



Dear Graduates,

As you prepare to leave University of Birmingham School after your time with us, I am delighted to introduce and celebrate your varied accomplishments and journeys.

I hope you continue to be life-long learners and that we have taught you to remain curious about the world you are a part of, to be open minded, and to think critically and wisely about the challenges you encounter moving forward.

I hope you continue to nourish your character and academic endeavour – so that you flourish as happy, socially aware, skilled citizens equipped to find and take your places on the world stage.

So farewell, Year 13 of 2022, the class of 2015. Travel onwards with hope and optimism, courage and compassion and know that as pioneers of UoB School your impact will remain here long after you have moved on. I cannot think of a better legacy than that!

A portrait of Mr C Townsend, a middle-aged man with a balding head, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark pinstriped suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie with a small crest. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

MR C TOWNSEND

Principal

University of Birmingham School





PAYEL GHOSE

...This school has given me the best memories of my whole school life and I'm so grateful for many moments.

The form times where we had learnt and practised character virtues have set me up well for life and have given me a mindset that still currently helps me overcome challenges in life. It's your character that people notice when you first walk in the room and it's the first skill you start with before attempting any task in life. Knowing this, I've come across life with a new outlook and it's just been a little easier to make decisions.

KAYA CHAUHAN - HUMPHRIES

I remember the first week of Year 7, I was so painfully nervous and anxious about starting a school where I didn't know anyone, and I thought it was the worst thing I ever had to do. I now look back and think how ridiculous I was, and how much I have grown in confidence since. By the second week, I had made friends with some of the boys in my form group, one of which is still one of my closest friends, all these years later.





SHAROSE KHAN

The school taught me that education goes beyond what you learn sitting in a classroom. In order to become educated, you must want to become educated and you must learn self-discipline and determination.

UoB School revealed to me a lot about myself and who I want to be in life. I have grown as a student, and each year I have learned more and more about how important my grades are. Over the years I became a good listener, observant, and a fast learner.

STACY PRESLAND

This school has helped me find and nurture my passions, academic and otherwise. I have been a part of the UoB School badminton team, undertaken bronze, silver and now gold DofE Awards, been a part of a band, namely 'The Flames', and although my rock star days are over now, it did inspire me to take up the electric guitar.

I will carry these 7 years with me into the future, and will remember the people, students and teachers alike, who have guided, shared and made my secondary educational journey an unforgettable experience.





MALAIKA KHAN

I have grown a lot over the years thanks to the opportunities the school provided for me and the kind-hearted people I surrounded myself with. To this day I maintain many of the friendships I made in my younger years and they continue to thrive and be beautiful.

I am grateful for the years I have spent at University of Birmingham School. The journey I have had the honour of experiencing has moulded me into a versatile, kind-hearted, and intelligent individual. Thank you to all the lovely teachers who have always provided me with support and the students for being a supportive community.

JUSTIN BACANU

During my time at University of Birmingham School I've changed very much as a person, a lot of that is thanks to the school itself.

My school life has had lots of ups and downs but it was a valuable experience which I learnt a lot from, and a very memorable one too!

If I had to put across one point for whoever is reading this, it would be to remember to always be open minded and to take your mistakes as opportunities to learn from.





HARRIET GILES

Being at University of Birmingham School has allowed me to see life and our school community in a very different way. Allowing me to see the deeper meaning and purposes of experiences I come across and activities I participated in. I think this mainly stems from being taught different virtues from the age of 11, allowing me to not even think of them before I partake in something, them almost coming to me naturally.

My personally journey at University of Birmingham School has had its wobbles but it has taught me a lot about myself and what I'm like as a person. I have made great friends and achieved quite a lot in my 7 years of being here.

WALEED KHAN

The character I developed was all possible because of my friends and teachers who have always been there for me whenever I needed them. Learning about character education has also helped me to further develop my character. We learned about character virtues such as honesty, courage, compassion, generosity, and resilience; as well as learning about them, applying them to my life has changed a lot of things for me.

As we are coming to the end of our school time, the walls of this school bear the story of most precious years of my life. The feeling of having wonderful people around us is very beautiful but moving away from them is very hard to bear. But as they say it's a part of life so we have to accept it. For the last five years every person in this school has played an important role in shaping me and a making me into the person I am today. I will always be grateful to each one of my friends, all of my teachers and non-teaching faculties at the school for countless and priceless memories of a lifetime.





