn’t stop, she didn’t shut up. She talked and talked, she giggled, she asked him questions, he answered, and he laughed, a lot.

Jay was in **love!**

THE END

Meet the Author



Writer:

Katrina Beacham

Hi, I am Katrina and I am a 2nd year student at Derwen College. I like socialising with my friends and spending time in my residence. I have enjoyed writing this story it has been amazing and I hope it might help other students.

Edited and produced

by Drew Fleming, Max Marek and Thomas Shacklady