Every child has something to offer, and Greetland Academy can give them the chance to make the most of their abilities, as Michelle and Robert have discovered.

Michelle and Robert Finlay live in Greetland with daughter Scarlett, who is eight.

**Something special to offer**

Greetland Academy is not new to Michelle and Robert as Robert was a pupil there as a child. Nevertheless, it was not that fact which led them to choose it for Scarlett but its noted reputation for academic results and Michelle’s belief in its approach to learning which helped them make up their minds.

“I have absolutely nothing against the other schools in our area, all of which seem to offer a very good standard of education and overall care,” explains Michelle. “It was just that there was something special about Greetland that appealed to me; something I couldn’t quite define but made me feel that this was what I wanted for my daughter. Scarlett is a quick learner, enthusiastic to embrace something new and has an enquiring mind, and I felt that Greetland had the edge in what it could offer in that respect.”
Creative learning
It was not only effective education that Michelle and Robert wanted for Scarlett but the motivation to learn, and this is what they both felt Greetland could provide. "I absolutely love the creative approach," Michelle says. "They deliver the curriculum with imagination and that really helps to cement what the children have learned. The Inspiration Days really are an inspiration: it was great fun dressing Scarlett up as an archaeologist for the day they spent looking for fossils and learning about dinosaurs in the school grounds, and I'm convinced will have had a lasting effect."

An incredible learning journey
This innovative approach to learning runs throughout the school, with even the youngest pupils encouraged to take part in activities which demand that bit extra in terms of participation and contribution. One of Michelle's favourites was when the children took part in a mock election: "Even at Key Stage 1 level, they were given the chance to make decisions based on the information they were given, to offer their own opinions and to vote how they wished on the basis of what they had been told. I was so impressed that I wrote to the school to thank them – it was an incredible learning journey and so cleverly implemented."

Every child, every opportunity
It is the challenges that children are offered which Michelle feels to be so important, believing as she does that children of any ability will rise to the expectations made of them. Whilst Scarlett is an able and enthusiastic student, Michelle is aware that every child at Greetland is given exactly the right attention whatever their abilities or circumstances. "Every student is as important as the next, and all children are given every opportunity to achieve to their highest potential. Because the teaching staff are so genuinely enthusiastic, so professional and so interested in the children in their care, the children respond by doing the best they can."

Listening to the children
The impressive results achieved by Greetland Academy's students may, believes Michelle, be partially as a result of the policy of closely involving the children in their learning journey. "They listen to the children and take account of their individual strengths and weaknesses; if a child needs some extra help they will make every effort to provide that, whether it is because the child is under-performing or because they need additional stimulation. From my own point of view – as a parent and a reading volunteer – I have seen that the school ethos is about getting to grips with each child's personality and ability, and offering them something over and above the ordinary."

And that is where Michelle's priorities lie – a school which will offer her daughter a solid education in a creative learning environment; inspiration and the chance to make the most of early opportunities. This is why Michelle and Robert chose Greetland Academy.