FAHIM NASEER

My time at UoBS has included so many fun, exciting things, which have happened in such a short amount of time.

Everything was a new experience and I am grateful for my time here,

I have created lifelong friends with whom I experienced new opportunities with. These opportunities have helped enrich my character and allowed me to help the future generation enrich theirs. Duke of Edinburgh is one of these life-changing adventures that allowed my character to flourish under the watchful eye of Mr Bennett.

BASIL SHAHROUR

I was really active with the extracurricular activities and they gave us a chance to meet people from other form groups which was amazing to me.

The facilities, fields and other places accessible to us were really nice and made my academic life feel more aligned with the city and the outside world rather than just school.

...What a journey it was. In the end, it wasn't just about the journey, it was about the friends, help, and life skills I picked up along the way.





ISHA JAVID

UoBS taught me that it's okay to struggle, it's okay to ask for help, and it's okay to not get along with everyone.

Thinking back to my Year 7 self, I never thought I'd be at this point in my life. It's amazing just seeing how much myself and all the people I've grown up with here have changed. I'm really going to miss it but I know I will always look back with positive memories of not just academic learning but of experiences from DofE, doing different enrichments, culture days, and all the amazing people I've met. It's been one of the best experiences I've had.

JACK WASHBOURNE

I arrived on my UoBS journey in Year 12, while disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, I was able to make the most of my time and really enjoy every experience I have had. Now looking back at my time here at UoBS I feel incredibly lucky to have attended a school that has given me so many opportunities both in and outside of lessons and for that I want to say a huge thank you to each member of staff that has made my journey so special.





THOMAS WASHBOURNE

My first memory at UoBS was participating in enrichment during Year 7 and enjoying both participating in sports as well as being a part of different music ensembles, through which I have been able to develop valuable skills...

...the skills and virtues that I have been able to develop from my time in secondary school helped me feel excited and ready to start my A-Levels.

Now my time at UoBS is coming to an end I feel that during my time here I have been able to gain lots of valuable experience, as well as developing lots of new skills helping me to prepare for the future.

LUKE BARNIER

One of my best memories is DofE, both bronze and silver, but especially silver. A 2 night/3 day trek with some of my closest friends was extremely challenging but also really rewarding. Taking advantage of this amazing opportunity provided by the school is definitely one of my best schooling decisions.

I feel as though I've grown significantly, not only academically but also as a person.

The teachers here have a really strong focus on individual character development, while also aiming for academic improvement, and that is something that stands out for me even now in sixth form as something I really appreciate as I have really grown as a character here.





BEN FERRO

UoBS had many interesting events, with enrichment and challenge weeks standing out the most.

I enjoyed work experience in Year 10 a lot as I felt for one of the first times 'grown up' and professional.

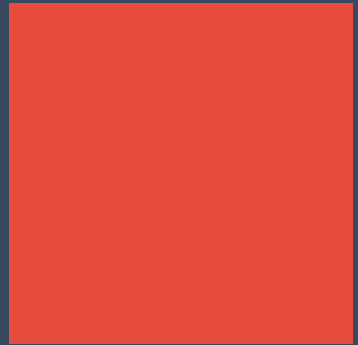
Learning about virtues in school is good, but work experience actually put this into practice, being placed in the world of work, meeting deadlines and seeing who you are as a person.

JESSICA APPLEBY

To share the last 7 years of my life with teachers and students of such great character is what I am most thankful for contributing to the person I leave as. I will always be grateful for the opportunities where my character was challenged, and I had to overcome the barriers I faced and that is what I believe epitomises UoBS. It is not only the educational challenges we will look back on in 10 years' time, it'll be the obstacles we overcame to build the person we are today which I believe UoBS has emphasised.









OLLY AGIM EDGE

From captaining the rugby team abroad to playing concerts in some of the most prestigious concert halls in the region, UoBS has given me the opportunity to do things I wouldn't have imagined doing in my wildest dreams.

The bonds I have formed with my form friends and teachers have taught me how I should create and develop relationships and how I should cherish the character virtues of those around me.

BEN WALSH

When I joined University of Birmingham School in 2015 I was a completely different person to the one I am now.

I was often shy and meek toward most people and teachers. I was able to grow and become more considerate and empathetic towards others while also being a lot less angry at the smallest things. Not only did I develop emotionally but also in my confidence through opportunities that challenged me, such as getting my sports leadership qualification, bronze and silver DofE in challenge week and a constantly changing variety of enrichments.





