

## School Refuser

Well I have an ex-teen with AS but as she is a **girl** I can't really comment on the hormone thing as it affects boys. I can say though that she did retreat at around 15 when school had become too much and was unable to engage with education or anyone outside the home for over a year and it was a slow road back. She did manifest more outward signs of autism and was anxious and depressed and actually quite ill mentally. Now things are a lot different and she is at university and enjoying it. So for us it did get better - eventually - and not having gone the conventional educational route does not seem to have done her much harm academically: she's holding her own quite well.

We waited it out, but whether the same should apply to your son, I don't know. My daughter wanted to go back into education but was depressed and traumatised and we couldn't rush her until she'd overcome that and built up her confidence. She would not have been able to cope with it: she was 20 before she was able to do any serious academic work. If your son is suffering from depression or is severely phobic about school then this probably needs to be addressed before he's ready to return. Are you involved with CAMHS?

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This is an extract from this [discussion](#).