

Eating, smiling and speaking were an ordeal for Danielle—until she decided to take radical action

LIFE CHANGE

My

new smile cost £9,000

Danielle Reynolds had hated her gappy teeth ever since she was five years old. She constantly quizzed her mum on why they weren't like other people's.

All her mum could do was reassure her that when her 'big teeth' came through, she'd look like everyone else.

But sadly for Danielle, that didn't happen. Even at 15 she still had two of her milk teeth, which eventually needed to be extracted. And when they were removed, her adult teeth hadn't developed.

'I had several X-rays which revealed that two of my adult teeth were missing,' says Danielle, a care assistant from Enfield, Middlesex.

'The rest of my teeth were uneven, so I had to wear a brace to straighten them—but at least it helped to disguise them.'

When Danielle was 17 and had the brace removed, she felt even more depressed.

'I was given a new brace with two false teeth stuck on the front, which I absolutely hated,' she says. 'They looked awful. I

had to take out the brace when I ate, so I wouldn't go out for a meal or eat in front of people—it was too embarrassing to have to take it out in front of them.

'If I went out for the day, I wouldn't eat until I got home, and if the doorbell went I wouldn't answer it until I'd put my brace back in.'

By the time Danielle was

said there was nothing more they could do for her.

One night Danielle told her mum, Debbie, how depressed she felt about her brace and her teeth. Debbie, 47, a single mum, promised to do everything she could to try to help her.

She researched various dental surgeries and finally found The Perfect Smile Studio, which was



I became obsessed with my mouth

18, she was so self-conscious about her teeth that she refused to smile and always covered her mouth when she was talking to people. 'I became obsessed about it,' says Danielle, now 19.

Her mother took her to see several NHS dentists, but they

close to their home. 'I first went along in March last year, but I wasn't convinced they could do anything for me,' recalls Danielle. 'So when the dentist assured me they could help, I was overjoyed.'

Danielle was asked what sort



of teeth she wanted, and she said teeth that 'looked like the actress Halle Berry's'.

The clinic assured her they could help, but at a price—the treatment would cost £9,000.

Debbie, a youth centre administrator, insisted she'd

find the money to pay for her daughter's treatment. She paid a £2,000 deposit and agreed to pay the rest in instalments. Over the next six months Danielle had more than 10 appointments at the clinic. 'I wasn't scared as I'd been to the dentist so often,

but some of the treatment was quite painful,' she says.

Danielle had several crowns fitted and a false tooth inserted into one gap. All her top teeth were reshaped and individually textured. 'When I saw them properly for the first time I

was delighted,' she says. 'Now I'm so much happier. I smile at everyone I meet and people are always telling me what wonderful teeth I've got.'

Danielle's new look has also given her the confidence to begin a relationship.

'I've recently started going out with a boy I met at a club. I smiled at him and he came up to me and asked me out—I'd never have had the confidence to do that before.'

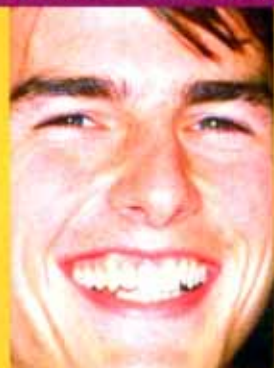
But the best moment of all was when she and her new boyfriend went for a meal in an Italian restaurant and she didn't feel self-conscious about eating in public.

'It was great to be able to do that for the first time in years,' says Danielle. 'My next aim is to train to be a nurse. With this new smile, there's no stopping me. It's changed my life.'

■ The Perfect Smile Studio: 01992 552115

<https://www.theperfectsmile.co.uk/>

Danielle isn't alone. These celebs weren't exactly blessed when it came to their pearly whites...



Flex

With gnashers like these, it's amazing that TOM CRUISE ever made his boyish grin his trademark. But full marks for effort—Tom clearly takes the idea of self-improvement very seriously and wasn't embarrassed to be seen wearing a brace at the age of 40. Tom now has a grin that would make Colgate proud.

It's lucky CELINE DION has a decent voice, because with a smile like this she could never rely on her looks to take her to the top. She had her teeth capped as soon as she hit the big time, taking herself out of the running for the title Worst Teeth in Pop—currently held by The Pogues frontman Shane MacGowan.



Alpha

He may be King of Cool and unaffected by passing trends, but even DAVID BOWIE couldn't live with these gnashers. Having odd-coloured eyes never bothered him, but he clearly had a few style issues when it came to his pearly whites and had a mouth makeover.



Flex