DIANA LEVYAN

I felt lucky to be given countless opportunities in enrichment every week. I know pupils my age in other schools wouldn't get to experience led by professionals each with a unique skill of their own.

From making candles from scratch and huge mosaic artwork now displayed as one of the first main pieces of art in school to training for the sports competitions, I gained many experiences and skills I couldn't have done solely.

KRISHA VARA

My journey has come with new opportunities and trips I'd never thought I'd go on. Being the first cohort of the school, we had many chances to take on different roles. Having contributed in leadership roles and interviewing teachers like Vice Principal and Head Teacher, it has allowed me to gain skills I never knew I needed. We were grateful to have many sports events like rugby festivals (where my college won!) as well as challenge weeks (where I fell into the reservoir!), art carnival, buds run for charity, and visiting different places of worship.

Now my journey here is coming to an end, I am glad and grateful for my place here. I will never forget my experience.





RIDWAN UDDIN

From exploring my local area to learn about its history, to paddling through a reservoir and then adventuring remote harsh lands in DofE in later years, my journey in UoBS has developed and blossomed over time. From making new friends and saying goodbye to old ones, my journey will come to an end in the school's sixth form.

The journey has shaped me into a person of more character and through experience if you want your mind stuck on the finer things in life then you should chase it, don't give up as you don't know the future holds for you. But in end it's not about the journey it's about the friends you make along the way.

MUHAMMAD KHATTAK

I've had many good years during my journey at UoBS but I'd particularly like to talk about Years 10 and 11. These were the years where I really started to take my studies seriously and I enjoyed my lessons as I had very good teachers as well as classmates.

We went and stayed in Southern Wales where we had to carry out coursework. What really made it a memorable experience was being with my friends during the evening just having fun. I can't really say why this was such a fun experience out of any other school trips but I just know it was a very surprisingly eventful and fun experience.





BEN FROST

I have made a lot of new and incredible experiences throughout my time at UoBS and have had a supportive environment in which to build up my character. Being at this school in a caring environment enabled me to see my academic potential, opening my eyes to what I could actually do and achieve, if I put my mind to it.

All in all I had a great time and owe who I am today to UoBS and the staff that supported me.

TROY WALKER

I have grown exponentially as a person both inside and outside of school and have been shaped by the people I have met here.

I am confident and prepared for the next step in my life at Film School and will always look back on my time at UOBS fondly.





KYLLIAN DJOUMESSI DONBOU

My experience at UoBS has broadened my understanding and my views of virtues.

During my time at UoBS, I have had first-hand experience of trying new things which at the time I had never dreamt of doing. These consisted of speaking in front of a crowd, competing as a representative, or pushing my limits to obtain a win at a sporting event. All of these events have shown how different virtues could be represented, such as courage, being humble, perseverance, sportsmanship, and how they can shape you as an individual, developing as you grow up.

JOSH DEARE

I was involved in many different activities and events during my time at the school such as debating and creative enrichments, as well as sporting competitions, visiting places of worship and pushing myself on DofE.

All of these things have developed my resilience, leadership, and confidence which I will take with me into future challenges. Over the last 7 years, I have had many different and unique friendships, with whom I have made many memories.



A close-up portrait of a man with a beard and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket and a white shirt. The background is a light grey gradient.

CAMERON MATUVABGUA - FERNANDEZ

Being able to take part in so many things that have stuck with me and have served as a spring for new interests, has been significant.

That brings me onto character education. We have all worked to understand what it is and now that I've come to the end of the full cycle at UoBS, I realise that I am able to put it into practice whenever and wherever.

I would like to think it has taken part in shaping who I am and it's important to understand that I have made character education my own by adapting it to me, through experiences and extensive reflection throughout the years. I've been able to apply it in life not only in school, but outside of school too and I will most likely be carrying it with me throughout my life choices and milestones.

JACOB COTGREAVE

Our enrichment opportunities have allowed me to try a multitude of new and exciting things, whether it was making a huge mosaic as a form or going to visit and learn about a Gurdwara which helped me learn about other cultures and religions.

After university I hope to go into the field of computer science and mathematics and I know that University of Birmingham School has given me the best opportunities to succeed at this.





