

Our Emmerdale Experience

Emmerdale has never been short of drama—plane crashes, helicopter disasters, explosions and the occasional catastrophic storm... in many ways, not entirely dissimilar to a quiet week in the North East.

For Jamie, Hartlepool School's (and possibly Britain's) most dedicated *Emmerdale* super fan, this world of high-stakes storytelling became a reality.

Through consistent effort & improved behaviour, Jamie earned a carefully considered reward: a weekend visit to the *Emmerdale* set. This opportunity reflects the school's intentional use of meaningful incentives to recognise progress and promote sustained engagement.



During the visit, Jamie experienced a particularly significant moment in the Village Hall, where he met actor and *Emmerdale* star, Bradley Riches.

Open about his own experiences as a young person with autism, Bradley took time to speak with Jamie in a genuine and encouraging way, making the interaction both meaningful and memorable. Even sparking an aspiration within Jamie, that perhaps he too could be an actor.

This experience highlights the school's commitment to providing individualised, inclusive opportunities that build cultural capital, and connect learning to real-world contexts.

Reflecting on the visit, Jamie described it simply as the "*best day of my life.*" A powerful reminder that when recognition, opportunity, and aspiration align, the impact can be both immediate and long-lasting.

