Eavesdropping on researchers

**What is Autism? – Professor Andrew Whitehouse**

[Music]

So, what I'd like others to know about Autism is really that Autism is associated with the full range of humanity, sometimes I think in the media, perhaps sometimes as clinicians and researchers we tend to concentrate on autism as a label.

I guess in essence we tend to concentrate on what an individual is Autism rather than who they are.

Autism comes with every shared of humanity there is the highest of highs when somebody achieves a goal that we may not have initially thought was possible and then they don't know you achieve that but exceed that. As well as sometimes some of the challenges and we know all too well about them. What I'd like us to do is really see beyond the caricature that we often talk about and understand that there is a person there, a person who is desperate to get for us to get to know them and for them to get to know the world.

I think this is really important in the context of Education, education and particularly those school years are just where we come to know ourselves as humans. And it's so important for educators, for parents, for clinicians to help an individual on the spectrum as well as their family start to understand who they are the positives, the challenges and how that all comes together to form a wonderful human being, to cherish that human being and to understand their strengths and how they can thrive in the world.

[Music]