SAM
EDWARDS

NATHAN
THOMPSON



A portrait of a young Black man with a large afro, wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue and white checkered shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the right of the frame. The background is a plain, light grey color.

AIDELOJE ORHEWERE

I still clearly remember when I first came into UoBS in September as a little boy, meeting my classmates for the first time, getting a tour around the school which looked amazing to me because I came from a small primary school.

...in Year 9 our classes changed so we got to mix with the other forms which I loved because most of my friends were outside my form. The P.E. teacher got us to do DofE which was an exciting experience for me as I've never done long outdoor walking but despite the weather conditions I actually enjoyed it.

CALLUM STEELE

A particularly enriching experience for me was volunteering at a Covid vaccination centre for the volunteering section of my gold DofE. This gave me another opportunity to meet a diverse group of people and learn how they were affected by the pandemic. Although the pandemic was a very negative and stressful time for lots of the people I met, their resilience and willingness to persevere despite the challenges inspired me to do the same throughout the rest of my life.

Another of the standout qualities of UoBS is the enrichment scheme. This has allowed me to partake in multiple different activities that I never would have otherwise.

To conclude, I will always cherish my time at University of Birmingham School, and the opportunities given and lessons learnt will stay with me forever.





INAAYAH
DAWOOD

DAN LOCKWOOD

The sheer amount of things that our year has been able to experience has been truly unique, such as water sports at the Edgbaston Reservoir in challenge week; or playing softball at the Birmingham School Games, among many more indelible experiences which have really helped me find out what I enjoy doing, and then given me plenty of chances to do just that.

GCSEs and A-Levels, while of course not exactly fun, gave me a chance to engage with the academic subjects I enjoyed in much more detail, and I was able to do that because of the extraordinary teachers which I have been fortunate enough to have had at University of Birmingham School.





MEGAN BESSANT

Although our journey has been quite different to usual, it has shaped us to be the people we want to be today, it has helped us grow in ways that we didn't even realise.

Over the course of my time in this school, I have been able to do lots of different things and learn things I never thought I would've had the chance to anywhere else. One of my school highlights was being able to do work experience both in Year 10 where I worked at a primary school and Year 13 where I worked with the French department. This gave me a great insight into the career I would like to go into, and I will never forget this experience that I was allowed to take part in.

I can't wait to see what this next chapter holds for all of us, and I wish everyone the best of success in what they go on to do and achieve.

EMMIE HOLYLAND

My journey at University of Birmingham School has been like no other, participating in a variety of activities and gaining friendships that'll last a lifetime.

These experiences have shaped me to be the person I want to be today and undoubtedly helped me get into the next stages in my life. I got the opportunity during Year 7 enrichment to take part in a thank you café. We invited our family in to come and see what we had created and this allowed our parents to see a little bit about what our school is really about.





LEWIS ATKINSON

My journey at University of Birmingham School has been a very eventful and memorable time.

Joining this school gave me many opportunities to step out of my comfort zone and opportunities I normally wouldn't have had. The school provided us dedicated time to partake in enrichment. This was a couple of hours a week where we got to choose to take part in activities we had never done before, such as sporting activities or skill based sessions such as learning a new language or learning a new skill such as knitting. These enrichment sessions allowed me to speak to people I normally wouldn't have.

SIMRAN
BALLAGAN





MATTHEW ROBSON

There are so many incredible moments we have experienced since 2015, that would not have happened without UoB School.

By experiencing so many new things I have developed my character, my creativity, and my ambition. Being part of the UoBS community has made me feel more confident in myself and given me better values, which I will be able to use as part of every day life in the future.

As I reflect on my seven years at UoBS, I look back with fond memories and will appreciate them all in the future, as well as learning from them to continue trying to become a better person.

PRECIOUS OKOI

My 7 years at UoBS have been exceptional beginning from the first day in Year 7 all the way to Year 13.

This place has been a huge milestone in my life from being that little 11 year old stepping out into big school, to now being 18 years old making future decisions with the guidance and experience from UoBS.





MIA-LENAI PANTON

As an 11 yr old walking into such a huge building was overwhelming but after the first few weeks I settled into the school nicely. This is because the staff at the school were welcoming and provided me with an environment where I felt comfortable and safe. The school has always had protocols put in place where if I had a problem there was someone I could go to for help.

One of my favourite things about this school is that it's always presenting students with new opportunities.

