

## **Taking the plunge: Life in a British boarding school**

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One thing I am most certain of that hasn't changed since the day I came in England, is the excitement and the awe I felt while coming from the airport to my school. The bright green colour of the trees and the sun on that August day was welcoming me to what I call now "home". Since then, I was sure that everything can be possible and I knew that I will do my best, while having an amazing experience in a foreign country.

School is FUN. Before, I enjoyed learning, but I never knew that it could be this fresh and exhilarating. I guess studying the subjects you love, taught by passionate teachers does that to a person. The atmosphere in class is much different than what I was accustomed to, as teachers enjoy when pupils ask questions, offer extra help in their spare time and guide you as much as possible not only in your studies but also while applying to universities. As a consequence, I constantly feel motivated to improve, to keep trying my best and to be involved in various activities in and out of school.

Regarding opportunities that I have encountered with the help of the school and probably the change of mindset have multiplied since the day I arrived. I got involved in as many clubs that I could (art, math club, dance, debate, MUN), as my previous school didn't have any. Furthermore, I started my own coding club to help younger students get a good base of programming. Not only that but I also had the idea of hosting career meetings with professionals in distinct fields to help guide and inform pupils into the field they could further succeed in and truly enjoy. Being one of the organizers in the international inspired leadership conference as a Reddam House representative and also becoming a mentor in a global STEM committee has become a reality for me. Even nowadays, I find myself looking at the school, the lake and woods and I still feel surprised as if I just got the news again and a wave of happiness surrounds my entire body.

As it is an international school, there are a variety of people with different cultures, goals and personalities. I have found true friends here, which have broaden my horizons and opened my eyes to things I never realized I could become. I feel appreciated like I never did before, which makes me want to give back to the community. Moreover, as the motto of my school goes: "we shall give back", personally, I am following that quote by becoming a peer mentor, a young European ambassador, a committee mentor and an aspiring leader.

Life in England, changes like the weather (very often trust me), as people have bad days and good ones, however, you are always supported by teachers and friends. I thought I will be hit by homesickness and unable to function, yet I found myself managing to uphold my grades, talk daily to my parents and maintain my hobbies and social life, as boarding is truly a dream come true, where you can hang out with people at all times and relax.

I feel at peace, finally confident that I will have a bright future, living in a country that isn't that foreign anymore and close to new friends with whom I share amazing memories that I feel so grateful to have. I confirm that this essay was written entirely by me.