**Dream school**

Everyone in Britain knows Jamie Oliver, the multimillionaire TV chef. But when he left school at 16 with just 2 GCSE qualifications his teachers didn’t imagine that he would become so famous a few years later. Jamie’s school experience is unfortunately not unusual. In the UK, 47% of young people leave school at 16 with very few qualifications.

Jamie is now on TV again in the documentary series Jamie’s Dream School. The programme tries to create the school that Jamie wanted when he was younger. A class of 20 kids aged 16-18 are taught subjects by a team of experts in their field including hip hop vocalist Tinchy Stryder and around-the world sailor Ellen MacArthur. The idea is to inspire the young people to become interested in learning, to feel positive about school and to encourage them to stay in education. If you want to go to Dream school you can see clips of this fascinating show on YouTube.

What’s your idea of a Dream school? A newspaper asked school students to describe their ideal school. These were some of the things that the children wanted:

* A flexible timetable
* Time to understand things
* Speakers that play music instead of a bell
* A teacher-pupil swap day
* A very big door so that everyone can go into school together
* Tables in the playground
* More flexibility to choose subjects
* Better whiteboards
* A bigger building
* More stationery for pupils
* Longer ICT lessons
* Nice, smiling teachers
* Friendly children

***UK education: Full-time education in is compulsory for all children aged between 5 and 16 in the UK. Students can then continue their secondary studies for a further two years. Students usually do GCSE exams at age 16 then A levels at 18.***