KRINA VARA

Wow, 7 years, where did they go? Who would've thought we'd make it this far. I still remember the first day at the school, walking in and seeing so many new faces from all over the city, not knowing that some of them would become the greatest friends ever. By doing this, the school gave me the opportunity to see and meet people I normally would never have.

The main contribution to my confidence has been the build up from Year 7, from being the only year, then the only 2, then the only 3 and so on until we were a full school. This helped me gradually develop my confidence over the years level by level to increase crowds. And I know this is such a unique chance very few are given.

As our time here comes to an end all my experiences here tell me this is only the beginning!





GABRIEL PAMINTUAN

From being a part of the first group of Year 7s to now soon leaving Year 13, I'm grateful for the opportunities I had and for the friends and teachers that made my time a memorable experience.

I'm excited to move forwards and better myself along with everyone else branching out onto different paths in life and moving to different places.

Always trust yourself and follow what you enjoy since people are like onigiri; there are so many kinds yet some just see their plain white rice front oblivious to the unique ingredients that make them. Your qualities might not always be visible to yourself but they are to others.

HARSH LAKHABHAI

What makes UoBS stand out from other schools is the large emphasis on character education and focus on creating good Samaritans... the most significant part for me was understanding other people's cultures, thinking about these from your own point of view and understanding what different people are going through.

At the end of the day, if the person who is reading this had something to take away, it would be to be more open-minded and take your mistakes as experiences to learn from and that it's not about the journey, it is about the friends that you make along the way.









RACHEL KIRBY

For me, one of the things that stands out about UoBS is the wealth of opportunities I have been presented with to try things I would never have done otherwise.

The Music and PE Departments' provision for extracurricular activities has been outstanding at every stage of school. I have been a part of the orchestra, chamber orchestra, samba drumming and senior samba band, flute choir, wind band and jazz band, providing me with a group of friends for life (our band reached the final round of the 2019 talent competition with a satirical version of the theme from 'Pirates of the Caribbean') and encouraging me to step outside of my comfort zone.

Perhaps the most wonderful thing about UoBS is that I have had so many experiences, academic and not, that it is now possible for me to end up anywhere I choose.

KIAN KUMAR

During my 7 years at UoBS, I have been given various opportunities that have shaped my character today.

My fondest memories of UoBS were when we participated in Duke of Edinburgh Award. We trekked what felt like hundreds of miles. I showed compassion when I helped carry some of my team mates' belongings during the trek, this helped strengthen my friendship with my team mates and led to everyone having a greater appreciation for each other.





KAITLYN MCKELLAR

An experience that I believe helped me to transform as a person was the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Although the experience was challenging, it allowed me to contribute to the school community when I began to volunteer in the school library.

Being at University of Birmingham School has allowed me to experience things that many who attend other schools never have the opportunity to.

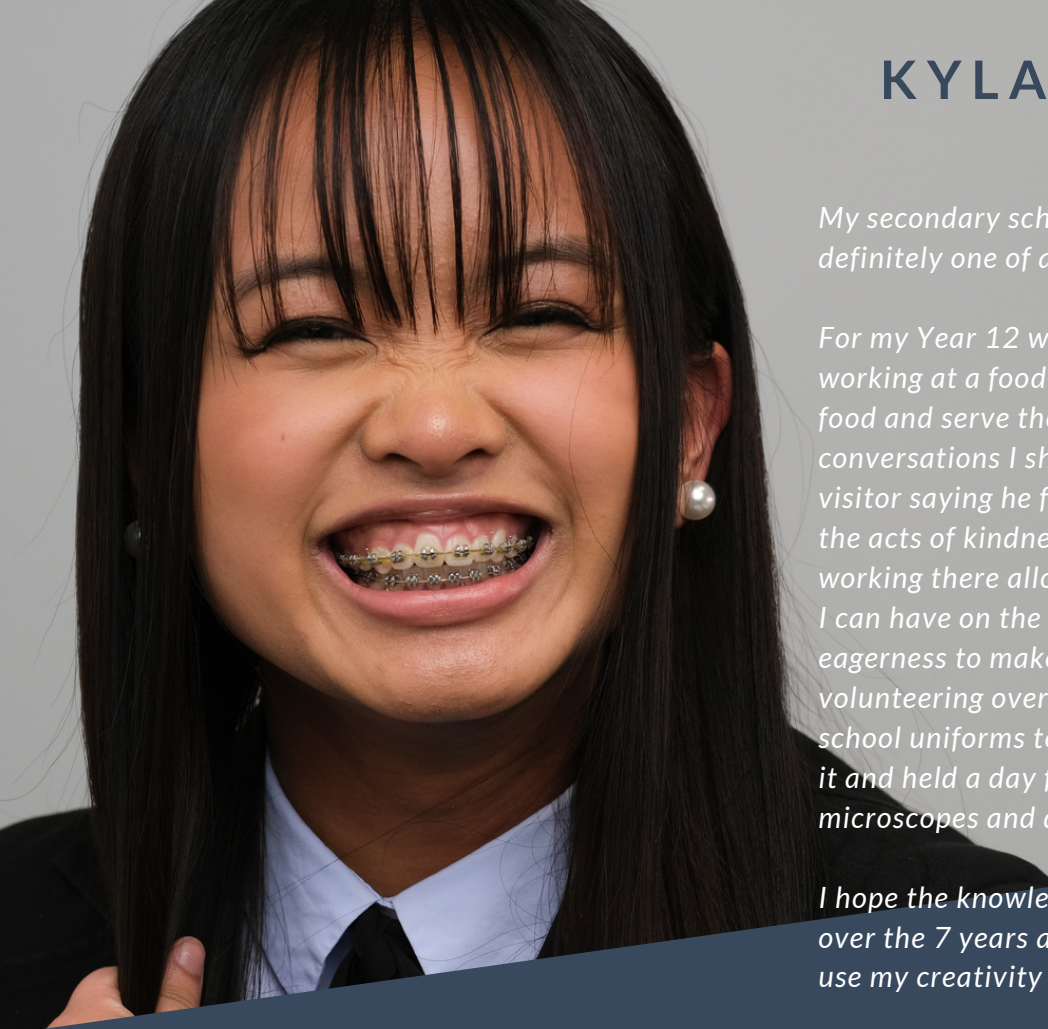
I don't think I can truly explain the positive impact this school has had on my life. From an underachieving Year 7, to a flourishing Year 13 who has achieved everything she never thought possible, this school has been there supporting me every step of the way.

KAMEA NEMETH

Throughout my time at University of Birmingham School, I have always been drawn towards the music department. From the very beginning, music has always been of interest to me but the opportunities provided by the school further heightened this.

There were many opportunities for me to take part in an ensemble so I joined the orchestra, jazz band and the school choir. These experiences provided me with musical opportunities which have widened my horizons as a budding musician. I joined the jazz band later on with my keyboard. Jazz band helped me develop a love for all styles of jazz. The music department took orchestra and jazz band twice to the Music for Youth Festival which is a competition for school music ensembles and with jazz band we managed to get to the second round in the second year in which we competed.





KYLA RANCEPERO

My secondary school experience at UoBS was definitely one of a kind.

For my Year 12 work experience, I spent the week working at a food and clothes bank helping pack food and serve the homeless. I enjoyed the conversations I shared with them, including one visitor saying he felt safe at the centre. Though the acts of kindness were small, the experience of working there allowed me to reflect on the impact I can have on the community. Due to my eagerness to make change, I ended up volunteering over the summer to distribute free school uniforms to families who could not afford it and held a day for the kids to look through microscopes and decorate cupcakes.

I hope the knowledge and skills I have obtained over the 7 years at UoBS will help enable me to use my creativity as a force for good.

PELUMI OSHILAJA

*At University of Birmingham School
I have learned that working hard,
works.*

*I have made friends with many
different people here.*

*I wish to be many things in the
future. I dream of being an actor, a
movie director, a pharmacist, and
also an engineer.*





TOM GALLAGHER

Seven years ago I wouldn't have believed I would be in the situation I am now, having to choose from four different offers from Russell Group Universities.

When I look back on Tom in 7G, I'm surprised how similar he is to me now. School hasn't ever tried to mould or shape me, and has let me grow naturally into the young man I am today.

ZARA KEYANI

On top of being the first cohort, we were given opportunities that would be unavailable at other secondary schools due to the links with the University of Birmingham and how we went to the campus many times for things such as work experience and lectures.

The character education made students more aware of how we treated each other, and especially when compared to experiences of friends from other schools. It made a safe and accepting environment for us.





ARSLAN AKHTAR

I'm proud I spent my youth moulding the person that I am today. Each imperfection only added to the journey.

The enrichment activity 'spiritual me' allowed me to learn about other beliefs. This was an important moment as it was my first real time utilising empathy to see how life was experienced by others.

MIA EVANS

My journey through University of Birmingham School has shaped me to be the person I am today.

The character virtues I have developed on my journey have given me a foundation to continue to build upon in the next chapter of my life. I am very thankful for the incredible teachers and friends who have guided me on my path, these memories will live with me forever.

I am proud to be a member of UoBS, thank you.





ARCHIE BOURNE

University of Birmingham School, throughout seven years, has given me the resources to be ambitious and aim high – regardless of limitations and hurdles set by others.

Furthermore, growing up with the school has given me a unique experience of both secondary school and sixth form, with the teachers accommodating to a diverse range of needs and cultures in order to create a comfortable experience. This has allowed many of us to experience a range of different viewpoints and ideas that has moulded us into more rounded individuals.

LAURENCE BAKER

Right from the moment I first joined UoBS in 2015, the uniqueness of the school stood out to me.

Collectiveness was valued right away and I feel that this massively helped to integrate us all into the school.

The uniqueness and bravery of the school was summed up by the school's policing on behaviour, with no detentions in Year 7. I feel that this helped to instil a feeling of self-control within us as we were trusted to behave well by ourselves.





HASSAN KHAN

Reflecting on my last 7 years, I realise how I have become more confident in myself and my ability to grow and help others.

I feel that the skills and character virtues I have learnt will help me considerably, long after I have left this school. More importantly, it isn't about the journey, it's about friends you have along the way.

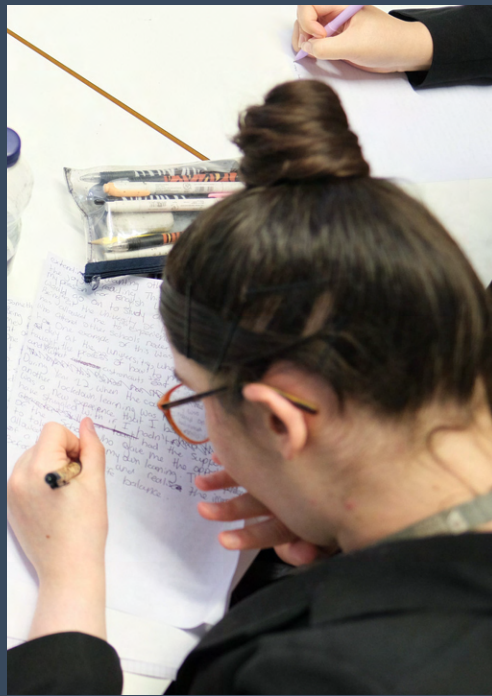
EDWARD BARNES

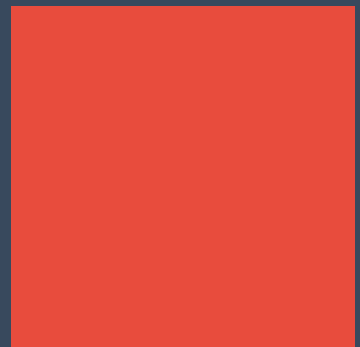
One of the things I enjoyed most was enrichment as I tried many new things I never thought I would do. But the best part of it was getting to know the friends I do. I was the only one from my old school but I don't think I would've become the person I am today if I didn't come here.

There are many great and funny things that have happened at this school and I am incredibly grateful for being part of it. I could go into detail about the Duke of Edinburgh or all the enrichments and trips I have done but there were simply too many good times to mention.

I will never forget this school or those who made it a good place for me. Thank you.









JUBILEE CENTRE FOR CHARACTER AND VIRTUES

The *Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues* is a unique and leading centre for the examination of how character and virtues impact upon individuals and society.

The Centre was founded in 2012 by *Professor James Arthur*. Based at the *University of Birmingham*, it has a dedicated team of over 20 academics from a range of disciplines, including: philosophy, psychology, education, theology and sociology.

A key conviction underlying the existence of the Centre is that the virtues that make up good character can be learnt and taught, but that these have been largely neglected in schools and in the professions. It is also a key conviction that the more people exhibit good character and virtues, the healthier our society.

The Centre has been a key partner with the *University of Birmingham School* since its foundation.